



# Cheryl Ann Blackman

JUN 19, 1963 - DEC 7, 2016



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# Cheryl Ann Blackman

JUN 19, 1963 - DEC 7, 2016

**I**n the early morning hours of December 7, 2016, at the age of 53, Cheryl Ann Blackman slipped away, leaving her family, friends and cherished community after a lengthy battle with breast cancer.

Cheryl was the youngest in a family of four girls and is survived by her beloved mother, Shirley R. Dwyer Bennett (Rehoboth Beach), three sisters: Barbara L. Blackman Rynkowski (Lewes), Valery L. Blackman Cordrey (Millsboro), and Sharon L. Blackman Sherwood (Lewes), and step-mother Evelyn LaScala Blackman (Dover). Cheryl was predeceased by her father, Conrad R. Blackman (Dover), and step-father, Robert M. Bennett (Camden-Wyoming).

Born on June 19, 1963, in Dover, DE, Cheryl spent her youth in the rural community of Canterbury and many summers in Rehoboth Beach. After graduating from the Benedictine School in Ridgely, Maryland, in 1983, Rehoboth Beach became her permanent home and the Rehoboth Beach community her family.

Cheryl had a passion for roller skating, which perfectly suited her high energy and outgoing personality, and she soon became a frequent and favorite community sighting. It was Cheryl's roller skating talent that would later help land her first major motion picture role; Miss Piggy's stunt double in "The Muppets Take Manhattan." Her Hollywood resume would go on to include "Her Alibi" with Tom Selleck, "Avalon" with Elijah Wood, and "Violets are Blue" with Sissy Spacek.

Indeed, Cheryl's trademark roller skates remained on when a daring George Chiartas hired Cheryl to her first official job; as a waitress at his Beach Luncheon on the boardwalk. Over the next 16 years Cheryl's persona and confidence grew under George's caring mentorship as she became more family than employee. When the Luncheon sadly closed its doors, Grotto Pizza founder Dominick Pulieri invited Cheryl to join his wait staff. Over the years her duties expanded to parties and special functions, where she entertained kids of all ages by making balloon animals, and sporting ever more colorful holiday outfits.



## Obituary

**Cheryl Ann Blackman**

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Locals and visitors alike looked forward to seeing the 4'3", larger-than-life personality in her over-the-top holiday-themed fashions. Her patriotic red, white and blue sparkle would rival that of any 4th of July fireworks and she would stand proudly by our local Veterans every Memorial Day. She absolutely delighted in her role as Santa's trusted Elf in the annual Christmas parade and her Lucky Leprechaun character was a popular figure for both St. Patrick's Day and the Chesapeake Celtic Festival.

Although Cheryl's perpetual sunny outlook and star-quality initially caught our eye, it was her life-long philanthropic efforts that captured our hearts. Over the years she raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local organizations and charities including: Rehoboth Beach - Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company, Beebe Medical Center, Village Improvement Association, Cordrey Charities, and the Chesapeake Celtic Festival. Cheryl was also the biggest single fundraiser for her favorite charity, KINfolk, a remarkable achievement accomplished one raffle ticket at a time. In 2011, Cheryl's special talents earned her the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award and in 2012, while undergoing cancer treatment, Cheryl proudly accepted the Jefferson Award in recognition of her outstanding Community Service on Delmarva.

While helping Rehoboth Beach earn its reputation as the "Nation's Summer Capitol," Cheryl was establishing her own legacy as an enduring Rehoboth Beach Icon. Simply put, she was a little person with a great big heart, whose charitable work and uniquely warm and giving personality has inspired and delighted a community for decades. She unassumingly won the hearts of all who knew her and may well be remembered as the brightest star to have ever skated into our lives.

All are invited to celebrate Cheryl's remarkable life at Epworth United Methodist Church, 19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971, on Wednesday, December 21, at 1pm.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Tunnell Cancer Center, 18947 John J Williams Hwy, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 and Delaware Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963.

Please sign Cheryl's online guestbook located on this site.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS DELIVERED BY 3 PM, TUESDAY DECEMBER 20, 2016 TO PARSELL FUNERAL HOMES, LEWES, DE.



