



Deborah Knapp Miller

July 22, 1955 - July 21, 2009

Deborah Knapp Miller, 53, of LaFayette, New York passed away on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at Crouse Hospital following a courageous battle with cancer. She was a graduate of LaFayette High School, Keuka College (BS) and SUNY Oswego, Masters and CAS, all with Honors.

Deborah was a dedicated, life-long educator who passionately helped many children and families through her work in Migrant Education in New York State and around the country for the past thirty years. She was awarded the National Migrant Education Administrator of the Year Award in May and also received the Presidents Award from SUNY Cortland. Deborah was an active member of the LaFayette community as a member of the LaFayette Central Schools Board of Education, an Elder of Columbian Presbyterian Church, a member of LaFayette Republican Committee, LaFayette Grange, and from its creation, the LaFayette Apple Festival. Deborah was also an avid quilter, scrapbooker, calligrapher, reader and loyal supporter of LaFayette Athletics. Deborah is survived by her husband of 23 years, Kenneth; daughter, Brittany who will be following her mother to Keuka College in the fall; step-son, Kenneth; her parents, Malcolm and Bettye Knapp; brothers, Douglas (Anne), David (Donna) of LaFayette; as well as three step-grandchildren; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Calling hours will be Saturday, July 25, 2009, from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Ballweg and Lunsford Funeral Home, 2584 Field Lane, LaFayette, New York.

Funeral Services will be Sunday, July 26, 2009, 2:00 p.m. at Columbian

Presbyterian Church, Corner of Route 20 and Route 11, LaFayette, New York.
Donations may be sent to The Deborah Knapp Miller Education Scholarship
Fund at PO Box 467, LaFayette, NY 13084.

Tribute Wall



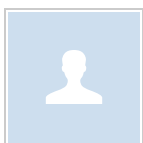
“ I am so sorry that I heard of this so late. Debbie was nothing but a joy to everyone who knew her. I hope that you will stay in touch with me in the future. Especially since I had left Pompey, it has been hard to keep track of everybody. If you need anything, or just feel like catching up, go ahead and email me. Again, deepest condolences.

December 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM



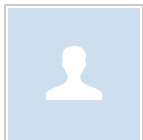
“ What I remember best about Debbie was her kindness, in grade school she always treated others well. Though I have not seen or spoken with Debbie since high school graduation, I have nothing but good memories of her from my grade school and high school years. My deepest sympathy to all of her family and may they find solace in all the good memories they have of her.

September 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of Debbie. I remember her from high school, she was always kind and thoughtful. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

September 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Just rec'd word of Deb's passing. My most heartfelt sympathy to her family. I have so many wonderful Keuka memories of Debbie. She was truly one of the nicest people I have ever known.

July 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our hearts and prayers are with you. Deborah will be missed.

July 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

July 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I continue to have fond memories of Deb at Keuka College(Class of '77). I remember Deb as a very caring individual and friend! My thoughts and prayers are with you.

July 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I enjoyed working for Debbie in the MEOP Summer Program. I will always remember her kind words, dedication, support, and generosity to the children and staff. She will be sadly missed!

July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Although I have only been with Migrant ed for the last 11 years or so , I have often had the pleasure of being in the same workshops during our annual ""november conference"" in Syracuse. I remember Debby as being a very kind and courteous person. Always made me feel like I belonged here. My deepest regrets to her family. Thoughtfully, Mimi, Parent Advocacy Liaison, Mid-Hudson MEOP, New paltz.

July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Debbie was a sweet, kind, caring and hard-working woman who will be truly missed. She has been in our thoughts and prayers for a long time. She fought a brave fight and now is at peace. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kenny and Brittany.*

July 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *I will always remember Debbie's laugh.*

July 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *My most sincere condolences to Dibble's entire family. She was a pleasure to work with and will be missed.*

July 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Miller & Knapp family, I'm so sorry for your loss and will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. Take care and God bless.*

July 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Malcolm, Bettye and the entire Knapp/Miller family, My sincere condolences on the passing of Deborah. I have had occasion to meet her a few times and she was always so sweet and had such a great smile. Although your hearts must be breaking right now I know the memories are what sustain us when someone so young passes. You will all be in my prayers. Mary Stimson*

July 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Debbie was a great inspiration to me. I was able to spend some time with her in Phoenix at a Nat'l Migrant meeting. She will be always remembered by me as the lady with the greatest smile and biggest heart ever known. She will be forever known for her loving and kind ways and attitude.

