



## Dedra Newman Castle

May 15, 1966 - August 9, 2017

"A shining beacon of grace, courage, and faith."

Dedra Newman Castle was a beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, and human resources executive. She spent her entire life helping others to become happier, more productive people. She touched many lives and took special interest in mentoring women in their careers. Her interests were diverse, and included her family, her faith, yoga, fishing, cooking and eating great food, traveling, watching classic movies and mystery stories, and her spoiled pups. A life overflowing with abundant joy in all that she did, Dedra had a unique gift for making everyone around her comfortable and at ease. Her smile and laughter animated the world.

For the past 25 years Dedra served as an executive officer for four Fortune 500 Companies, and sat on several nonprofit boards of directors. Most recently she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer for Rite Aid Stores, Inc. of Camp Hill, PA. Before joining Rite Aid, and in partnership with her husband Jay Castle, Dedra launched and operated Level Mediation LLC and Castle Partners LLC where she resolved civil court disputes and provided human resources consulting services to clients across the Southeast. She previously led the corporate human resources department and was the Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer for the Sam's Club Division of Walmart Stores, Inc. of Bentonville, AR. Additionally, Dedra served as the

Group Vice President for Human Resources for Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. of Jacksonville, FL, and the Director of Field and Corporate Human Resources for AutoZone, Inc. of Memphis, TN.

Dedra attended the Ursuline Academy in New Orleans, LA where she learned the importance of "serviam" – I Will Serve. She graduated magna cum laude from National University (San Diego) and also attended Loyola University of the South (New Orleans). She held a graduate certificate in Conflict Analysis & Resolution from Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale).

She leaves behind a broken-hearted husband, Jay, as well as son Derrick Dogan, son Maddux Castle, son Jaager Good and his wife Sentra, daughter Lillian Castle, grandson Ryker Castle Good, parents Nan Castle and Frank Castle, sisters Laura Lynn Atkins and LuAnne Wilson, numerous aunts, uncles, nephews and cousins, and many dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her devoted and beloved mother Lillie Mae McCray Newman and father Robert Newman, from whom she learned the importance of unconditional love and faith.

Dedra's memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2017 at 10 am EDT at the First Presbyterian Church, 2050 Oak Street, Sarasota, Florida 34237. Family requests donations to the organizations that best embody Dedra's philanthropy: Ursuline Academy, 2635 State Street, New Orleans, LA 70188, and/or Sertoma Kids, Inc., PO Box 25412, Sarasota, FL 34277, and/or Lighthouse International, 111 E 59th St, New York NY 10022, and/or Girls, Inc. of Sarasota, 201 S Tuttle Ave, Sarasota, FL 34237.

# Tribute Wall

MP

“ I'm deeply sorry for your loss. Please know you are in our prayers. Dedra was a wonderful and kind person. May she Rest In Peace. Skip love, Marykathryn Garcia Potter Class of '83.

Marykathryn Garcia Potter - September 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ Dedra was an example for all and an inspiration to all. Just being around her made you feel positive and motivated. Her positive energy, kindness, drive for achieving more and ability to bring out the best in everyone will be remembered. She has made a difference in many lives and will be missed so much, by so many.

Gina Grundusky - August 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Her smile lit up the room. Just made you feel warm.



Candace Rohrbaugh - August 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Dedra you were such an amazing person. Always smiling, personable and caring. You will be missed. My heart goes out to your family and friends. God Bless

Cheryl Gill - August 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *Dedra was an inspiring and brave person, who never stopped smiling even as she battled a deadly disease. She made a difference in the lives of so many - hers was a life well-lived.*

*My deepest sympathies and prayers to her loving family.*

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**Barb Garofalo** - August 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *Dedra made an impact on people's lives. Her light was always shining.*



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**Bill Clark** - August 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *I was saddened to hear of Dedra's passing. My deepest sympathies to the family. Dedra was an amazing women who brought such energy and joy to those around her. She made such a difference in the lives of so many associates including myself. I will always remember getting up to dance with her at our first HR meeting! May she rest in eternal peace and may the family know how much her life impacted the world around her.*

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**Lisa Ford** - August 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *My heart is broken after hearing the news of Dedra's passing. She had a way of making you feel instantly connected to her with the warmth and sincerity she brought to every interaction. She will truly be missed.*