## Events

**Cheryl Ann Blackman**

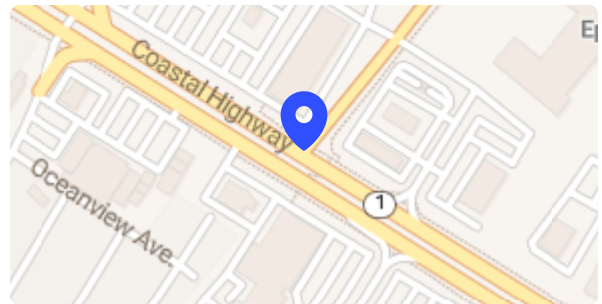
JUN 19, 1963 - DEC 7, 2016

### Celebration of life

 **Wednesday**, December 21, 2016

 1:00 PM ET

 **Epworth United Methodist Church**  
19825 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach DE





# Tribute Wall

**Cheryl Ann Blackman**

JUN 19, 1963 - DEC 7, 2016



**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** shared a **Tribute Video**.



December 22 at 4:17 AM



**Jason Colflesh** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Cheryl was our best friend. A positive role model to all. She was someone who always made our frequent visits to Rehoboth enjoyable and memorable. The three of us had done so much together, and spent countless hours on the famous boardwalk, sitting on the bench near the bandstand. And I was honored to speak at her 50th birthday celebration to tell everyone how much she meant to us, to her family, and to everyone in Rehoboth. She made us felt like locals, like part of the family. We pour our hearts out to her mother Shirley, and her sisters Valory, Barbara, and Sharon. We feel the last 15 years have been precious to us to know Cheryl. We plan to continue to visit Rehoboth. We know Cheryl wants us to. Rest in peace, Cheryl.

March 30 at 8:50 AM



**Elinor Broga** posted:

We met Cheryl and her Mom at Point East in NSB in 2015. Both were very friendly and welcoming to us, the "new kids on the block." But there was a twinkle in Cheryl's eye, and a smile that made you smile no matter what you were feeling, that made her unforgettable. We are saddened to hear of Cheryl's passing, and grateful that we knew this little dynamo for even a short time. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and all who loved her. Elinor and Art Broga, Oneida, NY

February 2 at 5:51 PM



**Jen Burton** posted:

You will always be a shining star! Your smile and positive attitude was amazing and you will be deeply missed by many many people! Rehoboth wont be the same without your presence!  
Jennifer Sugrue Burton and family

December 21 at 5:53 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Cheryl Ann Blackman**

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KL

**Kris Lesh** posted:

Cheryl was a part of our summer vacations for years. More recently we shared lots of laughs in Octobers at the Seawitch Festival. We missed her not being on the boards this year. Even though we may not see her anymore, there's something magical about the sea-she will never be far from the hearts in Rehoboth. She is sadly missed.

December 20 at 10:34 AM



**Stacy Needham** December 21 at 4:54 AM

We love you Cheryl!! The world will miss a beautiful lady! You made us laugh and you made us cry ...At your worst time you gave us hope!! You will truly be missed ... love you dear friend. Stacy Needham and family

JF

**John Flynn** posted:

Cheryl was, and will remain a beacon of light and hope to all in our community, and to all those who knew her. Her infectious smile and joie de vivre lit up a room and everyone around her. She was a true example of selflessness, personified. You'll be missed dearly Cheryl. RIP ♡

December 18 at 12:20 PM



**Kimberly Detore** posted:

If you were lucky enough to have Cheryl in your lives, whether every day or short moments of time, you cannot help but be affected by her positive energy and amazing outlook on life and people. I miss her.

December 18 at 11:29 AM

TC

**Tom Clarke** posted:

Cheryl's endless love and acceptance of all was most inspirational to me. I'm forever blessed by her memory.