July 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I just found out of her passing just minutes ago. I express my deepest sympathy to her family. Debbie was such a wonderful person. I enjoyed working with her at the Apple Festival. It wasn't really working as we all had so much fun together. I feel privileged at having known her and will miss her.

July 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Deb miller was an amazing woman who helped so many and was caring to her family. She is a special individual to me and always will be. I will miss her so much, she was so kind and nice to me when I first began working. She reached out to me and helped me a lot. I admire her a lot, my prayers and thoughts are with her family in this sad time.

July 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Knapp family, Please accept our sincerest sympathy for your great loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I spoke with Deborah on a few occasions in her role as head of the Cortland MEOP. A more wonderful individual one would be hard-pressed to find. My deepest condolences to the family. Mike FondacaroAlbany, NY

July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I send my deepest condolences to Kenny and his family at this time. Having lost a spouse to cancer I know how difficult this time is for Kenny and his family. Love Kenny's cousin, JoAnne Mizell Summerville, SC

July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Ken, Brittany, Bettye, Malcolm, and family - please accept our condolences for the loss of a truly great lady. Her impression will be forever left on this town for all of her wonderful contributions. Despite the gravity of her battle with that horrid disease she never stopped contributing and sacrificing for our school district. She is surely being glorified in heaven. God bless you all. Paul, Carole, Patrick, Daniel, and Andrea Dwyer

July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Debbie will be missed. She was a strong quiet women who you could deoend. I am so sorry for your loss.

July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *My heart goes out to Debbie's family. She fought so hard, to hard...but she knew her family, friends and friends of her family where there to help. God's speed.*

July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Knapp and Miller family. We will remember her smile. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Ken and Brittany. God's loving arms around you all.*

July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Oh Deb, you gave me a start into the teaching field. Having Brittany in summer camp on campus that first year you offered me a job with Migrant Ed. I remember those talks we had, those conferences, and those bright green shirts with black and white checkered collars you asked us to wear...How you would worry when you found out Cindy Hubbard and I were friends in highschool...wondering what you got yourself into with both of us...Now, as an instructor myself at the college, I continue to praise your (and I say more, because you were the heart and backbone of the Migrant Ed. program) and the experiences I had when working for you. As I often reflect and share my experiences with Migrant Ed. with my college students, I stress the importance and effect it had on me. It helped to open my eyes to issues I may not have otherwise known and also played a part in my being the teacher I am today working with students with special needs and those who are living in poverty and need people in their lives to support and help them. I thank you for the opportunity you gave me and helping me to become the teacher I am today. One more thing....Brittany, you know more than we do as to how awesome a person your mom was. How she loved you and how her eyes lit up and how she smiled when talking of you. You will are a wonderful young lady and your mom will always be with you. I wish you well as you begin your college years at your mom's college...

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Known her through the Finger Lakes Coalition for Farm Worker Agencies. Did wonderful work for all she taught. Will be missed by all

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I worked in the same building with Deb. I will always remember her love for her job and seeing her smile when passing her in the hallway. She is now with her precious lord and all the pain has passed and only happiness, beauty and love surrounds her.

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



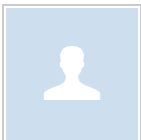
“ From family-friends in Washington State: In our visits over the years, Debbie was always genuinely glad to see us, thoughtful in asking after others in our family, and generous with her affection. We loved her and will miss her. Ken, Brittany, Bettye, Malcolm, David and Doug: We are holding you close in our hearts and prayers.

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I am very glad to have known and worked with Deb for almost 20 years. My deepest sympathies to her family.

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Debbie's great creative humor and ever-present concern for the well-being of others will be truly missed by me personally and all of us in her "migrant family". Rest in peace Debbie. Pat

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Debbie was an amazing person and she will be forever missed.

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Miller Family, We are so saddened by your loss. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Brittany, Mike is in Florida this week and next - he would have wanted to be here for you. Pat, Rusty and Michael Tassini

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



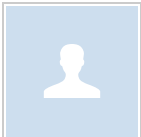
“ To the Miller and Knapp families, we are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. The Beebe Family

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I will remember her smile and her friendly personalty

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



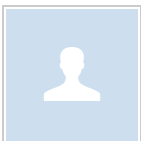
“ Debbie was an absolute joy to work with. She was funny, highly competent, and obviously highly intelligent. She was devoted to children and their parents. I will miss her a good deal.

