



Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes

August 14, 1966 - February 12, 2026

UTICA/NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL - Mrs. Dana D. "The Queen" (Roberts) Hughes, age 59, went to be with the Lord unexpectedly on Thursday, February 12, 2026, in the comfort and dignity of her home in Florida.

Born in Utica on August 14, 1966, Dana was the daughter of Sheryl A. (Fiaschi) Roberts and the late Edward F. "Ted" Roberts II. She attended the Holland Patent Central School District, graduating in 1985.

It was on a memorable Christmas Eve that Kevin D. Hughes asked Dana for her hand in marriage, and they were wed on May 3, 1986. The two were truly best friends, bound by trust in one another. They could not have had more fun; they were one in unity.

Dana was a loving and devoted wife and mother. Many of her children's friends felt so comfortable in her presence that they affectionately called her "Mom." She was the go-to mother, whether it involved relationships, important decisions, comforting words, or thoughtful advice. Blessed with intuitive insight and remarkable wisdom, Dana had a marvelous way of guiding young hearts and minds. She was fair in her counsel, never breaking confidences, and was trusted deeply in that sacred role. The Hughes' house was "home base," always welcoming for so many.

Dana and Kevin began their business ventures by owning and operating a Cold Stone Creamery franchise in New Hartford. They later opened a Ship Rite packaging company in North Utica. Her greatest joy came from owning and managing the Carlowden Country Club. She found her niche in hospitality and food service there, where her passion shined. From preparing daily menus to perfecting TikTok recipes with her own unique approach, she had a natural instinct when it came to preparing food. Always making “just enough,” she managed her business beyond expectations, blending creativity with strong and thoughtful leadership.

As a mother, Dana gave unconditionally, making her family life her highest priority. She stayed home for many years, supporting each interest her children pursued. Dana was audacious and strong-willed, determined, and full of vibrant energy. She saw the glass half full and stood up for the underdog, always willing to see both sides of a story. She proudly referred to herself as “The Queen,” a title lovingly echoed by many from different chapters of her life. Dana wanted to refrain from using any word that would be offensive, so she coined the phrase “touch-hole” when she was uncertain of someone’s character. This was all part of her unique and genuine humor that rarely ended, for she was truly blessed with a remarkably witty approach to life’s experiences.

For several years, Dana and her family traveled to their winter home in New Smyrna Beach, a place they deeply appreciated. There, they formed lasting friendships and created never-ending bonds. It became a cherished gathering place for family and friends alike.

Dana was an artist at heart. She loved photography and approached it with remarkable creativity and a keen eye for detail. Learning diamond art on TikTok became one of her favorite pastimes; a quiet, focused expression of her artistic spirit. Her radiant smile could light up any room and was a true

reflection of her vibrant personality. She was a formidable friend, loyal and steadfast. Dana kept a squeaky-clean home and did not appreciate anything being out of place; everything had its order and purpose. Her family was always Dana's greatest accomplishment. She raised her children with strong values and love, and now, as parents themselves, they emulate her example. Known affectionately as "DeeDee" to her grandchildren, the name was one everyone recognized and cherished. She adored those children beyond measure, and they brought immense joy to her life. Dana celebrated special moments with imagination and creativity. She was a deeply involved grandmother who knew exactly how to make her grandchildren smile and laugh. She continued to offer parental guidance and loving advice in her own unique way. At the golf course, behind the 13th hole, Dana would bring the kids by golf cart to what she called the "troll hole." It was a magical space with expectations and traditions that belonged only to her. Fairies and dinosaurs were her thing, and she created worlds of wonder for her grandchildren to enjoy.

From a young age, Dana was a believer. Her faith grounded her life, and her decisions were guided by prayer and conviction. Her faith in Christ was unwavering and remained a constant source of strength.

As Dana would always say, "I'll call you right back!"

Dana is survived by her devoted husband, Kevin; daughter, Alicia "Lisha" (Hughes) Williams and Dana's "favorite" son-in-law, Ryan Williams; her son and daughter-in-law, Nathan and Kayla Hughes; precious grandchildren, Jace and Jax Williams; and Braeden, Liam, and Raegan Hughes. Dana is also survived by her mother, Sheryl A. (Fiaschi) Roberts; siblings and their spouses, Edward F. "Teddy" III and Brigitte Roberts, Stacey and John Tyrrell, and Leslie and Scott Welp; many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces,

great-nephews; aunts and uncles, especially Sue Fiaschi; cousins; father-in-law and mother-in-law, David and Margaret “Peggy” (All) Hughes; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Keith and Maryann Hughes, and Stephen and Jennifer Hughes.

Dana and Kevin were blessed with many treasured friendships, relationships that felt like family and endured throughout their lives. Together they shared laughter, lasting memories, and bonds that will never be broken, especially her Brantingham Lake and New Smyrna Beach friends, as well as the staff, patrons, and friends of the Carlowden Country Club.

A very special thank you is extended to Tim and Trish Martens, whose unwavering support and comfort meant so much. They held a special place in Dana’s heart and were a tremendous source of strength and support to Kevin during her untimely passing.

A Memorial Gathering in Dana's honor will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Dana's Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 4:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Flowers fade, but memories last forever. In lieu of floral offerings, the family kindly requests that you share a note with a favorite memory or memento that reminds you of Dana. The Hughes family would be deeply honored to receive your sentiments.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

FEB 28. 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

FEB 28. 4:30 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
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corner of Hammond Ave.
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Tribute Wall

KS

“ My condolences to Dana’s family. We grew up with our parents being friends and enjoyed get togethers with her siblings and mine. I will treasure those younger years forever. Very sorry for your loss. Much love,

Karen Snover Santamaria - March 12 at 07:55 PM

GK

“ Dana always had me stay awhile to hang out in the kitchen laughing and talking when I dropped the kids off to play. She gave Liz her first guinea pig. (Had to talk me into that one.) She was always kind and giving to Liz and Alex. My deepest sympathy to Kevin, Lisha, Nathan and their Family.

Grace Knezovich - March 03 at 06:07 PM

SH

“ Many years ago I went on a girls trip to OC, MD with Dana, Trish, my sister Lori and myself. The weather was not great but we had a wonderful time. We made hats for the Kentucky Derby and we all laughed and had a great time. My husband and I send our condolences to Kevin and the rest of the Hughes family. Sherry and Mike Herman

Sherry A Herman - March 01 at 11:02 AM

HL

“ Dana babysat me after school as a kid. I have fond memories of watching Petra videos with Lisha, playing in the barn, running in the yard behind the house and jamming out in the car with the windows down, Dana singing her heart out. She always made you feel like you were part of the family. Our prayers are with you- but Praise God we will see her again!

Heather Laskowski - February 28 at 09:09 PM

KG

“ Dana was the first person we met in New Smyrna who welcomed us with warm open arms. I couldn't walk by her place without her calling out for me to come sit with her a bit. Kind, generous and inviting. So many fond memories of our time spent next door. She also showed me how to make her delicious chicken riggies. I will never forget this beautiful soul.
Our heart goes out to Kevin and her family.
Kathy & Steve Gillmore

Kathy Gillmore - February 27 at 02:17 PM

TR

“ Dana was the nicest person I ever meet. She always had a smile on her face and was always happy. I will miss seeing her at Carlowden. I extend my deepest sympathy to Kevin, the entire Hughes family and friends.

Tony Reali - February 26 at 09:22 PM

DM

“ Although we only had met Dana and her husband once, her shining personality and smile will always be a fond memory for us. Our deepest sympathy for Kevin and family.

Debbie and Kevin Murray - February 26 at 04:58 PM



“ *Barbara Rennie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes*



Barbara Rennie - February 26 at 10:18 AM



Mike and I are so blessed we got to know this wonderful woman. She treated us like family. And she always had a cup of coffee for me,

Barbara Rennie - February 26 at 10:22 AM



“ *Fena, John, Jacklyn and Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.*



Fena, John, Jacklyn and Family - February 26 at 02:31 AM



“ *Love, John & Barb purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.*



Love, John & Barb - February 25 at 06:55 PM

LB

“ Love, John & Barb planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.