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**Sonia Mims** - August 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *Dedra had such an amazing ability to connect with others. She did it in such a way that we all felt so much better for having known her. She looked at you straight on, and with such a light. Even when she was not feeling herself. She is missed. My love and prayers are with her, and with you, and all her loved ones.* ”

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**Denise LeFave** - August 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ *Cheryl Gill lit a candle in memory of Dedra Newman Castle* ”



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**Cheryl Gill** - August 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ *Cheryl Gill lit a candle in memory of Dedra Newman Castle* ”



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**Cheryl Gill** - August 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ *Dedra was an amazing person. I enjoyed not only working with her and but also the connections we were able to have on a personal level. I always loved how she was the adamant hugger. A hug was what she was going to give and get no matter what or who you were because it meant you mattered to her. I will truly miss her energy and the persistence she brought. My sincerest condolences to the family. My thoughts are with you and in memory of an extraordinary person.*

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**Frank Ho** - August 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ *My deepest and most sincerest condolences go out to Dedra's family. I had the pleasure of meeting Dedra during her time at Rite Aid and I can say I'm all the more blessed for having met her. She always had a great smile on her face and she was like a ray of sunshine in our office. To say she will forever be missed is an understatement. May she rest in eternal peace.*

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**Gloria Arroyo** - August 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *We are all saddened to hear of Dedra's passing. She was truly a wonderful person and we were all very lucky to have known her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dedra's family and friends.*

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**Darren Karst** - August 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *I had the honor of working with Dedra at Rite Aid. We partnered on a lot matters together. She always found joy and happiness in what we did. She was an inspiration and will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with Dedra's family.*

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**Ron Chima** - August 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ No person is beyond God's help and no tragedy is so great that our heavenly Father cannot comfort us. He binds up the brokenhearted and comfort all who mourn. (Isaiah 61:1,2) Please accept my condolences.

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**Amelia** - August 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ What an exceptional person she was. We are all saddened to hear of Dedra's passing. Our lives are better, because of her leadership.  
-Marilyn Lumley

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**Marilyn Lumley** - August 17, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ My prayers go to Dedra's family. She was truly one of the most amazing women I have had the pleasure to work with in my retail career. In the short time I knew her, she was an inspiration, role model and truly a genuine leader. I consider myself very blessed to have made her acquaintance.

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**Stacey Roberts** - August 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Hearing of this news today breaks my heart, but know that Heaven really did gain an angel. Dedra's spirit, heart, and ability to love transcended many of those who I've met on this life's journey, so thank you for allowing her to share that with us. Praying for all of her family and friends.

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**Anna Socash** - August 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *She accomplished what God sent her to do....prayers to all of her family and friends who will be missing her.*

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**Suzanne Waxman** - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *I had the privilege of working with Dedra during her time at Rite Aid. I was consistently inspired by her ability to maintain a positive disposition and concern for others in the face of her illness. I'm a better person for having met and worked with Dedra. My sincere condolences to Jay and all of Dedra's family during this time of loss.*

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**Matt Schroeder** - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Dedra was a special part of our Rite aid family and although I did not see her on a daily basis when I did she made you smile her enthusiasm is missed but not forgotten. The skies have another beautiful star.*

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**SARAH CRIST** - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Having the privilege to work with Dedra at Rite Aid is an experience I will never forget. Even in the face of extremely challenging health issues, Dedra ALWAYS, and I mean ALWAYS inspired those around her. She had a charismatic glow that was simply contagious. Each of us is given opportunities to inspire and touch others it's why we are here it's what we are supposed to do. Dedra was a ray of sunshine who truly did just that to everyone she met! I will always remember her beautiful smile and warm personality. My sincerest sympathy and prayers are offered to the family. another angel made it to Heaven.*

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**Karen Doremus** - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Jay, we are sorry to hear of Dedra's passing. She was am amazing woman and I was fortunate to work with her at WD. Heartfelt prayers and blessings.

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**Aune Butler** - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Jay and Family,  
I am so sad and in such unbelief to hear of Dedra passing. She was such a beautiful role model and inspiration to so many young people both women and men. I have followed her since she left Winn-Dixie (the both of you) and she continued to make me so proud of her and proud to have had the opportunity meet her during her journey in life. May GOD continue to comfort you and your family during this difficult time.

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**June ROSS** - August 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM