



Diane C. Folz

June 3, 1958 - July 7, 2025

Diane C Folz, 67 passed away July 7, 2025 at her home in Blacksburg, Va. She was born June 3, 1958.

She is survived by her brother John Harwood (Darlene) of Seminole, Fl, her sister Mary Alexander (Brian) of Dunedin, Fl, Kenneth Carter of Tennessee, David Carter of Tennessee, Larry Harwood (Leah) of Georgia, Kathy White (Richard) of Florida, and Susan Harwood of Florida. Many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

She also leaves behind her 3 furry loves. Peel her orange tabby, 16 years old. Schnickel and Fritz 12 year old brothers.

Preceded in death by Helen Folz, Mother, Peter Folz, father, Helen Leper, sister. Larry Harwood and Anne Harwood, special family members, and so many furry loves, including her baby Mulder.

Diane was an accomplished woman and retired Engineering Professor at Virginia Tech. She witnessed firsthand the horrific massacre that happened in her department so many years ago.

She specialized in ceramics and polyurethanes and worked closely with NASA, while lab department head at The University of Florida, researching

and bettering a high tolerant heat resistant ceramic tile for the rockets.

She patented a special shatterproof glass used in an Israeli storefronts to prevent shards flying into the air from explosions; instead, they fall to the ground, along with several other patents.

Diane also worked with the space program.

Diane had a wonderful gift from God. She played many musical instruments and sang like an angel.

She was very involved with St. Mary's Catholic Church. She served on parish council, was in the choir and very involved with the youth group.

Diane was loved by so many. She will be dearly missed.

The family asks in lieu of flowers please donate to either the St. Mary's Catholic Church or to Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center in Christiansburg, Va in Diane's name.

Please join us for a Mass and celebration of life being held on August 30, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. at St. Mary's Catholic Church 1205 Old Mill Road, Blacksburg, Va.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

AUG **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1205 Old Mill Rd
#3705
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

LS

“ Diane was a beloved educator whose engaging and welcoming attitude drew people to her. Her wonderful voice uplifted those who heard her sing. She was an advocate of animal rights and in her spare time constructed rosaries. She loved camping and the outdoors, she loved God and her church. She was a person of many abilities who tried to make the world a better place in the small ways open to us all. But most of all, Diane was still a dreamer. She wondered when we would get to the stars and how we would all change in the coming decades. We were on the cusp she said, of the next step.

When I think of her it is in her beloved space, among the stars, figuring out the next step. I will miss her so very much.

Linda Shepherd - August 29, 2025 at 10:18 AM



GE

“Diane was much beloved by the Enholm family. She was my best friend and Maid of Honor. As Eric’s dear friend (and sometimes co-conspirator!), Zoe and Zane’s Godmother and cherished “Auntie Di”, Diane was a chosen family member.

I am consoled by many memories of adventures with Di, frequent visits and holidays with her family (Mom, Pop, Mary, John), her friends from St. Paul’s and high school (especially Jean and the Christmas Eve Eve gatherings at Mike’s), and her longtime friends from UF and Gainesville.

I am deeply comforted in the knowledge that death has been defeated and Di is no longer a prisoner of her body but the beautiful soul she always was.

I am certain Di and Eric will be happy to share Gator football and basketball games again.

*Eternal rest grant unto Diane, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Love, Gann, Zoe, and Zane  *

Gann Enholm - August 28, 2025 at 01:59 AM

LS

“Linda Shepherd planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane C. Folz.

Linda Shepherd - August 27, 2025 at 06:10 PM

LS

“ Linda Shepherd purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Diane C. Folz.



Linda Shepherd - August 27, 2025 at 06:10 PM

TB

“ Diane was such a bright and warm smile in and out of the classroom. Having her as a teacher and advisor meant having a friend to challenge and uplift you. I will always remember her as the driving force behind the Materials Engineering Professional Society (MEPS). This provided students the unique opportunity to work the Coco Beach Conference. There I met my future advisor which got me started on my path to a PhD. Graduate school is also where I met my wife and found my career.
Thank you so much for everything Diane, may you rest in peace.