Love, John & Barb - February 25 at 06:55 PM

RL

“ Kevin, our hearts ache for you and the whole family. We are remembering Dana with a smile—I'll always think of her catching the bouquet at our wedding, racing over to you with that infectious 'Kev! Kev! Kev!' so excited and happy. You were married the following year.
With love and sympathy,
Steve and Rhonda”

Rhonda Lisi - February 25 at 02:49 PM

AG

“ Amy Gruner purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



Amy Gruner - February 25 at 02:27 PM

CF

“ Cliff & I are still in shock after being told about Dana’s passing. I remember babysitting her & her siblings when we lived upstairs in her parents apartment & breaking up many squabbles between them- I have quite a few stories I could tell about those. Then when Dana got older she babysat my kids & my daughter used to tell everyone that those Roberts kids were her sisters & brother because at that time she didn’t have any siblings. She always talked about her sister Dana! Dana had a beautiful personality like no other we’ve ever known- she will be in our hearts forever. Our condolences to Kevin & the entire family.

Cliff & Susie Faulkner - February 24 at 04:09 PM

RS

“ Rich and Tonya Smith purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



Rich and Tonya Smith - February 24 at 12:13 PM

RS

“ Rich and Tonya Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.

Rich and Tonya Smith - February 24 at 12:13 PM



“ Dana ,what a special woman . That lovely beautiful human being , treated us all like members of her family . I can’t imagine the pain your family is dealing with rt now .so sorry God bless you all

Has Ben - February 24 at 01:03 AM



Mike D

Has Ben - February 24 at 01:06 AM

CF

“ Dana was the big sister I never had growing up living upstairs from her for so many years brought a lasting bond and friendship I will never forget. As I grew up and got older she was there to help me on my wedding day and was there with advice on everything else she always made sure I was never alone on a holiday or family gathering. God got the perfect angle and I miss her dearly

Charity faulkner - February 23 at 02:30 PM

JK

“ I'd like to offer my most sincere condolences to Kevin and his family. I am very sorry for your loss.

Jon Kozenewski - February 23 at 01:03 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



February 23 at 11:57 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.

February 23 at 11:57 AM

SA

“ Kevin...Jill and I were saddened to hear of Dana's passing. Please accept our condolences. May pleasant memories help to ease your loss. Rest in peace Dana.

Steve Allen - February 22 at 04:16 PM

CK

“ Colin, Crissy Roberts, & the kids. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



Colin, Crissy Roberts, & the kids. - February 19 at 09:06 AM

CK

“ Colin, Crissy Roberts, & the kids. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.

Colin, Crissy Roberts, & the kids. - February 19 at 09:06 AM

LH

“ Love, Maggie, Davis, and Hughesie purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



Love, Maggie, Davis, and Hughesie - February 19 at 08:58 AM

JC

“ Our sincere condolences on your loss of Dana; our hearts go out to all of you. So many great memories over the years. Wishing you peace and love.

John and Chris Kelly



John and Chris - February 19 at 07:59 AM

CG

“ Caitlin G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.

Caitlin G. - February 18 at 02:49 PM

JS

“ There are no words that can ease this pain. I feel fortunate to have gotten to know Dana over the last year. We had a wonderful dinner in Melbourne last year. It found out she was just as interested in seeing a space launch as I was. We spoke about many things, NASA's delay in launching was a major topic. We stayed for an extra I and continued the conversation. It's hard to imagine that someone so full of life can be gone so pre-maturely. God Bless Dana and God Bless the Hughes family.

Jerry Stucchi - February 18 at 01:32 PM

JS

**Feel (Typo)*

Jerry Stucchi - February 18 at 01:34 PM

RS

“ Our deepest condolences to the Hughes family. We shared many times that left a lasting light of goodness, joy and laughter with Dana. Those memories will not be forgotten. Your light will continue to shine brightly and give us inspiration. God bless.

Rich and Tonya Smith - February 18 at 11:59 AM

KH

“ Dana. I still can't believe that you are no longer with us . So many memories we shared together . Good and bad. Those memories will always remain memories that no one can take from us. Crushing your ice with your hammer. Dunkin trips , hockey trips . The memories on Trenton Road. The boys that always kept us on our toes. Picking me up all hours of the night to go on missions as you would call them. I could go on and on. R.I.P. Queen. Can't believe we just talked on the phone Couple weeks ago and today your no longer here. Have a cup of coffee for me up there . Fly high friend. Love Crackers . Kimmy

Kimberly Hajjar - February 18 at 09:43 AM

KH

“ Kimberly Hajjar purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



Kimberly Hajjar - February 18 at 08:07 AM

LJ

“ Love AJ, Jordan & Josephine purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



Love AJ, Jordan & Josephine - February 18 at 07:11 AM

EF

“ My dearest niece. I remember as children I would pay you with a piece of gum to give me a back rub. Your smile was infectious even back then. Death is not extinguishing the light, it is only putting out the lamp because the Dawn as come. Till I see you again...my heart, my love 🙏. Uncle Ed.

