



## Alice S. Walsh

May 26, 1931 - February 5, 2019

Alice S. Walsh, Dewey Beach icon

Alice Stanford Walsh of Dewey Beach died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019, at Beebe Healthcare in Lewes. She was born May 26, 1931, in Chester, Pa., to Jester and Esther Stanford, and moved with her family to the small town of Spence near Snow Hill, Md., a few years later. She enjoyed a rural childhood on a family farm, attended Snow Hill schools and graduated from Snow Hill High School in 1948. She attended Salisbury Teacher's College for two years and then enrolled at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore to train as an x-ray technician. She later moved to Lewes to take a job at Beebe Hospital, and soon met her future husband, Navy veteran, Dewey Beach resident, lifeguard and Bottle & Cork bartender James T. Walsh.

The couple married Sept. 12, 1953, at St. Edmond's Catholic Church, the same day John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier were wed. Alice settled down to raise their family while her husband ran an electronics sales and repair business from their Dewey Beach home. They welcomed 10 children over the next 13 years. Alice and Jimmy moved to Lewes after failing to fend off a property grab by the State of Delaware to dualize Ocean Highway. When construction of the Freeman Highway caused their Lewes home to be demolished, they remodeled the Dewey Beach house to accommodate their growing family and moved back in 1964. Alice resided there until her death.

As a member of St. Edmond's Catholic Church in Rehoboth Beach, Alice was involved in the local Catholic school her children attended until it closed down in 1969. She worked at a variety of jobs over the years - bus driver, dog groomer, drug and alcohol counselor. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she helped organize the Dewey Beach Citizens Association, which worked toward the eventual incorporation of the town on July 4, 1981. In subsequent years, she served on the town planning and zoning commission and the board of adjustment, becoming its chairwoman. She successfully ran for election in 1993 and served a two-year term as commissioner. Alice remained involved in Dewey Beach government and local community affairs in the ensuing years, and was a familiar and

beloved character around town.

Alice's well-known straightforward manner is best expressed in her own words: "I speak my mind," she said. "It's just the way I am. I've been doing it since I was 4 years old, and I prefer to think of it as a gift, though not everybody does. I do not judge people, but I don't suffer fools at all, and I get really impatient with people who don't listen."

Alice was predeceased by husband James T. Walsh, and infant sons Timothy and Patrick Walsh; father Jester Stanford, mother Esther Virginia (Payne) Stanford Trader, stepfather Willie "Gramps" Trader; and sister Nancy and her husband William Beach.

Survivors include children Michael and Alison Walsh, Denise and Wayne Miller, Thomas and Donna Walsh, Teri and Ronson Burton, Claire Walsh and Jeff Viscount, Bernadette and Chip Hearn, Joseph Walsh, and Francis and Dawn Walsh; grandchildren Ben and Ginger Miller, David Miller, Ronson Jr. and Jenev Burton, Michael Burton and Riley Kratzer, Sean Hearn, Aileen Hearn and Kyle Ten Eyck, Nicole Viscount, Peter and David Walsh, and James and Jacob Walsh; great-grandchildren Cohen and Elan Miller; and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was a beloved Mom and Grandmom to an extended clan that included families who needed a temporary home, surfers and skim boarders from around the world, legions of children who rode her school bus, and the entire village who kept her loved and safe. You all know who you are. You allowed her to remain in her Dewey Beach community, the most important place in her life. As she said, "I don't 'shiv-a-git' about the rest of the world." The boundless gratitude of the entire Walsh family goes out to each and every one of you.

If you "shiv-a-git" about Alice, please join us at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Starboard restaurant in Dewey Beach for a celebration of her life. Funeral services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Delaware Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963, [delawarehospice.org](http://delawarehospice.org); or to an animal rescue group of your choice.

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

**FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS DELIVERED TO THE STARBOARD IN DEWEY, BY 2 PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019.**



# Comments

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“ I loved your mother, and she truly was a Dewey Beach icon. She will be missed by many in Dewey Beach.  
Much love and prayers to the family,  
Michele Rodgers Russo

**Michele Rodgers Russo** - February 12 at 06:47 PM

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“ I want to express our deep sorrow in the loss of Mrs. Walsh. The Walsh and Coveleski families grew up together and crossed over so many paths in our small town lives. Mrs. Walsh was a great lady and will certainly be missed by many.

**Karin Coveleski Elentrio** - February 10 at 06:55 PM

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“ Thomas and Donna. We will be thinking of you at this time.....not with sorrow, but celebration of a wonderful Mother. You were lucky to have her. Enjoyed reading about her and know she will live on in the memory of family and friends. Dave and Kathy Moon

**Dave Moon** - February 10 at 04:31 PM

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“ Where does one start to memorialize Alice Walsh? I first met her 47 years ago when my parents bought a beach house in Dewey. It was impossible to spend time in Dewey without meeting at least a couple members of the Walsh family. I was fortunate enough to meet them all over the years. As many others have said, she opened her house to anyone who needed advice or a place to stay. She was like a second mother to all of her children's friends. She could always be seen out and about, supporting local businesses or just sitting in the breezeway of her home. She really was the Matriarch of Dewey Beach. My heart goes out to the entire family. Hugs from Texas!

