



## Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold

July 30, 1956 - June 30, 2018

Denise Erin Talbot Arnold, 61, of Tallahassee, passed away on Saturday, June 30, 2018.

A daughter of the late Adrian Alfred George Talbot and the late Georgette Marcelle Beaudet Talbot, she was born in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts on July 30, 1956. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband and love of her life, Charles Mark Arnold and her beloved niece, Sarah Talbot Wilson.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Music Therapy, and worked for the state of Florida for more than 31 years in the developmental disabilities field. She was employed as Deputy Director of Programs for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, where she directly assisted tens of thousand of individuals, always mindful of including self-advocates in everything the agency did. Her passion was contagious and unwavering for people with developmental disabilities. Co-workers described her as, “the heart and soul of the Agency.”

Denise had an amazing sense of humor and the incredible ability to see the good in everyone she met. Her friends and family remember her fearless way of loving everyone uniquely. Through the many challenges in her life she always chose joy and to live by her late husband’s mantra, “Life is Good.” Her love was the purest love. A divine love. Words can’t begin to describe how

deeply she will be missed.

She filled her life with music and singing, hiking, kayaking, gardening, reading, loving animals, and traveling. The absolute light of her life were her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Christine Arnold (fiancé, Jeff Azcona), Lauren Smith (Dylan), David Arnold (Francesca), Mark Arnold, and Belinda Arnold (Mark MacDonald); grandchildren, Ashley Arnold, Caterina Arnold, Stella MacDonald, Jolie MacDonald, Maeve MacDonald, Nora Smith and Mark Smith; and her siblings, Maureen Miller (C.A), Bette Talbot (Collie Rouyer), Bob Talbot (Diane Hartsfield), Suzy Wilson (Bill) and Tina Talbot (Andy Beers). Also surviving are beloved nieces, nephews and countless friends.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM, Thursday, July 5, 2018, at Abbey Funeral Home. The funeral is 2:00 PM, Friday, July 6, 2018, at Good Shepherd Catholic Church. A private family interment will be at Tallahassee Memory Gardens. Memorial donations may be made to The Denise Arnold Self-Advocacy Scholarship Fund. Checks should be sent to the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.abbeyfh.com](http://www.abbeyfh.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee Memory Gardens

4037 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 562-1518  
<https://www.abbeyfh.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUL 5.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Abbey Funeral Home  
4037 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 562-1518  
[abbeyfh@comcast.net](mailto:abbeyfh@comcast.net)

## Service

**JUL 6.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
4665 Thomasville Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32309  
<http://www.goodshepherdparish.org>

# Tribute Wall

LG

“ *There are no words to express the passing away of such a beautiful woman, truly all too soon. My prayers and sympathy for her loving family and friends.*

*Ludy Goodson*

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**Ludwika Goodson** - July 25, 2018 at 11:17 PM

NH

“ *First I knew Tina, and then I knew Denise, as our work with people with developmental disabilities brought us together. What beautiful, loving sisters. Denise always had such a warm, gentle, solid presence and constant smile. I can see how she was the light of your lives. I am so sorry for your loss of this precious, loving earth-mother.*

*I am so glad to have know her.*

*Holding you,*

*Nina Hatton*

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**Nina Hatton** - July 06, 2018 at 08:09 PM

DL

“ On behalf of the members of The Arc of Florida I want to express our sincerest condolences to Denise's family. Many of us have known Denise for years and know that her children and grandchildren were the lights of her life.

*She had a great sense of humor and was always ready with a smile.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you now as you face this difficult time.*

*Deborah Linton  
The Arc of Florida*

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**Deborah Linton** - July 06, 2018 at 10:56 AM

HJ

“Denise, I will miss you tremendously. Words cannot express the shock and sadness that I am feeling. You were just here with us on our call last week Friday. As I write this, I am sobbing recalling our many conference calls or meetings over the years. You were always the voice of calm and reasoning over the years. You were never afraid to ask why are we doing something that did not make sense. You had this unique way of making us feel as though things will be ok despite the challenges we faced at work. Denise, you genuinely cared for all of us that you encountered. You personally followed up with me making sure that I was ok when I returned to work and offered any assistance that I may have needed. That smile of yours was always so warm and welcomed by us all. I am so privileged to have known you all these years. You taught me so much. I'm so very happy that I was in Tallahassee several weeks ago and you gave me such a big wonderful hug that I will forever cherish. You are gone from this earth but will never be forgotten and will forever be missed. Hillary Jackson - APD Southern Region



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Hillary Jackson - July 06, 2018 at 09:03 AM

LD

“I have known Denise over the years as colleagues in different agencies. Denise was serious when she needed to be, always caring, always protecting those she represented, always with a warm greeting and fun. She will be missed by all she touched over the years.  
Liz Dudek

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Liz Dudek - July 05, 2018 at 04:50 PM



“ When I met Denise Arnold, I noticed 3 things, I saw her beautiful smile with those beautiful dimples and when she spoke, I felt her heart. SHE WAS SPECIAL! Every time I saw her, she became more and more REAL in a very special way. Her heart was right there and her smile was like SUNSHINE beaming on behalf of her mission to help to help individuals with disabilities. That was her FOCUS!!! The love she felt for her mission was always present and became brighter and brighter with every new endeavor we worked on. As a parent to my son, Evan, I could see how Denise was contributing to his growth and with every new initiative that was completed, I saw how Denise was helping all individuals and what they needed, especially the self-advocates and their development as leaders.

Denise even asked Evan to speak on a panel in Washington, D.C. a self-advocate on the subject of becoming independent. He was so proud to speak about his hopes and dreams that he looked at me and said “Mommy, I’m not trying to leave right now, but when I’m ready, this is what I want to do.” He let the audience know about his growth and success he saw in his mind.

Anything Denise was involved in; I knew it was going to be GREAT!!! When she nominated me to be the Chairperson of the Interagency Quality Council (IQC), I knew she could see me as the person I was and my desire to contribute to her mission to serve the children and represent the families who lived with and worked for the success of individuals with

developmental disabilities. That was a special to me because I looked forward to making a contribution in some way that I knew I would be able to. I enjoyed that and felt that Denise knew that I did. I was elected to serve for 3 terms, but had to leave when I was asked to work at AHCA.

Evan while I worked at AHCA, Denise and I worked on several projects and when I left AHCA, due to illness, Denise and I became friends and shared our lives outside of the State employment

*atmosphere where I saw the same ray of sunshine and love she had for her children and family and how she lived her personal life (and she lived it well), even though I saw how much she missed her late husband, Charles, not living to share it with her. I am very sad that Denise is no longer with us, I am happy to know that she is with the Lord and with the love of her life.*

*Denise, we will keep the memories of all you have done to help our children and the completion of your mission here on Earth. God will tell you what a great job you have done and the He is proud of you for the wonderful way you completed it just the way he want you to. No one could have accomplished it as well as you did. Thank you so much!!!*

*Sincerely,*

*Pamela M. Wainwright*

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**Pamela Wainwright** - July 05, 2018 at 03:02 PM

DF

“ On behalf of everyone at Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health Florida, our deepest sympathy to the Arnold family. Mrs. Arnold has made a lasting impact on so many individuals and she will be deeply missed. Take comfort in knowing her legacy will continue on...



Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health FL - July 05, 2018 at 12:19 PM

EB

“ Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Arnold. Her legacy will live on through the countless lives she touched, especially those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, which she fought and advocated so fearlessly for. We are sending prayers of peace and comfort during this time of grief. Warmly,  
Your friends at MacDonald Training Center

Elizabeth Barnes - July 05, 2018 at 10:39 AM

FS

“ FLORIDA SAND purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.



FLORIDA SAND - July 05, 2018 at 10:10 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.



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July 05, 2018 at 09:34 AM



“ Denise was one of the first people I met from the State office serving the DD population in Florida more than 21 years ago when I was a newbie. Over the years through good times and challenging times, she was always kind, responsive and dedicated to making the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in Florida better...rest with the Angels Denise. You will be missed by all of your friends from Arc Broward.

--Dennis Haas, President/CEO Arc Broward/Barc Housing

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Dennis Haas - July 05, 2018 at 09:08 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.



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July 05, 2018 at 08:54 AM

JA

“ I remember Denise as my lifeline in state office when I served as a Unit manager for 17 years in Broward Co. Most of all I remember the inspiration and encouragement she gave to pursue "Best Practices" and share them with others. The great feeling I got from her humor and positivity will always be with me.

May God bless her Family, friends and our APD family with the peace that only God can give.

Sincerely,

Jameela Omar Abdul-Malik

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jameela Abdul-Malik - July 05, 2018 at 07:38 AM

SR

“ Denise was a sweet person she will be missed by so many people gone too soon I will keep praying for her family and friends



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Shannon Roberts - July 05, 2018 at 06:44 AM

KR

“ Kate And Ellen Ransdell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold



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Kate and Ellen Ransdell - July 04, 2018 at 03:16 PM



“ *Heartfelt Memories was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.*



July 04, 2018 at 12:30 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.*



July 04, 2018 at 12:07 PM



“ *Pauline Lipps lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold*



**Pauline Lipps** - July 04, 2018 at 11:52 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.*



July 04, 2018 at 11:40 AM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.*



July 04, 2018 at 10:57 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.*



July 04, 2018 at 10:20 AM



“ *I first met Denise 24 years ago when she trained me to become a Support Coordinator! Her kindness, knowledge and common sense approach to serving others will be greatly missed! My condolences and prayers go out to her family! May God give you peace 🙏*



**Rebecca Spadola** - July 04, 2018 at 10:11 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.*



July 04, 2018 at 04:46 AM

JM

“ You all are in our hearts and prayers....we love you❤️  
Joe and Brenda Mueller

Joe and Brenda Mueller - July 03, 2018 at 11:33 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.



July 03, 2018 at 09:19 PM

FW

“ From Jean Person Williams purchased the Full O  
f Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Denise  
Talbot Arnold.



From Jean Person Williams - July 03, 2018 at 07:05 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.



July 03, 2018 at 06:50 PM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Mrs. Denise Talbot Arnold.*



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July 03, 2018 at 05:46 PM



“ *I have had the privilege of working with Denise on many occasions over the years. She was bright and thoughtful in everything she did, but mostly she was truly passionate for the individuals she served. She contributed much to making life better for the youth and families facing great challenges in our state. She will be greatly missed.*

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**Chuck Corley** - July 03, 2018 at 02:53 PM



“ *Denise was one of the nicest people you could ever meet, and I feel so fortunate to have known her. She touched countless lives with advocacy, kindness and caring. May she rest in peace.*

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**Jim Smith** - July 03, 2018 at 02:45 PM



“ *I send my deepest sympathies to Denise's family and friends. Although I only served with her for just a little while, I am grateful for the opportunity to have understood, first-hand, her kindness and beautiful spirit. Rest In Peace "Ms. Denise."*

*Isaac Williams, Contract Manager  
APD | Contract Administration*

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**Isaac Williams** - July 03, 2018 at 02:38 PM