December 18 at 8:49 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Cheryl Ann Blackman**

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**Carol Moore** posted:

We only knew Cheryl by her always friendly smile whenever we were walking on the boardwalk. She was a special person and will be missed by all especially those that walk the boardwalk regularly. Rest in piece Cheryl. Ron & Carol

December 16 at 9:52 AM



**Sandy Leigh** lit a candle in honor of Cheryl.

Love to you and your family Cheryl. I will miss seeing you downtown and purchasing tickets from you as you "bar hop". You will always be with us in sprit



December 15 at 8:05 PM



**Mary Lerch** lit a candle in honor of Cheryl.

A wonderful and kind spirit that graced our community has moved on but will never be forgotten.

December 15 at 4:52 PM



**Pat Saddler** lit a candle in honor of Cheryl.

December 15 at 1:41 PM



**Kevinduckworth** posted:

RIP Chery BlackmanYou No Longer In No Pain

December 15 at 11:32 AM



**Kevinduckworth** lit a candle in honor of Cheryl.

December 15 at 11:31 AM





# Tribute Wall

**Cheryl Ann Blackman**

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**Kevin Duckworth** posted:

I Came To The Benedictine School In 1984 And About 1985 I Met This Very Special Lady And Her Name Is Cheryl Black And In The Early 1990's I Went To Rehoboth Beach Delaware With My Family And I Also Got To See Cheryl & I Been At Benedictine For 33 Years And During The Years I Was At The Benedictine School As A Student I Always Looked Forward To Cheryl's Visits To Benedictine And My Condolences & Sympathy To Cheryl Blackman's Family .. I Will Miss Seeing Cheryl Around & She Was A Very Good Friend & was Very Sad To Hear of Her Passing And Now She Got Her Wings & She Is In Heaven With God & You Will Be Deeply Missed Cheryl Blackman & I Know Rehoboth Beach Delaware Will Not Be The Same Kevin Duckworth 7914 Laurel Lane Denton, MD 21629

December 15 at 11:30 AM



**Nancy Cummings** lit a candle in honor of Cheryl.

Cheryl was one of the first people my family met when we moved to Delaware. We were at the Beach Luncheon and she skating over to our table. She was so happy telling us about the area and where we need to go and what to do. Her smile was infectious and every time you saw her that smile would just light up your day. Thank Cheryl for all the happiness you have given me and others. Rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon the new angel in heaven. Nancy Cummings, Davenport, FL



December 15 at 8:20 AM



**Teresa Berner** posted:

Cheryl I have none you n your family for a long time. You have touched a lot of people and brighten a lot of people's day. I enjoyed the times you would come to the farm n hang out with us. You would always ask a lot of questions eager to learn. R.I.P. Our little angel

December 15 at 4:58 AM



**Teresa Berner** lit a candle in honor of Cheryl.



December 15 at 4:54 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Cheryl Ann Blackman**

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BE

**Barbara Ellis** posted:

To the family of Cheryl Blackman,I never had the pleasure of meeting Cheryl but wish I had because she sounds like a remarkable person. My thoughts and prayers are with you .Barbara Tebbens Ellis (Mrs. Richard Ellis)

December 15 at 4:46 AM

EH

**Ed Hotaling** posted:

To the Blackman Family: My deepest condolences and prayers over your loss. Cheryl was such a delightful person and anyone who met her immediately felt the love she shared. She will always be remember in our Rehoboth. Love you Cheryl.Ed Hotalling

December 15 at 3:49 AM

TM

**Terry Mansberger** posted:

Saddened by the news.. Over the past 12 years Cheryl was a part of our annual vacations in Rehoboth Beach each September. We would see her smiling face early mornings on the boardwalk and evenings during Blue Moon happy hour, always a kind word to say as she collected for local charities. No vacation was complete until we made a donation and we disappointed to hear of her illness this past September.Heart goes out to the family, please know that Cheryl was a beloved symbol of Rehoboth community spirit to many and she made a difference!! I'm sure she is showing the dazzling smile somewhere with the sun warming her face...XO. Terry and Charlie

December 14 at 11:31 PM

KH

**Kris Heffentrager** posted:

Cheryl I will miss seeing you around town and seeing bright smile! I enjoyed your company every time. Your forever in my mind and heart! God speed!!!

