



Denise Clarice Mullen

May 13, 2021

Denise Clarice Mullen of Myrtle Beach, S.C., passed away May 13, 2021, at her home surrounded by her husband and sister.

She was born June 29, the year a closely guarded secret, for she never let it be known her actual age. She was the daughter of Melville and Lois Mullen of Keswick, Ontario, Canada, who preceded her in death.

In addition to her devoted husband, James Mulvanerton, she is survived by her sister Jeanette Mullen-Johnson (Jeff) of Draper, Utah; her brother Todd Mullen of Keswick, Ontario, Canada; Uncle Raymond Blouin of Aurora, Ontario, Canada; as well as nephews Derek Martin, Mark and Mikel Mullen, Ryan, Kevin and Conor Mulvanerton, niece Kaylee Gleason and Goddaughter Eleanor Salvatore.

A joy to everyone who knew her, with her Goldie Hawn appearance and melodious laugh that sometimes fooled others into not noticing her extreme intelligence, sharp wit and gift for description. But she was also profoundly spiritual and had a gift for helping her friends stay positive, change the lens of their focus and see the bigger picture. You could not ask for a more loyal, loving and authentic friend. Even despite her battle with cancer, she continued to send encouraging texts to others in the battle to keep fighting.

She presided over the Myrtle Beach Jaycees in the early 1990s, growing the organization and leading it to national recognition. She was the first female president of the local chapter, she also started a weekly soup kitchen for the homeless at the old Jaycee Hut on Oak Street, which eventually became the Community Kitchen, still in operation.

She inspired chapter members to become public speakers, astute managers and humane citizens by noticing and bringing out the best in each of them. Under her leadership, local residents won national recognition in public speaking, chapter organization and management.

She was honored with The Sun News Volunteer of the Year award in 1989. She also coordinated a new rape crisis center through the Waccamaw Center for Mental Health and later was director of public relations. Her next career adventure was as executive director of the Long Bay Symphony.

She then worked in the marketing department and magazine division at The Sun News for several years. She was also a contributing editor for Grand Strand Magazine for nearly a decade.

She was an excellent writer, speaker and communicator with her unique flair with words and sense of humor. She freelanced extensively, and was former author of The Insider's Guide to Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand. She also wrote a novel.

She met her husband, James, in the Jaycees in 1990 and they married in 1994 at Saint Andrew Catholic Church. Denise also gave her husband the nickname which would be made famous locally as it is also the name of his bar and restaurant — Magoo's Sports and Spirits. She was known for her green wig when celebrating Saint Patrick's Day with her mother and uncle Ray every year.

Denise and James took road trips throughout the US and Canada and enjoyed traveling annually to Key West, Florida, where they made friends with other couples from throughout the U.S. They also traveled to Spain, France and England.

She had a knack for interior design and decorated her Christmas trees in glittery bronze colors long before it was popular to stray from the traditional green and red. Plants were always in abundance and flourished in her house. She adored leopard prints and despised televisions in rooms meant for conversation. Her French-Canadian accent and her own modified lingo never left her, and close friends would always understand. Thanks to her knowledge of French, she and her friends developed code words to help one another out of any awkward situations.

Early in her life, she studied to become a nurse but was drawn to the theater, where she acted in plays and eventually managed a theater company in Toronto. She graduated from Sutton District High School, Ontario, Canada. She earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and business from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada. She moved to Myrtle Beach in 1984 and later earned a master's degree in business from Webster University.

Petite and athletic, she remained active and was a life-long fitness and nutrition aficionado. Denise participated in the Myrtle Beach Marathon for many years. She loved to dance and enjoyed many a Mulletts concert. She once danced on stage at a Blood, Sweat & Tears concert to the song "Lucretia Mac Evil," fulfilling her own motto of "Life is short. Be the first one to hit the dance floor," and "Sing. Dance. And wear red lipstick."

A visitation will be held Saturday, May 22, 1-3 pm at Goldfinch Funeral Home,

Carolina Forest (325 Hinson Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579), with a service at 3 pm. A celebration of Denise's life will be held at a later date.

