



## Marina Jean Douse

December 13, 1977 - October 31, 2018

On December 13, 1977, the world was given a precious gift to those who were willing to open their hearts, eyes, and minds. Marina Jean Douse has left us to join her grandparents and God, who will welcome her with open arms. From the moment she was born, it was evident she was different. But looking past those differences and into her eyes, she taught the world the true meaning of unconditional love.

Marina's challenges were monumental, but her spirit was strong. Her profound physical and intellectual challenges stemmed from chromosomal abnormalities that were determined to be one of a kind. No other person known has been charged with the same set of abnormalities. Despite her challenges, she fought to lead as full a life as possible. She was never able to speak, walk, or understand most of daily life, but she could giggle and manage to melt your heart with her smiles. She could, however, chew the heck out of a blanket!

Marina attended the Marvin Beekman Center in Lansing and had the privilege to live in the same neighborhood as Mr. Beekman, who would stop by to visit. In 2000, she moved to Nashville, Michigan with her parents and attended the Eaton County Intermediate School until her "graduation" in 2004. Later she attended the Positive Directions program at Algonquin Lake.

Marina had many experiences with the medical community and her difficult to manage health care needs were recognized by the Sparrow Hospital caregivers. Marina was an impactful patient, inspiring change and innovative uses of technology. For the past year, the Sparrow I.T. Department has been developing a "Complex Care" program that will soon be unveiled. Her legacy will serve countless other patients as it will continue to grow and transform how care is delivered.

She leaves behind a devoted mother and father, Debbe Downing Douse and Kermit Douse of Nashville; her loving brother, Justin Douse; sister-in-law, Sandi Douse; and nephew and niece, Austin and Bailey Douse, all of Mason, MI. Included in her extended

family are many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Marina on her Tribute Page at <http://www.PrayFuneral.com>. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Comments

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“ We are so, so sorry for your loss. Marina was a very special young lady, with alot of love to give. Thanks to the devotion of you both, and the support of your family, Marina had a blessed life, surrounded with love. Marina and your family will always be a part of our family.  
Please don't hesitate to contact us if there's anything at all we can do for you.  
God Bless... Beekman Center

**Tammy Reynolds** - November 07, 2018 at 08:35 PM

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“ I read Marina's touching obituary in the Reminder paper tonight. I am sorry for your loss. It sounds like she had a profound affect on many who kne her! I also lost my sister this year, aged nearly 57. She also was a special angel, with many issues. If you would be willing to contact me, I would be interested in her chromosomal abnormalities because my sister also had something abnormal about her chromosomes and they never did find anyone else like her. Sincerely, Pat (gardenlady@mei.net)

**Pat** - November 05, 2018 at 09:40 PM

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“ Kermit and Debbe, I remember when Marina was born and the Drs. said she wouldn't live past 5 years old, and that you should institutionalize her. That wasn't in your hearts to do. You brought her home and unconditionally loved her and gave her as many opportunities as she and you could handle. Through your love and devotion Marina lived as normal of a life as possible. You were, and still are an inspiration to me and many others. God bless Marina. I imagine her dancing in Heaven now. Grandma Rose has her close to her I am sure. Love you with all my heart. Carol Jean Stebner Mikowski.



**Carol Stebner Mikowski** - November 04, 2018 at 02:13 PM

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“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. - Amanda Harris and family.

**Amanda Harris** - November 04, 2018 at 01:29 PM

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“ Junie And Larry Decker lit a candle in memory of Marina Jean Douse



**Junie and Larry Decker** - November 04, 2018 at 12:52 PM



“ To Debbie, Kermit, And Marina's loved one's. You are all in our every loving thoughts and prayers. God gave this special girl to you. HE knew who would love her forever and ever, and give her all her special needs. God Bless You All..

**Junie and Larry Decker** - November 04, 2018 at 12:55 PM

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“ I only visited Marina 4 or 5 times but she was always smiling and seemed to acknowledge the presence of a person in the room. I regret not visiting more often but know she was in the hands of a very loving family that took care of her completely. There is a new Halo now in heaven.



**Catherine Atherton** - November 04, 2018 at 08:59 AM

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“ I never had the privilege of meeting Marina in person yet I got to know her very well from her father, a family friend since we were a couple of youngsters growing up and discovering the world. Marina was very fortunate to have such loving, caring, and dedicated parents. I nominate both of them for Sainthood

**Larry and Kim Snow** - November 03, 2018 at 11:33 PM



“ Heaven gained a beautiful angel. Prayers for her devoted mom and dad, Debbe and Kermit.

**Vickie and Gordie Reid** - November 03, 2018 at 02:37 PM

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“ So Sorry For your Loss. Prayers are sent to you and yours.  
Love Your Cousin,  
Suzanne Scobey Lich  
(Gerald and Marjorie's Daughter.)

**Suzanne Lich** - November 02, 2018 at 10:26 AM



“ We are so, so sorry for your loss. Your entire family is in our thoughts and prayers. Marina was a very special girl with alot of love to give. She couldn't have had the wonderful life she had, if it weren't for you two, and the devoted family support behind you. Marina will always be a member of our family. PLease don't hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can do for you.

God Bless You... Beekman Center

**Tammy Reynolds** - November 07, 2018 at 06:36 PM



“ Peggy and I are so sorry to hear the news of your daughter's passing. We know how much you loved her and as others have said you gave her a beautiful life. God bless you all at this time

**Michael** - November 28, 2018 at 12:57 PM