



## Debra Elizabeth Whitehead

June 29, 1953 - June 23, 2013

Debra (Debbie) Elizabeth Whitehead, 59, of Easton, MD, passed away on June 23, 2013, after a courageous battle with cancer. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, 2013, at Christ Episcopal Church, 111 S. Harrison Street, Easton, MD.

Debbie was born in Aberdeen, MD, on June 29, 1953. She graduated from Denbigh High School in Newport News, VA, and earned a B.S. in Home Economics from Longwood College, and a Masters in Early Childhood Development from University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Debbie was married to Brett Whitehead on August 13, 1977; they were married 35 years.

Debbie's caring nature fostered her love for classroom teaching. She started her teaching career in West Windsor, NJ, in 1998 at Village Elementary and taught for 12 years at Talbot County Public Schools. Prior to teaching, Debbie had a thriving sewing business making monogrammed beach towels, garden flags, baby bibs, ballet bags, etc. -- essentially any material upon which she could place a design. Her creations are still loved and seen to this day.

Debbie was proud to participate in the Easton Rocks program and successfully completed a half marathon in 2008, a significant accomplishment

for her. Debbie also loved the peacefulness of the water, which inspired her to participate in Freedom Rowers in 2007.

Debbie is survived by her husband, Brett; her daughter, Ashley; her son, Tyler; her father, Bernard Gervais; sisters, Jani Flanagan and Heidi Gervais; and numerous nieces and nephews. Debbie is preceded in death by her mother, Margaret Elizabeth Gervais.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Hatteras Island Rescue Squad, 48103 Highway 12, PO Box 639, Buxton, NC 27920 or Christ Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, 111 S. Harrison St., Easton, MD 21601.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Jackie Gonnella lit a candle in memory of Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*



**Jackie Gonnella** - September 23, 2013 at 09:17 AM

VS

“ I remember when I thought that I couldn't do it, but Mrs. Whithead told me that I could so I kept trying until I got it right. When I got it, she told me that she knew I could do it. I am sad that she is gone, but I will always remember that she believed in me.

Love Ceaira Harris

Dear Mr. Whitehead,

I was so sorry to hear that Mrs. Whitehead had passed, but I know that she is home with the Father. When my granddaughter Ceaira became her student, she had a lot of breathing problems from a near drowning earlier that year. I shared with her my experience as a parent during that time and she shared a lot of things with me that she and her family had gone through. I have faith in God, but listening to her just increased my faith so much more. This was the first time I had ever been through a life or death experience. Talking to her helped me greatly. When my granddaughter had to do breathing exercises, Mrs. Whitehead had the whole class do them. The kids never knew why they were doing them. She became a very good friend to me. I will miss her.

Love, Valtina Sullivan

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Valtina Sullivan - August 24, 2013 at 09:00 PM

CR

“ Dear Brett, Ashley, and Tyler,

*I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. Mrs. Whitehead was a passionate, inspiring, and motivational teacher and person. As a first grade student in 2001, when Mrs. Whitehead told the class that she would be moving to Maryland at the end of the year, I felt upset that I wouldn't be seeing my favorite teacher anymore. She gave each of her students a business card with her new address in case we wanted to contact her. I wanted nothing more, so as soon as the school year ended, I wrote my first letter.*

*We began writing to each other back and forth as pen pals. Eventually, she gave me another pen pal who was the same age as I was from her class. While that faded, Mrs. Whitehead and I continued writing. She would update me on her life, her new students, and how things were generally going, and I would do the same.*

*Upon completing my first year of college, I decided to look up her email address since I had lost the business card with her mailing address. This was when I discovered this page. I wanted to share with you my memory of her and how she inspired me as a student and as a person. She still remains my favorite teacher and I always think of her at the start of each new school year. Her memory will stay with me forever; rest in peace, Mrs. Whitehead.*

*With love and best wishes,  
Corinne Ryklin*

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**Corinne Ryklin** - July 26, 2013 at 07:55 PM

MC

“ Dear Brett, Ashley and Tyler,  
Hold on to the beautiful memories you had with each other. Debbie was a dear friend who brightened my days at Village School. I always enjoyed our talks after you moved to Maryland. I am heartbroken by her passing and will miss her sweet, gentle soul. Rest in peace my friend.

With love, Marilyn Cloer

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**Marilyn Cloer** - July 01, 2013 at 01:10 PM

JB

Dear Brett, Ashley and Tyler. Debbie will always be your guiding light.. There are very few people you bond with, and become close to after meeting, Debbie was one of those rare few. She was a second Mom to Mike, She touched many lives. Debbie , you are now at peace with the Lord, and No longer in pain. You are now an angel watching over your children and family. Remember her many lessons, and you will see signs of her smiling down upon all of you.  
Love, Jen, Garry, Mike and Grandma

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**Jen Bernstein** - July 10, 2013 at 05:57 PM

SH

“ Susan Burley Heil lit a candle in memory of  
Debra Elizabeth Whitehead



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**Susan Burley Heil** - June 30, 2013 at 05:55 PM



“ *Catessa Cain lit a candle in memory of Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*



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**Catessa Cain** - June 28, 2013 at 08:47 PM



“ *Laura Wetzel lit a candle in memory of Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*



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**Laura Wetzel** - June 28, 2013 at 08:19 PM



*I have wonderful memories of teaching with Debbie. She was a fabulous teacher and role model. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Laura Wetzel** - June 28, 2013 at 08:22 PM



“ *Carolyn Johnson lit a candle in memory of Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*



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**Carolyn Johnson** - June 28, 2013 at 03:00 PM

GS

“ *Glenda Soccorso lit a candle in memory of Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*



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**Glenda Soccorso** - June 28, 2013 at 02:22 PM

