



## Melinda Mae Price

December 17, 1941 - April 28, 2023

Melinda Mae (Drexler) Price, 81, of St. Augustine, FL, passed away peacefully on April 28, 2023, at Flagler Hospital ICU after several weeks at St. Augustine Health and Rehabilitation.

Melinda was born and raised near Pittsburgh, PA, and graduated from Penn State University in 1963 with a degree in Art Education, which was her passion. She taught for 20 years in Central PA where she met and married her husband and started a family. In 1982, given their courageous and somewhat impulsive natures, they moved to Orlando, FL, with two young children, a dog, and no jobs. The good news was that it was a success!

Melinda and her family enjoyed 26 years in Central Florida where Melinda taught in Orange County. She was recognized repeatedly for her innovation and creativity in the classroom, winning Teacher of the Year in 1992, 1993, 1997, 1998 and 2004; and the Florida Elementary Art Educator of the Year in 2002. Her dedication and passion were known and loved by all. She touched the lives of countless children in 46 years, opening their eyes, hearts, and minds to creativity and expression. So many times in her life she would run into adults who would stop her in public to excitedly recount how meaningful she was to their childhood passions. These encounters gave her incredible delight.

Melinda was selfless in sharing her talents by creating large and elaborate

sets for all school productions, assisted by a team of students, as well as dozens of Vacation Bible School sets for church summer programs. When she and her husband retired to St. Augustine, FL, in 2008, Melinda quickly became involved in volunteering at a local school's reading tutor program, at her church, and within her community as "director of fun" by planning events for the Coquina Crossing neighborhood. Melinda also illustrated a children's book, *Flying on Granny Wings*, by Portia Warner.

Melinda's larger-than-life personality made her an engaging Grammy to her grandchildren, whom she unbiasedly reported were the four most perfect and brilliant children to ever take a human breath ("it's not exaggerating if its true!").

Melinda was blessed with the gift of hospitality. She and her husband always loved hosting large gatherings in their homes, but her gift of making people feel at home traveled with her where ever she went. She never met a stranger and struck up conversations anywhere, anytime, with anyone. Her sharp wit and engaging charisma gained her a large group of loving and close friends and a very active social life. She and her husband were blessed to travel extensively with friends and loved spending time with family.

Melinda is survived by her husband, Donald D. Price; children, Evette M. Nowicki (Joe) and Matthew D. Price (Ashley); grandchildren Joseph D. Nowicki, David P. Nowicki, Jack P. Price, and Lincoln M. Price; her twin brother Elliott M. Drexler; and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by parents Edward and Geraldine Drexler.

The family would like to extend deep gratitude to the spectacular staff at St. Augustine Health and Rehab, as well as the compassionate and caring SICU team at Flagler Hospital.

Services will be held at St. John's Family Funeral Home on May 13, at 4pm,

Carolyn Westlake officiating. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Melinda's name to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Those unable to attend can view the service live streamed at <https://iframe.dacast.com/live/2a7a09ae1c0559a83ef537e05e6a14a6/2aae7d5f-98fd-a9e6-32a7-b774547cf42c>

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 13. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

ST JOHNS FAMILY FUNERAL HOME  
385 State Rd 207  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

# Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Melinda Mae Price*



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**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - May 16, 2023 at 09:37 AM



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Melinda Mae Price*



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**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - May 08, 2023 at 09:52 AM

VP

*Hard to watch. She loved life.  
Beautifully done. Our loss. Loved being with them over the years.  
Great memories. She loved much.*

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**Vicki Price** - May 08, 2023 at 11:57 AM

VA

*Such a beautiful tribute to my sweet, sweet friend. Melinda touched my life in more ways than i can count. We loved each other, deeply, soul to soul. Losing her has left a hole that nothing will fill. I will miss her smile, laugh, crazy antics, but most of all, I will miss her friendship, her charisma, & her hugs. May God bring comfort & peace to her loving family.*

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**Vanessa** - May 08, 2023 at 02:18 PM

BR

*What a beautiful memory of a beautiful soul. What a beautiful family. May Melinda rest in the Peace of Christ.*

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**Brenda** - May 10, 2023 at 08:59 PM

SS

*I'm so saddened by my dear friend and neighbor, she always made me laugh and I loved her hugs. She will be deeply missed by all. Rest in peace my friend. We love you, Susan and Ron.*

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**Susan Steward** - May 11, 2023 at 08:38 AM

PP

*So beautiful!she was some lady!iam so glad I got to spend time with her last January!she will be missed!rest in peace Melinda!!!*

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**pprice** - May 11, 2023 at 02:40 PM

ML

*What a beautiful tribute to an amazingly vibrant and kind woman! Her timeless spirit radiates throughout this slideshow of precious memories! What a smile! I especially enjoyed seeing her younger years - and with her loving family in so many stages of life. What a tremendous gift she was to this world. Much love always to you all!*

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**Melanie Lynch** - May 07, 2025 at 02:52 PM

SS

*My love for art I attribute to her. She was our Miss Drexler at Everett Area High School. Loved her. She was more than a teacher and I was blessed by a friendship with her. She moved, I moved and continued my path in fine art. I have always thought of her and wondered how her life turned out. I knew her husband and he was blessed to have her as his wife. Teacher of the Year, oh yes. Rest in peace Miss Drexler. I was blessed to have you in my life*

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**Steven Sipes** - February 23 at 05:23 PM

FR

“ *I just moved into Coquina Crossing -2 houses away from Don and Melinda. I never did get the opportunity to meet Melinda but today I got to know her at her lovely funeral service in her honor! What a tremendous personality she was and so authentic! I'm sure I would have loved her! I'm sure a big part of Melinda lives on in her daughter. Her family loved her so much and let her be herself! Beautiful!*

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**Fran Rambo** - May 13, 2023 at 07:10 PM

SS

“ *Sandra Sloane lit a candle in memory of Melinda Mae Price*



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**Sandra Sloane** - May 12, 2023 at 07:28 PM

SS

“ *One of the most talented artist I've ever had the pleasure of working with. She was always upbeat and smiling. I will miss you and your great spirit. Sandy Sloane*

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**Sandra Sloane** - May 12, 2023 at 07:27 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - May 10, 2023 at 09:37 AM



“ 5 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - May 08, 2023 at 05:13 PM



“ 96 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - May 08, 2023 at 09:51 AM

AM

“ Evette & family, so very sorry for your loss.  
Lifting you all up in prayer 🙏



Amy Muscarella - May 06, 2023 at 11:09 AM

LD

“ We were blessed to have Melinda come into our lives. We had known Don for many years in Orlando. He was our hair stylist. When Don and Melinda moved to St. Augustine we shortly started coming over once a month for a haircut! While Debbie was getting her hair cut I would hang out with Melinda. We became good buddies. I was frequently met at the door upon arriving to please help with some form of electronics. I would laugh and say, let me use the restroom first and then I'll help you 🤝 After the haircut we would all go to dinner. We loved our time with Melinda. She was a special person. She loved her children and grandchildren. She was such a proud Grandmother. Not a time went by that she didn't tell me one or more stories about one or all of them. I will miss my special time with her but Deb and I will still be going to St Augustine to be with Don. I know he will miss her very much ❤️



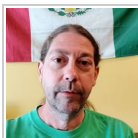
Lisa and Debbie - May 03, 2023 at 01:24 PM

LI

“ *She was a great grandma she was a great artist she has a great sense of humor i loved her*  
*Love Lincoln*

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**Lincoln** - May 02, 2023 at 08:45 PM



“ *My Aunt Melinda was wonderfully kind, and I'm certain anyone who met her would agree. She was very patient, gentle, and encouraging to me, especially in my early life. Both she and my Uncle Don did a lot of nice things for me over the years, and I'll be forever grateful. Goodbye, dear. I thank you for your empathy.*

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**Jason Price** - May 01, 2023 at 06:08 PM

PB

“ *When I moved here 11 years ago I meet her in the clubhouse. What a wonderful , welcoming person she was. Her art completely showed in her personality. She will be missed here. May she RIP in Gods loving arms. I am so sorry for your loss. Until you meet again know that she will be there with loving arms to meet you.*  
*Pat B*

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**Pat Budd** - May 01, 2023 at 11:34 AM

RM

“ *A few years ago I took my granddaughter to the clubhouse to play Mexican Train. When Melinda came to the table she shouted that Braelynn didn't look 55!! From that moment on my grand daughter and I have been*  
*Big fans of Melinda and I've enjoyed many fun Nights with her and will miss her deeply.*

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**Roberta Marazo** - May 01, 2023 at 11:05 AM

JS

*She was such a grand lady with so much wit. And that smile!!! Will miss her alot. Joanne and David Suchey*

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**joanne and david suchey** - May 01, 2023 at 11:20 AM

AA

*Melinda was a "special" lady, so friendly and made Coquina Crossing so much fun! We loved her and know that she is creating much fun in heaven! Andy and Jo*

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**Andy and Jo Anderson** - May 02, 2023 at 05:26 PM

BS

*Melinda was a great friend and I always loved being in her company because of her great wit! Our deepest sympathy to Don and their family. Rest in peace, Melinda from Rich and Barbara Stine.*

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**Barbara and Rich Stine** - May 02, 2023 at 09:02 PM