Deb McMullen

**Debra McMullen** - February 10 at 03:03 PM

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“ Claire - we are so very sorry to hear of your loss of your mom. We are in Florida and will not be able to join the celebration of her life. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. George and Kathy Giles

Kathy & George Giles - February 08 at 08:58 PM

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“ Alice was a huge help and always ready to steer us in the right direction when we were building Izzy Plaza. We appreciated her crash course of Dewey's Do's and Do not's and loved her sense of humor. A truly remarkable woman that will always be remembered. Our sincere condolences, Mario and Toni Malone

Mario & Toni Malone - February 08 at 06:39 PM

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“ I will forever remember Alice as a woman who did tell you like it was and shared her experience, strength, and hope with me and many others. She touched my life at a difficult time and was a instrument used by God to help me through it. Thank for sharing her with me . May all find joy in knowing she has left lasting hope and love in this world.

Anita - February 08 at 11:26 AM



“ I have fond memories of Alice when she'd stop by my classroom at Rehoboth Elementary to check on her child whom I was currently teaching. Always forthright and concerned, she loved her family and her community. Please accept my sympathy for your loss.

Claire Layton - February 08 at 02:09 PM

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“ Mrs. Walsh always cared and always welcomed me in her home. Anytime, day or night. She was like another mom. So special!

Jerry Lynch



Jerry Lynch - February 08 at 09:33 AM

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“ Mary, Tom and John O will miss Alice, who was part of the extended beach family we came to know after decades of visiting Ronnie and Maryann. We met Alice through her daughter Claire. Alice was a fixture in Dewey sitting in her home courtyard or walking the town. She was a Dewey Beach icon and will be missed. We wish Claire

peace after the loss of her mom.

**Tom Osiecki** - February 08 at 09:20 AM

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“ Prayers and thoughts are with you all. Wonderful Memories of Alice from the days of The Dewey Beach Club. She was one of the Regulars and I remember having many wonderful times with her. So grateful to have known her.



**Dawn Kasow** - February 07 at 10:24 PM

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“ Rest In Peace Ms. Alice. You were one of a kind.

**Peggy Dolby** - February 07 at 09:13 PM

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“ To the Walsh Family, I remember riding the bus back in the day and Alice was our fearless bus driver. She always had a smile and way of making you feel happy even though we were headed to school. Later, I remember her making Dewey Beach the place we all know and love being a fixture in the town, especially during the early days. When I worked at Second Coming and later Dewey Beach Surf and Sport she would make her rounds and make sure we all stayed in line (no easy task)! Alice will surely be missed as she was one of the Matriarchs of Dewey Beach! Rest in Peace Alice.



**J.P. Phillips** - February 07 at 07:08 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy she will be deeply missed by my nephew's James n Jacob. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend a couple of Thanksgiving with her and the entire Walsh family. She was always welcoming. My thoughts are with you all at this time.

**Hope Woollens** - February 07 at 06:45 PM

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“ Alice was a special member of our Thursday prayer group. We are still going strong and have included Alice in our prayers many times. We know she will be missed by many but we now have a friend in heaven RIP Alice

**elaineboyle** - February 07 at 05:11 PM

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“ Loved Alice! God bless to all the Walsh families! Doc and Paula Pepper

**Paula Pepper** - February 07 at 03:48 PM

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“ Claire and family, as you know we did Shiv-a-git about her and will miss her antics in Dewey. We regret not making her service as we are out of town with our family. Hugs and deepest sympathies to all

**Kay and Mark McMahon** - February 07 at 03:14 PM

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“ Maria Fraser lit a candle in memory of Alice S. Walsh



**Maria Fraser** - February 07 at 02:15 PM

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“ Alice was truly Always there for all her children and their friends. She would speak her mind, comfort or encourage me as much as she would to Berni, Claire and the rest of the gang. Her patience was amazing with all her kids (many, many stories not to be shared publicly..LOL). Her Love of Life was tremendous, especially hanging out

with everyone, everywhere! Mostly her kindness and compassion, which truly came from her heart, created a ripple effect in all of us, and we can only hope to learn from her to give to all as much as she did. A true role model for all of us.

“When you speak of her, speak not with tears, for thoughts of her should not be sad. Let memories of the times you shared give you comfort, for her life was rich because of you.” Author Unknown

R.I.P. Alice ...Til we meet again...All My Love to Berni, Claire, Thomas, Michael, Francis, Terry, Denise and Joe and their Loved Ones <3

Maria Fraser

**Maria Fraser** - February 07 at 02:13 PM

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“ I remember hanging out with Alice many many years ago when I was married to Mike Klingel (1970's); she was a one of a kind ~ a sweet sweet woman who was loved by everyone and loved everyone in return~ God Bless to all

**Sue Warrington-Doud** - February 07 at 01:27 PM