Flower arrangements are available through La Zelle's Flower Shop in Myrtle Beach, lazellesflowers.com, (843) 448-3433, or donations can be made to Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge, www.shadesofhope.ca (705) 437-4654.

To view the service via livestream, please use the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/553730720/c15a99e681>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **22**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home
325 Hinson Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Memorial Service

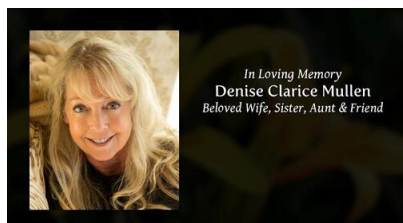
MAY **22**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home
325 Hinson Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Tribute Wall



“ *Goldfinch Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Denise Clarice Mullen*



Goldfinch Funeral Home - May 18, 2021 at 04:53 PM

JM

I watched the live stream of her service and the tributes made by her friends really captured her loving positive personality. I feel privileged to have been her friend. She left a lasting mark on my people. I wish I could have been there. My heart truly goes out to James and the family. Sending healing rays as Denise would have said❤️

Jayne Matlock - May 23, 2021 at 02:31 AM

MC

“ *It was always a pleasure when you came back to Keswick for a visit Denise. We shared many a beer while lounging on your parents verandah; I will always remember those occasions. God rest you, you went way too early!*

Martin Connell

Martin Connell - June 05, 2021 at 02:20 PM

JJ

Thanks Martin this is Denise's Sister Jeanette. Yes she was just a delight and I concur gone way way too soon!! She will be deeply missed by so so many especially me!

Jeanette Johnson - June 22, 2021 at 12:06 PM

BW

“ I did not have the pleasure of getting to meet Denise but she seemed like a very lovely and caring person. My sincere condolences and prayers go out to Magoo and family!

Beverly Wood - June 03, 2021 at 01:33 AM

SC

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your Lovely Wife. Sending sincere condolences. Praying for you Mr James and Family..Hugs



Sossette Cochran, Margaret Clark-Brown's - May 29, 2021 at 12:08 AM

CF

“ I grew up with the Mullen family in Keswick Ontario Canada. Denise was my maid of honor at my wedding and her sister Jeanette was a bridesmaid, the were my best friends growing up. If I wasn't at their home, they were at mine just down the street. We had many adventures together, and I have many happy memories of all of them. I lost touch with Denise and Jeanette when they move to the USA, but my feelings for them have never wavered. I found Denise again on facebook to my delight, it was nice to catch up after so many years. I never knew that Denise was ill, so this has totally left me in shock. My heart and prayers go out to Jeanette and Todd and all their family and friends that are heartbroken as well. Rest in Peace Denise, I will find you again one day my sweet friend.

Carol Anne Foster - May 23, 2021 at 10:15 AM

SS

I fondly remember Denise & Jeanette. You 3 were ALWAYS together. It was like I had 3 older sisters! My sincere heartfelt condolences to Jeanette, Todd and their families. "Keep your precious memories close to your heart". RIP Denise

Sandra Sutherland - May 23, 2021 at 04:15 PM

CF

Denise has never change much over all these years and neither has Jeanette from the pictures I have seen. Your whole family, were my family as a kid, your parents treated me as one of their own, and I will never forget that. I remember your house on Riveredge Dr. and jumping into the water to make under water movies lol. Coming to my house and making forts in the bush that was there,, the memories are flooding my brain right now. I would really like Jeanette or Todd to reach out to me, I would so love to hear from you. My love goes out to both of you.

Carol Anne Foster - May 23, 2021 at 05:50 PM

JJ

Dear sweet Carol Anne! It was so amazing to hear from you and your sister Sandra! Such great great memories of all our times together in Keswick..and yes the hilarious underwater movies we created! My heart is deeply broken that Denise is gone from me yet I know she is continuing her life in a higher Dimension and I will see her again. I'm sad for me that she's no longer in the earth Realm but I'm rejoicing she finally has her freedom!! Sending you lots and lots of love! Jeanette (sorry this is late coming but I didn't realize I needed to scroll down to all the comments!)

Jeanette Johnson - June 22, 2021 at 12:14 PM

GH

I just recently became aware of Denise's passing. I am sad that her life ended much earlier than it should have. I am so happy she had a full and satisfying life devoted to helping the disadvantaged and pursuing her passions.

