



You know you're home when the centerpiece on your table consists of the same beautiful flowers you can touch and smell while walking through the garden.

You know you're home when the little herb garden you helped plant is producing dill for the salmon served at lunch and basil for the Caprese salad at supper.

You know you're home when the sound of your grandchildren laughing is matched by the smiles of other grandparents enjoying the moment just as much.

You know you're home when friends and family gather around the table for a simple summer meal filled with delicious food, easy conversation, and time together.

That feeling of home was on full display throughout June at Decatur House as residents celebrated summer with outings, entertainment, creativity, and time spent with the people who matter most. The month's highlight was the annual homestyle cookout, where residents welcomed family and friends for hamburgers, hot dogs, summer salads, and conversation on the patios overlooking the gardens. Local musician Liam Hempstead entertained the crowd with favorite songs, and resident Chuck D. delighted everyone with a solo performance of "Cape Cod." *See pictures from the BBQ above!*

Residents also enjoyed several memorable outings, including lunch at the new Tomatillo's Autentico's Mexican Cuisine & Fiesta Lounge (*see photos of Chuck and Ed below*) and another at The Fisherman's View, where delicious seafood was paired with scenic views of the Cape Cod Canal. Ice cream outings to Shipwrecked remained a seasonal favorite, while the Decatur House gentlemen enjoyed a relaxing afternoon together at The Local Tavern. Visits to the Arts Alliance exhibitions also gave residents the opportunity to explore rotating displays by local artists.

Veterans enjoyed a special Crokinole event hosted by Owen Earl from Heroes in Transition with special guest Michael Procek, facilitated by Michael Oakland of Cape Cod Crokinole. The tabletop game introduced many residents to a fun new activity while creating an afternoon filled with friendly competition and camaraderie. *See photo of Ben and Joe below.*

The month also included feature films, live entertainment, fitness, manicures, crafts, board games, sports-themed activities, and daily opportunities to gather with friends. *See photos of Lourana and Bruce baking, Maggie making flower arrangements, Betty pretty in pink and Nancy T. taking a walk through the gardens.*

Whether sharing a meal with loved ones, enjoying an afternoon outing, learning a new skill, or simply spending time together, June was another reminder that life at Decatur House is about more than activities. It's about creating the moments that make a place truly feel like home.



Spotlight: Bernadette Murphy continued

There they met another group enjoying the day, exchanged phone numbers, and went their separate ways. Some time later, she received a call from Henry "Hank" Murphy II. The two agreed to meet at Logan Airport while he was returning from a business trip and she was returning to work. The moment she saw him, she remembered his handsome smile and six-foot-two stature.

The couple married in 1960 at Sacred Heart Church in North Quincy, followed by a reception at the Lord Fox in Foxborough. Together they built a life filled with adventure, raising four children, Henry III, Kerrie, Neil, and Christine.

Hank, who grew up in Providence, Rhode Island, was also a pilot and often flew Bernadette on memorable day trips. One of those flights took them to Block Island, where he proposed. The island had always held a special place in Hank's heart, and it soon became just as meaningful to Bernadette. The family returned every summer, eventually purchasing a home on the island's west side where they gathered to watch spectacular sunsets and spend time together. Those traditions continue today, with their son Neil now owning an inn on Block Island, bringing the family's story full circle.

As Hank's career advanced, the family lived in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. While living in Huntington, New York, Bernadette embraced another opportunity by opening an Irish import store called Irish Alley. The business flourished, thanks in part to her buying trips to Ireland and her entrepreneurial spirit. Eventually, Neil took over the business, expanding Irish Alley with additional locations in Sag Harbor, New York, and on Block Island, turning his mother's dream into a thriving family enterprise. After welcoming their first grandchild in 1994, Bernadette and Hank settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts. They enjoyed spending time between Plymouth, Tequesta, Florida, and Block Island, making the most of every season with family and friends.

Following Hank's passing in 1999, Bernadette later made her home in Sandwich, where she lived for more than 20 years.

Today, in her 90s, Bernadette has begun another meaningful chapter at Decatur House. She enjoys making new friends, participating in activities, and embracing new experiences each day. According to Activities Director Thalia, Bernadette is playful, fun, helpful, and caring, qualities that are evident to everyone who has the pleasure of spending time with her. For someone who has spent a lifetime exploring new places, one thing has remained constant. Whether traveling the skies, running a successful business, or gathering with loved ones on Block Island, Bernadette has always embraced life with warmth, curiosity, and a generous spirit. Those qualities continue to make her an important part of the Decatur House family today.

JULY 2026



DECATUR HOUSE

Assisted Living in Sandwich Village

Around the House

Community SPOTlight

Bernadette Murphy



Some people collect souvenirs from a life well lived. Bernadette Murphy collected stories.

From working as a flight attendant during the golden age of air travel to building a successful business and raising a close-knit family, Bernadette's life has been shaped by adventure, resilience, and a love for the people around her.

While she has traveled to countless destinations, the memories she treasures most have always come back to family. Born in Boston and raised in North Quincy, Massachusetts, Bernadette was one of five siblings, growing up alongside Eddie, Leo, Elise, and Paul. She began her career with Boston Gas Company before pursuing an exciting opportunity as a flight attendant with Eastern Airlines, flying out of Logan Airport.

Her years in the skies introduced her to people from all walks of life, including some famous passengers. Among the most memorable were Jacqueline Kennedy, whom she flew from Boston to Washington, D.C., and Senator Ted Kennedy on a flight from Washington back to Boston. More importantly, her career with Eastern Airlines sparked a lifelong love of travel that would influence many chapters of her life.

It also led her to meet the love of her life. While working for Eastern Airlines, friends invited Bernadette, affectionately known as Bernie to family and friends, to spend a sunny day at the beach in Falmouth.

continued on page 4