



Debra Matela

December 22, 1954 - July 18, 2012

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Debra Matela, 57, of Howland, peacefully passed into God's warm arms surrounded by her loving family and friends at 5:45PM, Wednesday July 18, 2012 of a very short and unexpected illness.

Debra was born December 22, 1954 to her loving parents Andrew and Rose Matela at Trumbull Memorial Hospital in Warren, Ohio.

Debra was loved by many, survived by her mother Rose Matela, son Ian Matela, his girlfriend Robin Robinson and grandson Andrew Matela; surrogate mother to nephew Stephen Foster, sister Rose and Husband Blaine Swartzfager, nephew Brian Swartzfager and wife Rachael and children Julie, Bree and Tim; Niece Becky Swartzfager and boyfriend Joe Updegraff and son Jordan; cousin Drew Gresko and family; special friends Dave and Linda Spies; many aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and co-workers.

Debra was preceded in death by father Andrew, Sister Nadine and her beloved pet Jackson.

A single mother, Debra worked very hard at several jobs while attaining a degree in Computer Science; working the past 16 years as a software

engineer at Eastern Software Corporation of Sharon, PA where she gained wide respect and love by her fellow workers who will dearly miss her.

Since her father's and sister Nadine's deaths, her first priority has been providing for her son, closely followed by her dedication and unwavering love and friendship for her mother Rose, nephew Stephen and more recently her loving grandson Andrew. More broadly, Debra was a very giving and loving person to anyone who had the honor of getting to know her.

Debra enjoyed varying musical genres but especially Jazz, enjoyed reading a good book while sitting in a chair with her feet being gently washed by the waves at the beaches of her favorite vacation spot in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and especially enjoyed cooking fantastic meals washed down by a good bottle of wine that provided for unforgettable evenings of joyous celebrations of life.

One of Debra's last wishes was that her friends and loved ones, rather than bereave her passing to celebrate her living. A celebration of life event will be hosted at Debra's sister and brother-in-law's home on Saturday July 21, 2012 to start at 6:00PM.

In lieu of flowers et al, given Debra's strong belief in higher education, a trust is being established for Debra's grandson Andrew at Huntington Bank. Please contact Rose Swartzfager for further information by emailing her at rosaflower@embarqmail.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to McFarland & Son Funeral and Cremation Services, 271 N. Park Ave., Warren, Ohio 44481. Please visit www.mcfarlandcares.com to view this obituary, send condolences, and order flowers.

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Tribute Wall

MT

“ My condolences to Debra's family during this time of grieving. I worked with Deb up until November of last year, where she was my team lead and close friend at LPS. Working with Deb was such a joy, I almost couldn't bring myself to leave and move back to Pittsburgh. I greatly enjoyed my travels with her, our morning meetings, and hearing her infectious laugh in the office and out on the porch. She always lit up the room when she was around and I'll never forget all the jokes we shared, and more importantly the way she helped me grow in my career. She fought for me and encouraged me so much along the way and gave me so many opportunities to shine, I could never thank her enough for that. She was our "Mama Deb" and will always have a special place in my heart.

Molly Thomas - March 29, 2013 at 12:46 PM

JW

“ Dear Rose and family. We are so saddened by the news, Debra was a good person and will missed by many. With deepest sympapthy Jody and Sonny

jody wukotich - March 29, 2013 at 12:46 PM

PZ

“ So sorry for your loss Rose & family. Enjoyed meeting Deb in OBX.

Pat Zachwieja - March 29, 2013 at 12:46 PM

JH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Matela family. I have many fond memories of Debbie, Rose and family. I was saddened to hear of Debbie's passing.

Jeanne Kachelries Hendrickson - March 29, 2013 at 12:46 PM

RS

“ We love you Debbie. Vacation won't be the same without you. Your send-off was beautiful. We will think of you often, especially anytime we see a bowl of pasta, read a good book or drink a glass of wine. So glad we got to know you. You blessed our lives.

Brian, Rachel, Julie, Tim and Bree

Rachel Swartzfager - March 29, 2013 at 12:46 PM

SV

“ Rose and Family,

We had many memories of the Matela girls and I know my dad thought the world of Debbie, Rose and Nadine. My sincere sympathy and also my appreciattion for so many memories of Debbie as we went to school and shared interests together.

Much love,

*Shirley J. Verbanik
sjvmsport@yahoo.com*

Shirley J. Verbanik - March 29, 2013 at 12:46 PM

DM

“ Dear Rose and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. I have many fond memories of all of the Matela girls. Your home was always filled with love, warmth and laughter. Praying for peace and comfort, as you reflect on and celebrate Debbie's life.

*Love,
Denise (Bigg) Morton*

Denise Morton - March 29, 2013 at 12:46 PM