



## Debra K. Mathews

April 24, 1962 - June 26, 2025

Debra Kay Mathews

April 24, 1962 – June 26, 2025

Debra (Chicowlas, McCaulley) Mathews was the cherished daughter of Sharon Margrander and her father William Chicowlas Sr., and stepdaughter of James Margrander. She is survived by her son, David McCaulley, her daughter, Danielle McCaulley and granddaughter, Laure Morse of Clinton Township, her sister, Cheri Heaton (aka her partner in crime), her brother, William (Billy) Chicowlas Jr. both of Clinton Township along with her aunt, Linda Olar, niece, Kristen Pacholke (Patrick), great nieces; Lana and Kaitlyn Pacholke of Milan, nephew, Bradley Klutz (Casey) of Gladwin, her beloved dog, Sammy and her almost but not quite real treasured babydoll, Layla, former spouse, James Mathews as well as many other aunts, uncles, cousins and valued friends.

Debbie was preceded in death by Eva Lincoln, her Nanny who she loved with all her heart.

Debbie passed on June 26 at McLaren Macomb hospital after losing her battle with pneumonia. It was not her first battle with pneumonia, but her lungs were too weak and prayers could not save her this time.

In her early years Deb attended beauty school and later secretarial school.

Her last place of employment was C.W. Industrial. Debbie enjoyed writing in her journals and reading her daily devotional called "Jesus Calling". She loved watching her scary movies and crime shows, loved thunderstorms, comfort foods, cozy pajamas and football. When her daughter was young, they would watch I Love Lucy reruns again and again, she loved that show. She had a couple sayings that she would share one was... If you know better, you do better. The other one was... Do you want to be right or do you want the get along. Before becoming dependent on oxygen she enjoyed going to the casino, hanging out with family, shopping for trinkets to decorate her home and reminiscing with her sister Cheri of their past adventures. Deb had a big personality and made friends easily, she was smart, beautiful, sensitive, caring and had a great sense of humor.

After being diagnosed with COPD and later being oxygen dependent, she wasn't able to do some of the things she loved but she never gave up hope of getting well and those who loved her never gave up hope either. Debbie will always be loved and never forgotten, so many memories shared which will remain in our hearts forever, gone way to soon.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.  
Arrangements in care of Jowett Funeral Home-New Haven.

# Tribute Wall

KM

“ When I met Sharon’s family, her children. Deb and I hit it off right away! We could talk for hours but, we laughed even more. Debra had a great personality and a wonderful sense of humor. She was just as sarcastic as myself so we had some great laughs, especially around the holidays. I will miss Debra, to know her was to love her.

*Kathy Margrander*

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**Kathy Margrander** - August 04, 2025 at 05:32 PM

 Cheri Heaton

“ 2 files added to the album My Sister



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**Cheri Heaton** - July 08, 2025 at 06:55 PM

JF

“ I’m so very sorry for your loss. Every time I look at this beautiful plant, I think of Debbie. I only met her a time or two, she was a kind gal. I’m praying for you all.



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**Jennifer Fortune** - July 07, 2025 at 07:32 AM

BR

“ I have a very vivid recollection of piling into the car— with my mom, aunt, sister, and my cousins—which looking back, it seems like we did it very often. Six people piled into a tiny Ford Festiva. Us kids knew it was only a matter of time before a song would come on and our parents would decide to sing. One of the more memorable performances was their off-key rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody. The second that guitar solo hit, the head-banging began. The front seats reminiscent of Wayne’s World, my mom and aunt pretending to be rockstars while the four of us kids in the back buried our faces in our hands. We would be half-laughing and half-praying no one else sees the performance. We wouldn’t admit it back then, but we loved those moments.

*I know I’ll carry this memory and many others with me forever—the concerts, the head-banging, the goofiness.*

*We will miss you.* 

<https://youtu.be/thyJOnasHVE?feature=shared>

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**Bradley** - July 05, 2025 at 09:20 AM

DA

*Some of the best memories!* 

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**danielle** - July 06, 2025 at 10:34 PM

DM

*We were on our way to haunted houses houses -david*

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**David McCaulley** - July 11, 2025 at 02:35 AM

DM

*We were on our way to haunted houses that night*

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**David McCaulley** - July 11, 2025 at 03:33 AM

MW

“ Oh how Debbie loved Bingo!!! She would get so excited over a Dollar Tree prize! May she rest in peace and to her family, my thoughts and prayers are with you all 🙏

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**Mary Ann Wilkinson** - July 05, 2025 at 08:37 AM

KP

“ Aunt Debbie was more than just my family, she was my best friend and biggest supporter at so many tough times in my life. When I was younger, I would beg to spend my summers at her house. Those summers were full of fun, silliness, and the kind of memories that stay with you forever. As I got older, we grew even closer. Aunt Debbie was usually the first person I called when I needed to talk. Whether I was venting, crying, or just needed someone to listen, she was there, listening without judgment. She made tough teenage moments better. I know she so many of my secrets over the years, just because I asked her to. She wasn't perfect — none of us are. We all have our moments and she'd be the first to admit that. However, these moments never outweighed the love and care we shared for each other. Lana and Kait also adored Aunt Debbie. While I wish they had the chance to know her the way I did when I was younger, I know they felt her warmth and love every time they were with her. I mean, who else lets little kids play in their \$50 face creams just for fun? I think all three of us agree that Aunt Debbie just had her way of making you feel special when she was around. All those conversations, all of our visits, and summers together helped shape who I am today. I know she's still with me — watching over me, cheering me on as she always did. Just yesterday, I went kayaking, and dragonflies surrounded my boat. I couldn't help but think that was her. That she wanted me to know, she's better now, and it'll be okay.

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**Kristen Pacholke** - July 02, 2025 at 08:52 PM

DA

“ *My mom asked me a question that will forever be in my mind. She asked me if I thought about her whenever it thunder-stormed because we shared that love. And, without hesitation, I said of course it made me think about her. It always will.*

*My mom gave me the love for thunderstorms and the love for halloween, and I think that's one of the best things someone could pass down to another - a piece of them that never goes away.*

*She will be missed by many.*



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**danielle** - July 02, 2025 at 04:46 PM

DM

*She was a beautiful person*

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**David McCaulley** - July 11, 2025 at 02:37 AM

DM

*Thunderstorms and train's*

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**David McCaulley** - July 11, 2025 at 03:34 AM

DA

*She always told us she was going to be going on a train and leaving us lol*

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**danielle** - July 12, 2025 at 10:20 AM

Cheri  
Heaton

“ Let me tell you about my sister, she was smart, funny, she had a big heart, and she was as stubborn as stubborn could be. She loved Bob Segar and Salt n Pepper; she loved to dance and play music too loud. She drove like she owned the road, and didn't do it well. Of all the jobs she had she like being a waitress the best, she had a special waitress voice. She loved her inspirational books and loved to journal, she believed in Jesus and Karma. Dragon flies would follow her, and she called them lessons. We were partners in crime and of the heart. So many stories... I love her dearly; I will miss her terribly...



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Cheri Heaton - July 01, 2025 at 11:28 PM

Cheri  
Heaton

“ 7 files added to the album My Sister



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Cheri Heaton - July 01, 2025 at 11:16 PM