T Burton-Steele - July 24, 2025 at 10:40 AM

L(

“ Diane was a wonderful teacher and research advisor. I was blessed to work with her for several years as an undergrad on a project with Taylor Guitars, which included a few trips to the factory. I have many fond memories from those trips, and from working in the lab under her guidance. She was passionate about teaching, and loved to see her students learn and grow. She will be greatly missed. May God grant her eternal rest.

Lyndsay Motz (Kibler) - July 23, 2025 at 09:32 AM

KM

“ *Diane was a great teacher at Virginia Tech: so many great memories in lab and in the hallways of Holden. She cared deeply about the students in MSE and always had a kind word. She was an engaged and caring advisor for MEPS and contributed greatly to the community feel of the department. I am grateful to have known her and learned from her. Her spirit lives on through the students she taught and advised. May she rest in peace.*

Karen Maud - July 22, 2025 at 09:51 PM

LB

“ *I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Ms. Folz. She was a very kind and loving woman. May you take comfort in knowing she is no longer in pain. I will miss our conversations. She was an extraordinary person.*

I bowman - July 22, 2025 at 10:46 AM

AC

“ *So sorry to hear of Diane's passing. In 1990, we drove a rental van from UF to San Francisco for a conference and stopped in Dallas on the way back for another conference. Stopped along the way at several western US parks along the way.*

Alex Cozzi - July 18, 2025 at 05:30 PM

DC

“ Diane was a dear friend and colleague. We worked together for over 25 years. She made many contributions to the field of Materials Science and Engineering(MSE) and specifically to Ceramic Engineering. Her enthusiasm for the field was palpable and I would often hear students say that she was the reason they chose MSE and parents say that her recruiting presentation made them want to start a new career in MSE! Diane was active in the American Ceramics Society and the National Institute of Ceramic Engineering where she organized technical conferences, published and received significant recognition for her contributions. While at Virginia Tech she earned a master's degree in MSE, taught introductory courses and supervised undergraduate senior design projects. What I will remember most about Diane was her kindness and empathy especially for animals. There is no doubt that her legacy will live on in those whose lives she so positively impacted. David Clark

David Clark - July 18, 2025 at 01:37 PM

GW

“ I was very sad to hear of the passing of our colleague and good friend, Diane Folz. I first met Diane and began interacting with her three decades ago when she was at UF and later at Va Tech as well. Over the years I have had the pleasure of working with her and her colleagues on a variety of technical projects resulting in a series of publications and patents. What I remember most were her 'can do' attitude and her many activities involving students... she had a deep passion to help them achieve their goals and potential. Diane contributed and achieved much and will be sincerely missed by all who knew her..... RIP

George and Donna

George Wicks - July 15, 2025 at 12:15 PM

A(

“ Diane was the best aunt! She always came to visit, and had us in Williston during summer breaks. I will never forget the Gator game, Mary Chapin Carpenter concert, tennis, learning how to garden, playing the guitar for us, and her amazing voice! You are now free of pain and with your favorite people, Nana and Papa! Love you!

Alyssa Creel (Niece) - July 14, 2025 at 07:00 PM

RS

“ Diane and I shared many memories - all the Coco Beach conferences; drives to the ACeRs conferences, late night experiments in the labs, Disney trips, NASA launches (the best!!). Australia, Strasbourg, Frankfurt (there on 9-11 - everyone was so supportive!) and many other treasured memories. Be at peace now Di. No more pain! Love, Becky

Rebecca Schulz - July 14, 2025 at 05:07 PM

MA

“ Diane was an amazing person with heart of gold. I am proud to call her my big sister.
I have sooo many wonderful memories. From summers with her and her best friend Gann in Gainesville to trips to Kennedy Space Center to meet the astronauts families before launch day.

Diane, I love you and miss you. No more pain and your with Mom and dad. 💜🙏 RIP

Mary Alexander - July 14, 2025 at 04:43 PM

JS

I am just hearing of this, so sorry for your loss. I remember Diane, Johnny and you from Evansville. You guys were basically our only cousins on the Folz side. Have many fun memories with everyone.

Jeff Seng - October 17, 2025 at 01:35 PM