MS

“ *Michelle Sears lit a candle in memory of Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*



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**Michelle Sears** - June 28, 2013 at 12:48 PM

MS

*Thanks for being a great friend. I will miss our talks!! Love you always!!!*

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**Michelle Sears** - June 28, 2013 at 12:49 PM

BU

“ *I was shocked and saddened to read about Debbie's passing. As a substitute teacher, I often covered her classes as well as working with her. Debbie was the consummate professional, a person you could pattern yourself after both professionally and personally as well. The students she has taught over the years were truly blessed to have such a fine teacher. Debbie you will be sorely missed, professionally and by your family and friends as well.*

*Burt Sachs  
Rio Rancho, NM*

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**burt** - June 28, 2013 at 08:23 AM

SH

“ *Brett,  
We were so sorry to hear about Debbie. You're in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Sherri and Lily Higgins*

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**Sherri Higgins** - June 28, 2013 at 06:23 AM

TM

“ *Dear Brett, Ashley, and Tyler,*

*Even though we now live far away we joyfully remember our time in Easton that we spent with you and Debbie and we're saddened by her passing.*

*May the blessings of Christ comfort you and guide you in your grief.*

*We love you all.*

*The Merriman's*

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**The Merriman's** - June 27, 2013 at 04:23 PM

 Beth  
Johnston

“ *Darling Debbie. The one who took me to the hospital when I went into labor with my daughter Abbey who is now 19. Who made "the flags." Who was a great cook. Loving mother. Loving wife. Friend to all. Great human being. Made us smile. Heaven is lucky to have you.*

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**Beth Johnston** - June 27, 2013 at 01:19 PM

GC

“ *Gina Carriero lit a candle in memory of Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*



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**Gina Carriero** - June 27, 2013 at 08:38 AM

MN

“ *Brett,*

*My sincere sympathy to you and your family. MY thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

*Mark Niblo*

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**Mark Niblo** - June 27, 2013 at 08:36 AM

LK

*Brett, I am so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you. Lloyd and Jana Kloppe*

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**Lloyd Kloppe** - June 28, 2013 at 09:58 AM



“ *With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Debra Elizabeth Whitehead.*



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June 26, 2013 at 03:15 PM

VP

“ Dear Ashley,  
*Extending my deepest sympathy for you and your family in your loss  
and hoping that comfort and peace find you all. Vernette*

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**Vernette Pompey** - June 26, 2013 at 12:13 PM

JO

“ *Always enjoyed my talks with Debbie...early years were beach trips  
and visits to see her and Brett in NC, then New Jersey. The last 10  
years I saw them once a year in Maryland. Glad I got to know her as  
an adult, something which rarely happens for the children in  
family's. You will be missed..... John Robertson(nephew)*

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**john** - June 26, 2013 at 12:06 PM

EF

“Debbie taught my son, Carter, first grade nearly 11 years ago. In fact, he was fortunate enough to have her two years in a row as her entire class moved with her to the Moton Building for second grade. Debbie sparked an interest in Carter with the story of the Wright Brothers and they read books about them, she sent him postcards from Kitty Hawk, articles in newspapers - anything she could find that she thought he may enjoy reading and she did this for years.

We kept in touch with Debbie through the years and every year during "Meet Your Teacher Day", we would stop in to chat so that she could see the fine young man that Carter was becoming. We spoke of teaching and family and we often spoke about Ashley and Tyler and normal "Mom" stuff. I could always count on her smiling face no matter when we stopped in.

We all have those teachers that touched us growing up. Debbie was that teacher, that ONE teacher, that Carter will remember forever; she changed his life. Carter is now 17 and a senior this upcoming school year. Not too long ago, I cleaned out his dresser and in the bottom of his sock drawer, I found every article sent, every postcard mailed from various vacations and every letter that Debbie had written to him over the years - bound by a rubber band. I emailed her and told her of this and her reply went something like this "Thank you so very much for letting me know this. I was having a rough day. There are times I wonder why I teach, but then there are times that I KNOW why. I needed to hear this today. Tell Carter I said thank you."

Behind her desk at school in a black frame hung a picture, hand sewn by my then 8 year old Carter. It was the outline of the first plane flown by the Wright Brothers and beneath it, in the hand writing of an 8 year old boy read, "Because of you, I believe I can fly." Thank you Debbie for helping him fly.

With fond memories and much gratitude,  
Elizabeth Fink, the Fink Family and especially Carter

**Elizabeth Fink** - June 26, 2013 at 10:11 AM

AS

“ *Dear Brett, Ashley and Tyler,  
We are all feeling devastated by the loss of Debbie but we also know she is not suffering anymore. We are focusing on all the good times with Debbie, on her wonderful sewing talents (our kids had all her beach towels!) and her fun spirit along with her great smile. We will see you in Easton, but know that our prayers are with you now and the months ahead.  
With love to all,  
Anne and Terry Sheehan*

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**Anne and Terry Sheehan** - June 26, 2013 at 07:39 AM

GS

“ *With deepest sympathy to Brett and his family, my thoughts and prayers are with you all at this most difficult time.*

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**Gail Scrivanich** - June 26, 2013 at 07:39 AM

SU

“ *The world is a better place because Debbie was here. She touched the lives of many especially the students she loved and taught.*

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**susan** - June 26, 2013 at 07:32 AM

CM

“ *At times like this, it is hard to find the words to say. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*With Deepest Sympathy,  
Cynthia Machado*

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**Cynthia Machado** - June 25, 2013 at 09:51 PM

CM

“ *Cynthia Machado lit a candle in memory of  
Debra Elizabeth Whitehead*



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**Cynthia Machado** - June 25, 2013 at 09:39 PM