



Delores Atkins "Dee" Shepherd

June 29, 1940 - July 3, 2019

Delores Atkins "Dee" Shepherd transitioned from this life July 3rd, 2019. The eldest of four children of John Leslie Atkins, Jr. and Delores Camp Atkins, Dee was born June 29, 1940 in Durham, North Carolina where she attended public schools. She graduated from Meredith College before earning masters' degrees from The University of North Carolina and Duke University. In 1963 she married William A. "Pete" Shepherd and became the loving mother to daughter Leslie Shepherd Anderson and son William A. "Will" Shepherd, Jr. In 1970, Dee moved to St. Petersburg, Florida where she taught at Center Academy before establishing The Learning Space in St. Petersburg Beach that later evolved into Shepherd Academy. In 1983 she moved to Tallahassee to open a branch of Shepherd Academy. She devoted her professional career to passionately helping children achieve educational success in a non-traditional setting. After retiring in 2002, she became Principal of Chapman Elementary School in Apalachicola.

Dee served on the Board of Directors of the Creative Employment Foundation. She was an active member of Unity of Tallahassee where she started "Dee's Diner," a weekly dinner club. At Unity she met Mary Beth Seay who became her life companion, sharing a love of travel, food and pets. Dee also participated in two medical missions to Haiti and a third to Vietnam. Predeceased by her parents, Dee is survived by Dr. Mary Beth Seay, her partner of 26 years, her daughter Leslie Shepherd Anderson (Eric), son William A. "Will" Shepherd, Jr. (Dr. Isabel Alfonso), and grandchildren Ethan,

Kendall, and Olivia Anderson. She is survived by her siblings John Leslie Atkins III (Sandra), Dr. Judy Atkins White (Dr. Gilbert), and David Charles Atkins (Elise) as well as many loving nieces and nephews. She is also survived by the father of her children and lifelong friend William A "Pete" Shepherd as well as her chosen family circle of dear and close friends. She is further survived by the multitude of students whose lives she lovingly influenced and whom she considered "my kids." She loved them all.

The family is eternally grateful for the loving and devoted care Dee received at Your Life Memory Care Facility and Big Bend Hospice. A Celebration of Dee's life is scheduled for Saturday, July 13th starting at 10:00 a.m. at Unity of Tallahassee, 2850 Unity Lane. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Big Bend Hospice or a charity of choice. Dee will always be remembered for her wicked sense of humor, infectious smile, love of children, and her willingness to always help others. She lives forever in our hearts and our fond memories.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (850-385-2193 www.bevisfh.com)

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

Unity of Tallahassee
2850 Unity Lane
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Tribute Wall

BD

“ *Dee was the best educator I have ever known, and It was my privilege to work with her for 10 years. She truly loved all her students. You were the best, Dee! Love you.*

Barbara Dombrowski - July 13, 2019 at 07:51 PM

CC

“ *I will never forget Dee b/c she gave me my first part time job after getting my masters in Library Science. I had 2 small children so she let me pick my hours and days to work on her "library." She was working on getting accredited at the time and needed a library to succeed. As I would sit quietly working, I got to witness all the wonderful workings in her small school with a BIG heart - Shepherd Academy. I was constantly amazed at how caring and supportive Dee was - and always in a good mood. She helped SO MANY kids during those years- kids would weren't succeeding in their regular schools. I didn't know it at the time, but I would need some of those skills raising my kids, one of whom had a learning disability. At the time of Dee's academy, there were very few places a kid could go when they were having difficulties in their home school. AND Ironically the last school I worked in before retiring was Success Academy- a Leon Co school that had the same goals as Shepherd Academy- to help kids who have fallen behind. Dee would have loved it ! Rest in Peace, Dee, and know your work on earth was a special gift you gave to others. Carolyn Coggins*

Carolyn Coggins - July 12, 2019 at 10:58 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Delores Atkins "Dee" Shepherd.*



July 11, 2019 at 09:54 AM



“ *Family you will understand, in time how much love was there as you reflect on the memories of Dee..Sorry for your loss. Jean Hammond*

Jean Hammond - July 10, 2019 at 09:06 PM



“ *I started reading today's paper and was saddened to see that Dee had passed away. She was such an inspiration to my family. My son attended her Academy for 5 years. It was a place he loved and felt safe attending. My love and sympathy to her family.*

Kathy Wimberly - July 07, 2019 at 01:02 PM



“ *I will never forget our trip to Europe. Thanks for truly loving and caring about all of your student. Love to the Shepherds Academy fam, and Will and Isabel and the rest of Dee's family.*

Katie Hendrickson - July 07, 2019 at 12:09 AM



“ *I will always remember Aunt Dee as a bright, loving, and good person. She also knew how to make people laugh. May she rest peacefully.*

Ashley A - July 06, 2019 at 02:37 PM

MP

“ *Best college roommate ever! Yes, I will call her now what we all called her then - Pedunk! A crazy name.....crazy smart, crazy sassy, crazy beautiful inside and out! A friend all in like very few others. She taught me a lot and I will be forever grateful. A larger than life person who was with us in life and will remain in our hearts...missing you already!*



Mary Pfalzgraf - July 06, 2019 at 02:36 PM

IA

“ *My dearest friend, mentor, and mother-in-love. I am so fortunate to be able to say you were all three. I love you and will miss you so much. You are one of a kind. Thank you for all of your love, life lessons and playfulness. It was never a dull moment with you. Your light will shine in our hearts forever. Rest in peace. ❤️*



Isabel Alfonso - July 06, 2019 at 11:43 AM

WS

“ *I Love you Mom. My life will never be the same without you. Rest peacefully and know that your mission to share love with the world survives you eternally. Your light will shine brightly and forever.*



Will Shepherd - July 06, 2019 at 11:08 AM