



## Deanna R. Colfels

November 16, 1951 - November 11, 2021

Albany - Deanna R. Colfels, born in Albany on November 16, 1951, passed away Thursday, November 11, 2021. She was the eldest child of John E. Roe and Joy M. Roe. Deanna graduated from Maryrose Academy in 1970, and later from the Junior College of Albany. She had a long career in administrative support with the NYS Department of Tax and Finance and the Empire State Development Corporation.

Helping others and being part of a team were in Deanna's nature. Until very recently, she used her boundless creativity, energy, and knowledge to manage and teach at the Albany Sewing Machine Center. She inherited her lifelong passion for sewing from her mother and, in later life, Deanna became an accomplished quilter. Her passion for creating beautiful things—made with love—was infectious. She also loved cake.

Deanna was a tireless volunteer for Community Caregivers of Albany County and Becky's House at St Peter's Hospital. She was also an instrumental part of Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless' annual fundraiser, A Taste of Albany. She was a 2019 recipient of the Albany County Executive's Volunteer of the Year Award for her commitment to causes that benefitted the community.

Deanna is survived by her daughters Anna Colfels of Albany and Lisa Manchester (Owen Herne) of Buffalo. She was YaYa to one grandchild, her precious Archer. She was the big sister and always the boss of Michael Roe of Albany, Kevin Roe (Kathy) of Colonie, Maryann Tucker (Fritz Grell) of Stuart, Florida, Brian Roe (Kellie) of Albany, and John Roe (Dolores) of Delmar, and eight nieces and nephews.

The family thanks all those who gave their unwavering encouragement and support during Deanna's 12-year battle with pancreatic cancer, especially Stephen Colfels of Glenmont and Nancy Catalano Connelly of Sterling, Virginia. Cancer knocked her down over and over, yet she got up each time, refusing to let cancer win.

The family also thanks Dr. Jason Heckman and the team at St. Peter's Cancer Care Center, and the Albany County Community Hospice program.

Donations maybe be made to Pancreatic Action Network at [www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org)

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Deanna's family on Thursday, November 18, 2021 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206.

A Memorial Service honoring her life will immediately follow at 11:30 am.

Please only use the parking lot entrance to the funeral home. Unvaccinated people must wear masks and practice social distancing.

To leave a message for Deanna's family on their guestbook, obtain directions, or view other helpful services, please visit [www.mcveighfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcveighfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **18**. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.  
208 N Allen St  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 489-0188  
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com  
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

## Service

NOV **18**. 11:30 AM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.  
208 N Allen St  
Albany, NY 12206  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Deanna R. Colfels*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *I became friends with Deanna many years ago when we were both in junior high school. She was the best dancer at every party we went to. After high school, we completely lost touch but got reacquainted about five years ago. And we made a point of seeing each other whenever I came to Albany to visit my family. I'm very sorry to hear of her passing and express my deep condolences to all of the entire Roe and Colfels families.*

Howard Lavine - November 27, 2021 at 07:25 PM



“ *Dear Steve and Roe Family, Please accept our sincerest sympathy on Deanna's passing. I knew her when we both attended Maryrose Academy. She was a year ahead of me. I hadn't seen her since high school and then had occasion to go to the Albany Sewing Center. I didn't recognize her, but she remembered me. We had a nice chat, and I was happy to have seen her again.*

*Maryrita Dobiell and Joe Quinlan*

Maryrita Dobiell - November 16, 2021 at 08:49 AM

DR

“ She will be missed by all of us at Sew and Vac and Albany Sewing Machine Center! When I was diagnosed with cancer 4 years ago she called me to help me mentally to prepare myself for chemotherapy! I am thankful for knowing her and calling her a friend!

Deborah Roberts - November 14, 2021 at 06:21 PM

MJ

“ Dee is a feisty friend who changed my life in a monumentally positive way. We called one another sister because we loved one another so much that our relationship invited and withstood differences of opinion. My condolences to all of her family. May you find solace in all the goodness Deanna brought to the world.

Maryann Jablonowski - November 13, 2021 at 12:30 PM

MB

I am sooooo sorry to hear of her passing. I knew her from Tax but also knew Lisa when I lived above her Father on Elmer Avenue. Lisa I am soooo sorry.

Maggie Bondi - November 13, 2021 at 07:44 PM

GE

My condolences to Deanna's family. I knew her at tax and remember her engaging wonderful smile. May she rest in peace.

Georgette - November 13, 2021 at 10:21 PM

JH

So heart broken! She was a life long dear friend . We were suppose to get together recently but I got ill and she was so careful, she so wanted to live. I am so sad we did not get together one last time. We always laughed and had the best of times! I will so miss her💔Deepest condolences to Anna, Lisa , Owen a Archer. She adored you all. Sending you hugs, light and love. She was the most creative , talented , gifted person ever! Everything she touched was more beautiful 💔

Judi Horton - November 13, 2021 at 11:21 PM

ML

*I knew Deanna from the Tax Department . Always a cheerful and funny person. I was shocked and saddened to read of of her passing in the T/U yesterday. My heartfelt condolences to her children and her sister, MaryAnn.*

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**Mary Lewandowski** - November 15, 2021 at 07:28 AM