Ed Fiaschi - February 17 at 07:40 PM

RF

“ Reali Clean Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



Reali Clean Family - February 17 at 07:07 PM

TM

“ Cheryl, Kevin, and children, Ken and I are stunned to learn about Dana. She was a bright light and a caring woman. Our deepest condolences to you all.

Terry Marshall - February 17 at 06:53 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



February 17 at 05:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.

February 17 at 05:46 PM



“ Ken, Pauline & Alex, The Adamowskis purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



Ken, Pauline & Alex, The Adamowskis - February 17 at 04:41 PM

KA

“ I was devastated to learn of Dana’s passing. She was such a right spot to look forward to each week for our meetings. She was generous, thoughtful, kind, and a wonderful humanitarian. I have a son Alex, with a disability, and each time she saw him she always had a special treat for him... usually one of her famous egg salad sandwich sandwiches! She truly loved every single patron at Carlowdon country club, and was passionate that every guest had a great experience. We had talked a number of times over the winter as she was getting great ideas for the restaurant this summer. May heart goes out to Kevin and the family... may God help you find comfort, understanding and peace. Reach out if I can help in anyway...She will be terribly missed by so many people. She made the world a better place.

Ken Adamowski - February 17 at 04:34 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



February 17 at 03:23 PM

YR

“ Your Friends at Padula Roofing purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



Your Friends at Padula Roofing - February 17 at 02:51 PM

DF

“ David Morrison and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Dana (Roberts) Hughes.



David Morrison and Family - February 17 at 11:03 AM

PL

“ Dana was always a Happy Soul always had a smile on her face . Meet her in Fla when visiting My Sister. Girls time together was always fun making good memories. She will be missed and never forgotten . Love and prayers to her family . Pam - Va

Pamela Lumpkins - February 17 at 10:18 AM

RS

“ So sorry to hear of Dana's passing so unexpectedly. She was a very gracious host at Carlowden, always a smile on her face ready to help in any way. Although fond memories will be there, it will be a little darker in her absence. My sincere condolences to Kevin and family.

Randy Schell - February 17 at 09:50 AM

KL

“ We're profoundly sorry for your great loss, Kevin, Lisha, Nate, and family. Dana was a bright light and a joy to be around. You remain in our thoughts and prayers. - David and Kim Lisi

Kim Lisi - February 17 at 07:28 AM

GJ

“ Dana was a beautiful wonderful woman who took so good care of her Golfers . She was particularly good to me Mike and Max, If the kitchen was closed she would always make us a special dinner, even if it was Kevin’s (Ha). Dana would start and end every season with a big hug for us , we will miss her. Doc Gellert

Gellert Jonathan - February 16 at 07:23 PM

LN

Kevin, Lisha and Nate! I am so sorry for your loss of my beautiful friend! She always was full of life! She would sit in my chair and talk of her grandchildren that she adored! She will be missed by many, especially me! Praying for your family!

Luann Nelson-White - February 16 at 07:43 PM

BJ

So shocked and so sorry for all Dana's family's loss. Sending our heartfelt condolences to all family and friends. Dana was always friendly and welcoming. She was loved. Bonnie and Don Johnson.

Bonnie Johnson - February 17 at 10:20 AM

JZ

My condolences go out to Kevin and his family. Dana always had a smile on her face and treated us like family.

Joe Zando - February 17 at 01:19 PM



I am so sad to hear of Dana's passing. she will be so missed at Carlowden. I loved my talks with her on the back steps. She was one special gal. My heart aches for her family.

Sandra Brown - February 20 at 11:54 AM

RP

Kevin - Our deepest condolences to you, Alicia, Nate and Dana's mom Cheryl. Our girls have such great memories of times spent with Alicia at your house with Dana always encouraging our girls to have fun and enjoy their time together. She was such a wonderful blessing to them and to so many others. You are in our thoughts and prayers as you endure this terrible loss.

Roger & Rosemary Povec

Rosemary Povec - February 25 at 03:26 PM