July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the family on your huge loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Debbie was a thoughtful, caring person who liked to make us laugh. She will be missed.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bettye and Malcolm, We remember the many good times we had when our children were growing. Jane always enjoyed being with Debbie and working with her. She certainly will be remembered by many people for all the help she has given them. Peace be with you.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Kenneth & Brittany We're so sorry for your loss and if you need anything just know we're here for you.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My memories of Deb was of a wonderful kind woman who cared about kids and people. I was the Asst. Superintendent at LaFayette and Deb was on the Board of Education. She made decisions with kids at the forefront --- What a true loss - My deepest sympathy.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I cannot find the words. Debbie was such a genuine, kind, caring and giving woman. She was always positive, upbeat and always had a smile for you. She had a true and remarkable heart and it was always big enough for her to share it with those who needed her. She will be missed. May God bless and comfort your family and may you find peace knowing that Debbie suffers no longer. With love and prayers for comfort and healing.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *She was a wonderful and caring person who always had a smile. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. My deepest sympathy for your loss.*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *I remember Deb as such a smiling girl. So cheerful and up beat. We have certainly lost a bright star. Our hearts are full of sadness for all your family. Carol and Willard*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. With our deepest sympathy, The Agedal Family*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Knapp & Miller Families - Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Debbie was a remarkable woman and a dedicated volunteer within the community, she will be missed. Kim Chawgo*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ken, Britt, Doug, Dave & Families - Thoughts and prayers of health, healing and strength as you go through a very difficult time. It is family that seems to guide all of us through these situations. I'm sure the Knapp's will continue that tradition. God bless....*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Ken,Britney & Family, We're very sorry to hear of your loss, Deb will surely be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. :(J Verzosa & Family

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Miller family:Our thoughts and prayers are with you all through this tough time and sorrow. Deb was a wonderful person, and a great leader. She will never be forgotten and her hard work and dedication to the LaFayette Church will be missed.To Brittany: Hang in there. I can't imagine what you are going through. You are a great hardworking person, just like your mother was. I know you will do great at Keuka College. Stay strong. Im here for you. All the best!-Marissa, Ken, Denise, and Mike Johnson-

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Debbie will be missed. She was a beautiful woman who touched many lives. Her memory will live on. We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers and will continue to celebrate her life.Our deepest sympathy...

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ The SUNY Cortland community mourns the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Debbie. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you at this difficult time. Debbie was a remarkable woman--We will really miss her.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



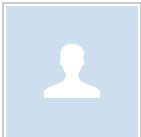
“ I had a great working at the day care and taking care of Brittany. Thank you for letting me work there.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



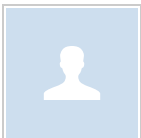
“ My first memories of Deb are from when she joined the staff of the Wayne Finger Lakes Migrant Tutorial Program at the North Rose Wolcott School District. She was a wonderful, dedicated supervisor. Several years later when she became the director of the Migrant Education Outreach Program at SUNY Cortland, I again was on her staff and continue working with that program. Her enthusiasm and dedication for the migrant children and their families was contagious and inspiring. Deb will certainly be missed by all who knew and loved her. Heaven now has another angel.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you in this sad time of your life. God Bless Love, Michelle

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Debbie was a gifted, kind, and truly inspiring person. It was a gift to have known her and to have worked with her.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest condolences.

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our Heartfelt condolences. Deborah's brother Doug is a friend and we are sorry for the family loss. Ted Cobb*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *All my thoughts are with you. I am so sorry for your lose. Rest In Peace*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Miller and Knapp Family, My heart goes out to you in during this sad time. She was a wonderful woman...Always at our lacrosse games cheering us on and always had some encouraging words to say...She always asked how we were doing and how school was....She will be missed...*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our deepest condolences go out to you and your family in your time of need. Cathleen, Patrick and Michael Ready*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Debbie and I prayed together at the early stages of this foul disease. I believe Debbie is in heaven and is rejoicing with no more suffering, no more pain, no more fear. I'm sure Debbie wants each of us to continue making a difference in the lives of those we can, and to someday, on our day, join her on those streets of gold.*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Deb was a very nice lady to all parents she know. We wish her family the best. She put a lasting memory in me. I will never forget.*

July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM