



# Deborah A. Toner

OCT 10, 1962 - MAR 4, 2021



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Deborah A. Toner**

OCT 10, 1962 - MAR 4, 2021

### **D**eborah A. (Kane) Toner, innovative founder of Beach Babies Child Care

Debbie Toner left this earth early on Thursday, March 4, 2021, while surrounded by family at her home. She was born on October 10, 1962 in Wilmington, DE, daughter of the late Robert and Janet Kane.

Deb and her husband, Tom began married life living in New Castle, DE, later moving to the Middletown area, and lastly moving to “their home for life” in Rehoboth Beach, some twenty-five years ago. All immediate and other family members were always a welcome sight at their home. It has always been a home of love, friendship, and kindness. Upon moving to Rehoboth Beach, Deb commenced her career in the world of Early Childhood Education. Starting in 1995, Deb, Tom, and their small staff began with day care service for five children. Over the following twenty-five years, Deb, Tom, their son, Sean, and their staff, now have childcare operations in Lewes, Rehoboth, Townsend, and most recently Milford, Delaware. Hundreds of children in every category, infant through Pre-K, before and after school, summer camp “Beach Buddies” programs, all enjoy the Beach Babies curriculum experience. The program in each location carries the DE STARS Five Star ranking in recognition reports. Deb especially has accomplished much to advance early childhood efforts here in Delaware and has been recognized nationally for her accomplishments in Early Childhood Programs.

Deb’s passing marked the close of a five-year battle with cancer, along with other complications. Her fight with the disease was characteristic of how she lived her life. Over this course, Deb consulted and traveled to hospitals recognized for their work in fighting cancer, explored alternative treatment avenues and medicines, and educated herself on how best to deal with such an insidious disease. All the while, Deb maintained her attention to her business and especially to her family. Deb fought with honor, never complaining, and left no stone unturned in her battle.



## Obituary

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This story would not be complete without declaring that Deb Toner truly left her mark on the world, especially in a little beach town named Rehoboth Beach. Deb loved the beach, the entire beach experience, from restaurants and stores, to parades and holidays and sunny Sundays lazing on the beach. Deb particularly enjoyed her day of rest and relaxation among friends, families, and always her best friend, Tom. Please rest well Deb, you left this sweet life a better place for all of us.

Deb leaves behind her best friend and husband, Thomas “Tom” Toner; her son and the other love of her life, Sean Toner; her grandchildren: Tyler Ward, Hailey Ward, Jackson Ward, and “Charlie” Toner; her siblings: Steve Kane, Bobby Kane, and Peggy Kane and their families; and her additional family members: Paula Kane, Kimberly and Brian Ward, and Michael and Nikki Toner.

Services will be private.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



# Tribute Wall

**Deborah A. Toner**  
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**Gina Ling** lit a candle in honor of Deborah.

For 23 years Debbie has been my boss, mentor, leader, inspiration, and most of all my friend. She has touched the lives of so many and will continue to do so as her Early Childhood Goals for quality care for children continue on. You are at peace. You are loved. You are able to keep guiding and helping others from a better place. I will miss you dearly and feel blessed to have worked beside you all these years.



March 16 at 5:24 PM



**Patricia Hocker** posted:

We are so sorry for your loss. Sean and our son went to school together. Debbie seemed to always have a smile on her face and a kind word to say. We hope your happy memories will help you heal. Hugs...Patti & Mark Hocker

March 16 at 4:01 AM



**Caroline Brittingham** posted:

Having gone to Beach Babies summer camp as a child, to being hired by Ms Debbie to intern there in high school, and now with sending my two children to Beach Babies, I have always appreciated the business that Ms Debbie ran. Although I hadn't seen her in years I knew my children were in good hands because of the work she put in to her daycare over the years. Thank you for providing so many children a safe place to grow and learn. Prayers to her family and friends.

March 15 at 5:02 PM



**Carol Lingo** lit a candle in honor of Deborah.

Prayers to the family. She was such a lovely person, who will be greatly missed.  
Carol Lingo



March 15 at 5:09 AM



**Marsha Andrews** posted:

Debbie was a good friend Of mine many years ago. She loved children so much and couldn't wait to start a daycare. Now my grandsons go to Beach Buddies. Debbie was always a kind soul. Rest easy my friend. I love you

March 13 at 10:27 AM



## Tribute Wall

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BM

**Bryana Mccrea** posted:

Mrs. Debbie was a beautiful person. I worked at her facility for a couple of years. She was always so kind and always had a smile. She will be missed. Rest on Mrs. Debbie.

March 12 at 10:55 AM

SK

**Scott And Donna De Kuyper** posted:

Our girls were among the first Beach Babies back in the 90s. "Miss Debbie" was caring and professional in every way.

March 12 at 10:45 AM

RS

**Rose Smith** posted:

I will miss you Ms. Debbie. I will always remember you. Your kindness, loving way, and caring. Thank you for being a wonderful boss and friend. Be at peace. ❤️

March 11 at 6:37 PM

NS

**Nicole Strike** lit a candle in honor of Deborah.

I am so sorry to hear of Debbie's passing. She was such a strong positive soul. She will be greatly missed. May you rest in peace, Debbie.....

