



## Marlene O'Toole

February 18, 1945 - January 30, 2024

Helen Marlene O'Toole was born in Somerville, Massachusetts February 18, 1945 and passed away peacefully on January 30, 2024 after a brief illness. The daughter of Glen Getty and Helen Murphy and a resident of the Villages since 1992, Marlene will be missed by her husband of 52 years, Edward O'Toole, her children and their spouses; Kathleen & Thomas Brown of Tyngsboro, MA, Colleen O'Toole of Quincy, MA, Linda & Andrew Teebagy of Burlington, MA, Edward Jr & Sherry O'Toole of Jacksonville, FL, and Jenny Deluca of Waltham, MA, her 11 grandchildren and her 8 great grandchildren, as well as her large extended family. She also leaves her larger adopted family of the Florida community to whom she committed her executive talents and energy. In addition there was never a stray cat that she met that she didn't adopt or find a home for; she was an animal lover thru and thru.

Marlene was a true American success story, unconcerned with all the good she accomplished and more focused on the good left to do.

She was hired by IBM in 1967 as a keypunch operator on the 2nd shift. In 1997, she finished her successful 30-year career as a Regional Manager, responsible for hundreds of employees. After retiring from IBM, Marlene worked for, and volunteered as a mentor with Take Stock in Children. Marlene's drive and compassion resulted in positive enhancements, directly impacting the many children the organization serves.

H. Marlene O'Toole was first elected to the Florida House in 2008, where she served four consecutive terms representing Lake, Sumter, and Marion counties in Tallahassee. She was a leader on issues affecting education and chaired the House Education Committee for four years. She earned a reputation with her fellow legislators for being a quick study and a loyal friend with a sharp wit who sincerely cared about her constituents.

As a member of the Florida legislature and as chair of the House Education Committee, she fought to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in tuition assistance to the poorest students of Florida.

In August 2017, she joined Beacon College in Leesburg, FL, as a full-time staff member. She began her Beacon career as Interim Director in the Center for Student Success. Under her leadership, as Director of the Career Development Center, she provided meaningful internship and post-graduation employment opportunities for students. Marlene had a deep commitment to Beacon College and steadfast devotion to its students with learning differences.

Marlene understood what education and workplace opportunities could do for young people and how they could serve as a path for fulfilling their dreams. She knew this was particularly important for students with learning and attention issues, and she worked tirelessly on their behalf.

Marlene was well respected on the campus of Beacon College, and her energy, wisdom, sense of humor, friendship, and laughter will be missed.

Marlene served as an Advisory Board Member of the UF Health The Villages® Hospital from 2016 until her passing.

Services will be held at the Morrison United Methodist Church in Leesburg on Sunday, February 11, at 3 pm. The services will be live-streamed on the internet; information on live-streaming will be made available at [BeyersFuneralHome.com](http://BeyersFuneralHome.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Leesburg Humane Society at [LeesburgHumaneSociety.org](http://LeesburgHumaneSociety.org)

Live Stream Link For Service [www.WATCHMORRISON.com](http://www.WATCHMORRISON.com)

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB 11. 3:00 PM (ET)

Morrison United Methodist Church  
1005 W Main St  
Leesburg, FL 34748-4924  
(352) 787-3786

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Marlene O'Toole*



**Beyers Funeral Home** - February 08, 2024 at 11:09 AM

MA

*Ed and Sherry,  
Michael and I are saddened by your loss of Marlene. The video was a wonderful peek into her vibrant love of life, friends and family. Sending our love to all of your family  
Michael and Andrea Adams*

**Michael and Andrea Adams** - February 10, 2024 at 03:01 AM

PC

*Ed, I'm so sorry to learn of Marlene's passing. She was a wonderful friend and role model for all good things as we worked together for Lake County Schools. I still remember how bright she was and how she could find humor in the least thing and have me laughing through all our tasks. We would make presentations together for March of Dimes and she would always tell me after we spoke how we left them in culture shock...her Mass. brogue and my South Georgia accent. She left a positive impact on all she met.... Including me! Love and prayers to you and family in the many days ahead.  
Love, Peggy Campbell.*

**Peggy Campbell** - February 13, 2024 at 07:11 PM

AC

*Marlene made a great impression on me. I was just a kid starting my career at IBM and she was a powerhouse. Total in-charge, can-do-anything woman. I was a little afraid of her frankly, and in awe at the same time ; - ) She was amazing, and I was happy to hear about all the wonderful things she did later in life - as I lost touch with her. My condolences to her family and many friends that am sure will miss her.*

**Andrew Celentano** - March 06, 2024 at 09:27 PM

TM

“ *Tim & Sharon Morris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marlene O'Toole.*

**Tim & Sharon Morris** - February 08, 2024 at 02:54 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Marlene O'Toole.*



February 08, 2024 at 02:54 PM

JO

“ *It was an honor to serve with Marlene and privilege to know her. She was a tenacious and tireless public servant who suffered no fools. She will be missed.*

**Jose Oliva** - February 07, 2024 at 01:46 PM

RS

“ *Rose Shearin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marlene O'Toole.*

**Rose Shearin** - February 06, 2024 at 03:16 PM

RS

“ Rose Shearin purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Marlene O'Toole.



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**Rose Shearin** - February 06, 2024 at 03:16 PM

KM

“ Oh. My heart is heavy. What a wonderful mentor, public servant, and friend. I am thankful that I had the privilege of meeting this extraordinary woman. Her loss will be felt deeply and her impact will be long-lasting. ❤️

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**Kathy Mears** - February 06, 2024 at 12:05 PM

RP

“ My Forever Friend Marlene I'm forever thankful for our friendship  
Keep the light on for me  
RoseAnn 💔

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**RoseAnn Poirier** - February 06, 2024 at 10:57 AM