You may not remember me, but I dated Denise in high school. I remember her with nothing but loving memories. She was a wonderful, exceptionally talented and loving person. I reflect often on our time all too short time together.

All the best to you and your family.

Geoff Hare

Geoff Hare - July 26, 2023 at 08:05 PM

RI

“ *Having just watched the tributes to Denise, the folks who spoke captured her uncanny ability to see comedy and fun in all situations while at the same time possessing the wit and intelligence to cut to the chase. The Keswick family get togethers are some of my best memories. And it never quite as much fun if Denise was not there.*

rick - May 22, 2021 at 07:38 PM

JC

“ *It was such a joy and privilege to have had Denise in my life & for all the fun & lightness she created when we worked together. I will always treasure that within. She was such a nurturing creative spirit full of joy. So many wonderful memories and a beautiful spark of light in this world that will be missed. Miss you my Niece!!!*

Jacquelyn Carter - May 22, 2021 at 02:26 PM

HB

“ Thank you for always being so kind and caring and believing in me .
Your optimism and ability to bring people up were a genuine gift you
had and shared every day with every person you met. I'm better to
have known you. I will miss you.

Heath Boettger - May 22, 2021 at 01:01 PM

MB

“ Margaret Brown lit a candle in memory of
Denise Clarice Mullen



Margaret Brown - May 22, 2021 at 12:08 PM

JM

“ Jody MacKenzie lit a candle in memory of
Denise Clarice Mullen



Jody MacKenzie - May 22, 2021 at 11:26 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family
of Denise Clarice Mullen.



May 20, 2021 at 08:53 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Denise Clarice Mullen.*



May 20, 2021 at 07:51 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Denise Clarice Mullen.*



May 20, 2021 at 03:37 PM



“ *Adoring Heart was purchased for the family of Denise Clarice Mullen.*



May 20, 2021 at 02:06 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Denise Clarice Mullen.*



May 20, 2021 at 12:45 PM



“ *Denise was a Myrtle Beach Jaycee and my year as State President she was my Public Relations officer - bottom line, she made us shine in so many ways. Our finish inside the top five states in America (#4) was in large parts due to her, Jodie, Melissa, Becky, Jeff, Mike and all those Myrtle Beach Jaycees who were truly "The Best of the Best." The picture is from a National Convention where Denise was dancing to Blood Sweat and Tears - they asked her to come up on stage with them. When I think of Denise. I think of a lovely woman who danced to the music many cannot hear. She loved her Myrtle Beach Jaycee family - I love them too and share their grief. I know God welcomed her home and we are all so much better from having basked in her light.*



Bill Russell - May 19, 2021 at 07:55 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Denise Clarice Mullen.*



May 19, 2021 at 01:36 PM



“ *Melissa Salvatore lit a candle in memory of Denise Clarice Mullen*



Melissa Salvatore - May 19, 2021 at 12:53 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Denise Clarice Mullen.



May 19, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



TM - May 19, 2021 at 11:01 AM



“ Lyn Snyder lit a candle in memory of Denise Clarice Mullen



Lyn Snyder - May 18, 2021 at 06:54 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Denise Clarice Mullen.



May 18, 2021 at 12:58 PM

MM

“ *Mary Johnson, Justin and Megan purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Denise Clarice Mullen.*



Mary Johnson, Justin and Megan - May 18, 2021 at 12:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Denise Clarice Mullen.*



May 18, 2021 at 10:01 AM

JM

“ *My heart goes out to James and the family. We've all shared some great memories and many fun get togethers. I'll never forget the night before Jody's wedding at the rustic beach cottage that she and James rented. Denise would also always warn me when Mercury was going to be in retrograde! We all will meet again. She has always been a shining star and now she will be shining down on us from above.*

Jayne Matlock - May 18, 2021 at 01:25 AM

BH

“ *Denise, James so much I could say!! We have gone thru changes and lived a lifetime!! girl you were always so cute with a lot of class!! My heart breaks for James as you guys showed true love!! Know you will be so missed!! Another good one gone to soon!!!*

beth hebda - May 17, 2021 at 09:04 PM