December 14 at 6:28 PM

LK

**Lori Kline** shared an album called **New Album Name**.



December 14 at 4:53 PM



## Tribute Wall

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JA

**Jamie** posted:

Cheryl was always smiling. She and her Mom would always be so pleasant when they shopped at our store. I know Rehoboth will miss her but she is smiling down on us now...Making everyone in heaven smile ...Thanks Cheryl for being so special to me and everyone else. God Bless you...

December 14 at 4:06 PM

SL

**Scott Lascala** posted:

I was so sad to hear the news of Cheryl. She was such an amazing person with the biggest heart in the world. I specifically remember her pulling us around on her roller skates while we were on our skateboards when we were kids. She was always up for an adventure. The world lost a special soul. My thoughts go out to all of my step, step-sisters. I wish I could be there. :(

December 14 at 4:01 PM

SM

**Stacey Mikulak** posted:

Cheryl will forever be one of the first things I think of when someone mentions Rehoboth Beach and the boardwalk. Her personality, bright smile and heart were all larger than life. Rest In Peace Cheryl.

December 14 at 3:28 PM

MP

**Michael P** posted:

Cheryl was one of the nicest people I have ever met. She will truly be missed throughout Rehoboth Beach. I am happy to have known her.

December 14 at 3:03 PM

CE

**Connie Edwards** posted:

Your smile and loving personality have left this life, but the memory of you will be with us through our time here on Earth. Rest in peace Cheryl. Prayers and thoughts for the family.

December 14 at 2:59 PM



## Tribute Wall

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CS

**Carol Smith** posted:

Cheryl was the heart and soul of Rehoboth. Her smile and genuine love of people was always evident. She was loved by so many and will be missed. My prayers to her family. Carol Smith

December 14 at 2:29 PM

LG

**Lila Goodman** posted:

Cheryl was the brightest light in Rehoboth and beyond. She touched so many hearts. Rehoboth Beach will never be the same without here. Our condolences to her family.....

December 14 at 1:22 PM

MZ

**Mary Zupanovic** posted:

Cheryl you have given my family and I such great memories. I will never forget how patient and kind you were to our girls when they were little. They would leap out of the car and run to the boardwalk to look for you dressed in an array of wonderful costumes! We love and miss you! Your light will always shine bright on our city and in our hearts! RIP my friend. Love, Donna, Mary, Lexy & Zoe.

December 14 at 1:18 PM

MM

**Melinda McGuigan** posted:

To Cheryl's Family, Your support of Cheryl allowed her to blossom and to use her special personality for the greater good. Thank you for sharing Cheryl with the community that loved her! Melinda McGuigan

December 14 at 11:43 AM

TW

**Terry Warrington** posted:

Cheryl we will miss you! My heart goes out to the entire family, I send you hugs and wishes for strength and peace in your hearts that Cheryl is sharing her love on a new journey now. There was not a time in my life that I remember seeing Cheryl without that beautiful smile! She gave more to this community in her short life than most of us will in our lives or in the future. We have lost a true treasure, but we are oh so blessed to have known her. Thinking of you all. Rest in peace Cheryl. Terry Brandner Warrington

December 14 at 11:41 AM



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PD

**Peggy Douglas** posted:

When I moved to Rehoboth as a permanent resident about ten years ago I first felt somewhat lonely and like a fish out of water. I would walk into town every day to buy a newspaper and a cup of coffee and almost each day, Cheryl would ride past me on her bike with a big smile and a hello. She is the first person in my new town that made me feel comfortable. Later I would see her on the boardwalk and we would talk a little - it brought my spirits up. And, needless to say, I could not resist buying raffle tickets to the many wonderful causes Cheryl supported. She was a true angel sent here on a beautiful mission to bolster others who might be down in the dumps, sick, or otherwise needy. What a huge loss this town has suffered. Peggy A.Douglas

December 14 at 11:23 AM

DD

**Debbie Dukes** posted:

Cheryl's contagious smile and laughter will certainly be missed by many. Rehoboth is not the same without here there spreading love and laughter.

