



## Debra "Debbie" McKenna

August 18, 1955 - June 6, 2020

Debra (Debbie) McKenna, 64 of Marietta, GA passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, June 6th, 2020 after a long courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Debbie is survived by her husband, John McKenna, daughter, Caitlin McKenna, mother, Gloria Alba, and brother, Danny Alba. She is preceded in death by her father, Dominick Alba.

Debbie was born on August 18, 1955 in Jersey City, NJ. She grew up in Dumont, NJ, where she met and married her husband, John on October 11, 1980. Debbie and John later moved to Atlanta, where Debbie worked as a sales coordinator for 15 years at Kids II.

Debbie loved making those around her laugh and always thought of others before herself. Some of her greatest memories were yearly trips with her husband, John to Bar Harbor, Maine.

Debbie was a fighter and lived so presently and gracefully up until her final breaths. She will forever remain in our hearts.

A funeral mass will be held on Thursday, June 11th at 2PM at the Catholic Church of St. Ann in Marietta, GA – 4905 Roswell Road, Marietta, GA 30062. For those who will not be able to attend, her service will be streaming online through the church's website. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Lustgarten Foundation ([www.lustgarten.org](http://www.lustgarten.org)), which supports pancreatic cancer research.

# Events

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**JUN** **Funeral Mass** 02:00PM

**11**

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St. Ann's Catholic Church

4905 Roswell Rd, Marietta, GA, US, 30062

# Comments

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“ [I just learned about Debbie's passing today, June 12th.]

Hey Debbie,

It has been 48 years since the last time we walked from Dumont High to where we'd split to head to our respective homes, at the railroad tracks crossing New Milford Avenue: it was likely after a late afternoon cheerleading practice. Yet, I can see your twinkling eyes and hear your storytelling voice clearly. I've pretty much missed sharing your adult life, friend but that we shared many experiences from Kindergarten through our Dumont High School graduation will remain with me as a gift.

My thoughts are with you John, Caitlin, my holiday card pen pal Mrs. Alba and Danny.

With my love,

Risa Shimoda .

Risa Shimoda - June 12 at 10:25 PM

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“ I'm sure many can identify with the sentiment I'm going to share. You don't realize the impact someone has had on you until it's too late. You certainly know and recognize how amazing and how much you “click with” and enjoy ‘one of the good ones;’ but on days like today, you must wrestle with the fact that the time was and will never be enough. The chances to connect slipped by, I regret that. I certainly feel that way about Deb. I can hear her beautiful laugh today. I can feel how she made me and others feel. Simply amazing. She was sunshine and fit into any room with any group. She had a way of pulling you in whether it was a story, an impression, or reenacting the latest events of life. She lit up when she was telling a story and she could spin a laugh and silver lining into hard days, difficult situations, and the lessons we shared.

I'm going to miss her elegant and chic style. Her tortoise rimmed glasses, how cute she looked when she would get her hair perfectly and nearly trimmed, and the way she wore humor and effervescence like an accessory. Always impeccable in that “Deb way.”

I cherish the time I got to spend with Deb. She made me feel like a daughter, a friend, and that she supported me. How selfishly and deeply I hope she could and did feel the same way in return.

On my wedding night, I walked down the isle over a little brick patio. I was overly ambitious and didn't think through my veil. It was a huge train, I opted for a stupidly

impractical length. I could feel the veil catching on the bricks. My nerves at an all time high as I repeated to myself just don't fall. Before making it to my husband to be, I made my way in front of my seated guests. I remember looking to Deb. I remember her smile and a little concealed wave from her seat. In an instant she lifted me up. She could say so much with her posture and how much she expressed joy in her face. I didn't feel silly or embarrassed or worried I'd fall. I suddenly knew with family and friends like Deb around me, everything would be just fine. Like a picture, I hold that moment of Deb and always will.

Caitlin,

Deb talked about you often and you could tell she was incredibly proud. Her love was absolute and she valued your friendship and her time as your mother. From her stories, it was evident you are your mother's daughter. I hope you move through life with just as much grace, joy, and kindness as she. May your stories be just as bright and your life as full. My heart goes out to you and your dad today.

Caitlin and John,

Thank you for sharing Deb with us. I miss her so much. The time wasn't enough but I thank god for the moments we had. I am deeply sorry for your loss.

Claire

**Claire Corso** - June 11 at 01:51 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Debra "Debbie" McKenna.



June 10 at 08:45 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Debra "Debbie" McKenna.



June 10 at 03:32 PM



“ Deb was such a very special person. Will always remember her silly humor and positivity. She had a way of bringing positive energy into any situation. Love and miss you.

Jeff Lanford - June 10 at 08:01 AM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Debra "Debbie" McKenna.



June 09 at 09:42 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Debra "Debbie" McKenna.



June 09 at 06:34 PM

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“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Debra "Debbie" McKenna.



June 08 at 04:39 PM

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“ Loved the time I got to spend with her and always enjoyed how she would walk around the office telling us she’s our “Kids2 Mom.” She loved her children very much and extended that to our entire team. Always made everyone feel loved & cared for – such a great joy and spunk! Will remember her vividly!

**Andrea Kephart** - June 08 at 04:12 PM



“ Loved Debbie! She and I enjoyed working at kids ii together. She always made me laugh - we had a great time. One of my all time favorite people!

**Amanda** - June 09 at 05:22 PM



“ Prayers to you and your family!

**Amanda** - June 09 at 05:23 PM



“ Oh, Debbie, what a sweet person she was. I really enjoyed knowing her over the years and talking when we ran into each other in the neighborhood. She had the greatest smile and laugh. And I remember our fun days playing tennis together years ago.

Her passing makes us very sad and she will be missed by everyone who knew her. God now has another angel.

John and Caitlin, our deepest condolences for the loss of Debbie. You and your family are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Karen and Joe Kent

**Karen and Joe Kent** - June 08 at 01:20 PM



“ I have a wonderful memory of her coming around the corner at Kids2 by the elevators and there was a Michael Jackson song on the radio. We both just started dancing. She was wonderful to work with and normally had a smile on her face. I will miss you. My deepest condolences to her family. May God be with you during this time.

**Florence** - June 08 at 12:46 PM



“ Deb was a wonderful human being, a kind and friendly soul that lit up a room and made you feel welcome. I loved getting to know her during her time at Kids2. I am very sad to hear of her passing and my heart grieves with her family. My deepest condolences to her loved ones.

**Eriana Rivera-Rozo** - June 08 at 12:22 PM



“ Ms. Deb was the kindest soul. We bonded on so many levels during my time at Kids II. Sending my deepest condolences, love, and prayers to the family. She will truly be missed.

**Kristen Ticar Woodard** - June 08 at 11:16 AM

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“ Kathleen and I were very upset to hear of Debbie's passing and are very sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed chatting with Debbie when I met her on her evening walks. I will miss seeing her friendly face and am glad to have had the pleasure of her company over the years.  
John and Caitlin, we will be thinking of you in the coming months and will keep Debbie in our thoughts. Sincere condolences to you both and your extended family.

Derek Magee

**Derek Magee** - June 08 at 10:25 AM