



Debra Caswell

January 5, 1951 - April 23, 2023

Debra J. (Erickson) Caswell, 72, of Fremont, NH, widow of Walter W. Caswell, Jr., passed away unexpectedly Sunday (April 23, 2023) at her home. She was born in New Britain to the late Arthur and Jane (Hulsizer) Erickson. She was a longtime Kensington resident before moving to New Hampshire in 2020 to be closer to her children.

Debra graduated from New Britain High School in 1968 and received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from CCSU. A lifelong educator, she was an English teacher at McGee Middle School in Berlin until her retirement. Previously she had taught at Plainville High School and CCSU. She was also a former part-time secretary at First Lutheran Church in New Britain. Throughout her life she was active with several local theater groups, including the New Britain Repertory Theatre and the Oddfellows Playhouse in Middletown. She also directed a number of student productions at Plainville High School and McGee Middle School. Deb loved helping others, and in her retirement, she was an active volunteer with several local charities and community organizations.

Surviving is her daughter Emily Caswell and her husband Justin Alix of Exeter, NH; her son William "Will" Caswell, his wife Cait and their son Owen of Nashua, NH; a sister-in-law, Julie (Furs) Erickson of Kensington; a brother- and sister-in-law, John and Deborah Catalano of Berlin; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Besides her husband Walter, she was predeceased by a brother, David Erickson, and a sister, Nancy Sharpe.

Calling hours are Sunday 3 to 6 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Funeral services are Monday 10 AM at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, New Britain. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Literacy Volunteers of Central CT, 20 High Street, New Britain, CT 06051, to Lily's Kids Inc., 589 East Street, Middletown, CT 06457, or to Distressed Children & Infants International, 50 Church Street, 5th Floor, Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA 02138. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Calling Hours

APR 30. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home
45 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-6361
carlsonfh@aol.com
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home
45 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-6361
carlsonfh@aol.com
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

Burial

MAY 1 (ET)

Fairview Cemetery
120 Smalley Street
New Britain, CT 06051

Tribute Wall

FA

“ Oh no! I am so sorry to hear this sad news! Debbie and I taught together at McGee and I remember her as sensitive, open, kind, and very knowledgeable, and also a true artist in the way she saw the world. For years after I moved to NYC we kept in touch by cards, and I will always remember her with love and appreciation. I am certain she is missed by all who knew her. May we all keep her alive in our daily actions...

Fred Arcoleo - December 31, 2024 at 12:31 PM

SC

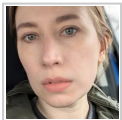
“ I was saddened to learn of the passing of your mother, Debra (known to me as Debbie). We attended First Lutheran Church together and I was always in awe of the talent your mother displayed. She set the bar high for many of us and although we might have strived to be like her, she was in her own category - a truly gifted individual. I remember when she met your father - theirs was a high school romance of like minds and intelligence. She was very much in love with Walter. Debbie made me a better person as I'm sure she did with all the lives she touched. Rest In Peace, Debbie. Sincerely, Shirley A. Carlson

Shirley Carlson - July 06, 2024 at 09:53 AM



“ The loss of Debra Caswell will be sorely missed. I wish that this earth not stop your family from growing but to learn how to celebrate the life she had created upon you. Death may be the end of life but allow her to live on in your thoughts dreams. I will pray for her journey to the next one will be blessed. God bless.

Joshua Thompson - May 15, 2023 at 05:55 PM



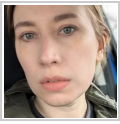
Thank you for your kind words, Josh <3 - Emily

Emily Caswell - May 17, 2023 at 07:53 PM

CK

“ Deb and I went to the First Lutheran Church together and sung in the choir. She was as smart as she was beautiful. Very kind and sweet. When I married at First Lu the ran Deb sang at my wedding. She had a voice of an angel! I'm so sorry for your loss! She was a wonderful person! ☐ My condolences. 🙏

carlene sterbens kosakowski - May 03, 2023 at 03:14 PM



Thank you very much Carlene, that's such a nice memory to share. She did indeed have a beautiful voice! Thank you ☐ -Emily Caswell

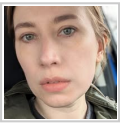
Emily Caswell - May 03, 2023 at 07:52 PM

LG

“ *I knew Deb at First Lutheran Church. About 40 years ago when my son was about 5 years old, we were sitting in church when this beautiful voice began singing from the choir loft above us. My son asked, "is that an angel?" She had such a beautiful voice from a lovely lady. My deepest condolences to her family.*

Lauren Nordgren Grant

Lauren J Grant - May 02, 2023 at 12:34 AM



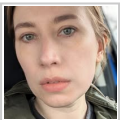
Thank you so much Lauren. Her voice was definitely "angelic" and that's such a sweet story. Thank you. -Emily Caswell

Emily Caswell - May 03, 2023 at 07:55 PM

ER

“ *So sorry to hear about your Mom she was a kind sweet person My condolences to your family*

Ethel Rossman - May 01, 2023 at 01:51 PM



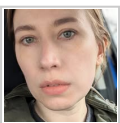
Thank you so much, Ethel ❤️ -Emily

Emily Caswell - May 03, 2023 at 07:56 PM

TC

“ *A beautiful soul with a fun sense of humor and wit. Her knowledge of literature and the English language was so impressive and she shared it with generosity. A friend since 1978, who will be sorely missed.*

Thomas R Colletta - April 30, 2023 at 06:47 PM



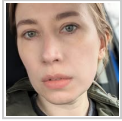
Thank you so much, Tom ❤️

Emily Caswell - May 03, 2023 at 07:57 PM

JF

“ Sorry to hear about Mrs. Caswell’s passing. Both of your parents were very nice people and great educators. I was your Mom’s “Scrooge” in one act plays at PHS. Best thoughts to the entire family.

Jim Frawley - April 29, 2023 at 12:02 PM



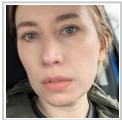
Hi Jim, thanks so much. They loved teaching and my mom loved working on theater productions with her students, she was so creative. Thank you again. -Emily Caswell

Emily Caswell - May 03, 2023 at 07:59 PM

KC

“ I am very sad to learn this news. I taught with Deb at McGee and remember her for her gentle guidance, her sense of humor, love of theater, and enviable knowledge of English! I last saw her when we were both literacy volunteers in New Britain a few years ago. My heart goes out to her family at this sad time.

Kathi Collins - April 29, 2023 at 07:57 AM



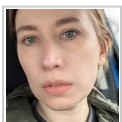
Thank you so much for your kind words, Kathi. It was so nice to see you at the services as well. We appreciate your kindness. -Emily Caswell

Emily Caswell - May 03, 2023 at 08:02 PM



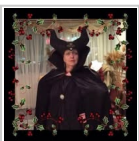
“ Emily and Will, I was a friend of your mom at First Lutheran Church during our high school and college years. I have nice memories of her gentle manner, and of course of her beautiful musical gift. My prayers are with you and your family at this sad time. Jorja Krepps Ketcham

Jorja Ketcham - April 28, 2023 at 01:36 PM



Hi Jorja, thanks so much. She was indeed a very quiet and gentle yet talented person. Thank you for sharing your kind words with us. -Emily Caswell

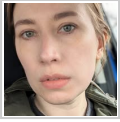
Emily Caswell - May 03, 2023 at 08:04 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Theater Memories



Patrique Hurd - April 28, 2023 at 12:45 PM



These photos are wonderful, thank you so much for sharing them, Patrique ❤️ -Emily

Emily Caswell - May 03, 2023 at 08:06 PM