December 13 at 8:40 AM

CL

**Carol Lingo** posted:

Cheryl will truly be missed in our community. God be with you and your family at this time. Ken & Carol Lingo

December 12 at 12:26 PM

FR

**Friends And Staff At Coldwell Banker Resort Realty** sent a Dawn of Remembrance Basket to the Blackman family.



December 8 at 6:03 AM



## Media

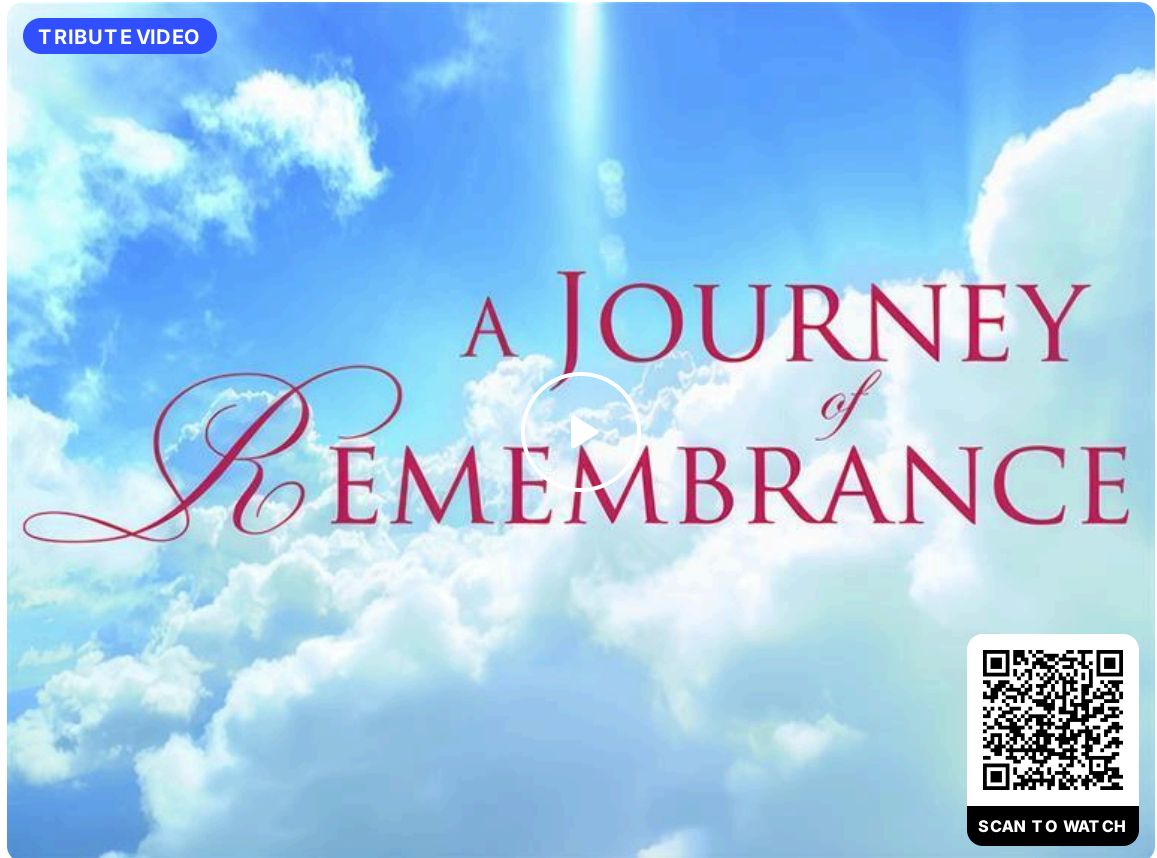
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**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** shared a **Tribute Video**.

December 22 at 4:17 AM





## Media

**Cheryl Ann Blackman**

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Jason Colflesh shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 30 at 8:50 AM



Cheryl, Jason & Liz at her 50th birthday celebration. The three best friends Rehoboth Beach ever ha



## Media

**Cheryl Ann Blackman**

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Lori Kline shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

December 14 at 4:53 PM



Cheryl was the best!



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Cheryl by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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