March 11 at 12:23 PM



SH

**Samuel Henry** posted:

The immediate thought that comes to mind when I think of Debbie is genuine sweetness. Every time I would talk to her I quickly had a smile on my face to match her smile and the smile in her eyes. She was such a caring and kind woman. Always empathetic, genuine, peaceful, and yet of course very tough. Her absence will always be felt. Through Debbie and her family and all the countless employees, children (and their parents) who she helped, she leaves behind such a positive legacy.

March 11 at 12:14 PM



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JG

**Julie Grabowski** posted:

Dear Tom and Sean, We are so saddened to hear about the passing of Debbie. She was one of the sweetest people we've met. She was such a pleasure to take care of and was always so positive and upbeat. She will be missed and we are all thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. Dr. Abdollah Malek, MD and Staff

March 11 at 11:31 AM

LL

**Latisha Lewis** sent an Arrive in Style to the Toner family.



March 11 at 6:36 AM

LL

**Latisha Lewis** posted:

Having worked in the childcare field in some aspect for the last 20 years, I have to attribute much of my success to Mrs. Debbie and Mr. Tom. They literally taught me EVERYTHING I know! They gave me the opportunity of a lifetime to work in their Lewes location and I grew with them as a person and employee and eventually ended up at their Townsend location. I have always admired Mrs. Debbie and her willingness to share her knowledge with those she loved and believed in! She saw something in me that I never even saw myself and I will forever cherish that!

March 11 at 6:32 AM

JM

**Jamie And Maggie** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Toner family.



March 11 at 5:39 AM

CB

**Cheryl Buxton** posted:

Sean, My sincere condolences to you and your family Cheryl

March 11 at 3:27 AM



## Tribute Wall

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HB

**Heather Sorrells-Baker** lit a candle in honor of Deborah.

Mrs. Debbie was a kind, caring, and wonderful person to work for. She cared about her staff and always showed her appreciation. I feel blessed to have worked for her for seven years. Mr. Tom and Sean I completely understand what you are going through. My thoughts, love, and prayers go out to you. May she Rest In Peace with Jesus forever! 🙏😊

March 10 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Toner family.

March 10 at 3:59 PM



BB

**Brenda Bush** lit a candle in honor of Deborah.

Mrs. Debbie was a wonderful person to work for. She was loving, caring and kind. She will be greatly missed. May you rest in our Father's loving embrace . May peace be granted to Mr. Tom and Sean.

March 10 at 3:45 PM



JD

**Janet Deacon** posted:

Our hearts ache for Tom, Sean and the entire Beach Babies Staff. I worked the front desk at the Lewes center for many years. My daughter grew up there. We were always treated like family. Deb was an amazing woman with a kind heart. She will truly be missed by all. Love, Janet, Brian & Taylor Deacon

March 10 at 2:15 PM

LD

**Love - Janet, Brian & Taylor Deacon** sent a Guiding Light Bouquet to the Toner family.

March 10 at 2:09 PM





## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Toner family.



March 10 at 1:28 PM



**Susan Wilson Krick** posted:

Oh, Tom. Richard and I share our prayers and love with you and Debbie's family at this beyond sad news of her passing. Two of our grandchildren are Alumni of Beach Babies and loved their time with Debbie and her delightful caregivers. Every time I passed Debbie in the grocery store on the street or in any local Rehoboth Beach business, her beaming smile and happy-to-see-everyone demeanor always made me feel loved! Clearly, she will be dropping shiny pennies from Heaven to her many loved ones and I know Debbie has received her Everlasting Reward in Heaven. Our continued prayers and well wishes for endless amazing good memories and healing. With Greatest Sympathy, Richard and Sue Krick

March 10 at 1:11 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Toner family.



March 10 at 12:24 PM



**Carol Bada** posted:

I miss you my dear friend! Your friendship and your life was a gift to us all! Love and peace to Tom, Sean, and your beautiful family!! Love you my friend!!

March 10 at 11:36 AM



**Paula, Bobby, Steven And Peggy.** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Toner family.



March 10 at 11:04 AM



# Tribute Wall

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SQ

**Sr. Marie Quinn** lit a candle in honor of Deborah.

"Death is not extinguishing the light. It is putting out the lamp because the Dawn has come!" Enjoy the Dawn Debbie as you prepare a place for Tom, Marianne ( Sr. Marie Edward) and the Quinn Family.

March 10 at 10:54 AM



BR

**Beach Babies Childcare Of Rehoboth** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Toner family.

March 10 at 10:45 AM



DH

**Dawn Hutchison** sent a Basket Full of Wishes to the Toner family.

March 10 at 9:24 AM



GL

**Gina Ling** sent a Care and Compassion Spray to the Toner family.

March 10 at 8:47 AM



JJ

**Jean And Francis Mitchell And Jonas** posted:

Many of our Grandchildren attended Beach Babies child care over the past 25 years. The reason we always brought our children there was because of Debbie. She was always available to talk with us. She will be missed. God Bless her and her family and her amazing Beach Babies staff.

March 10 at 8:39 AM

DS

**Drexel & Bhd? Staff** March 11 at 4:49 AM

Deeply saddened to learn of the passing of this most beautiful soul, friend. My / our thoughts and prayers are with Tom and the Family. 🙏❤️



## Tribute Wall

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**Gina Ling** sent a Crystal Cross Bouquet to the Toner family.

March 10 at 8:25 AM



**Beach Babies Townsend School Family** sent a Treasured Lilies Spray to the Toner family.

March 9 at 10:58 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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