



Deborah Starr Nelson

August 15, 1948 - November 13, 2023

Deborah Starr Nelson was born on August 15, 1948, in Cadillac, Michigan to R. Albert and Izetta Nelson. Debbie was the youngest of nine children, all of whom predeceased her except for her brother, Buck (Louise) Nelson who resides in Sweden. Debbie lived in Lansing and traveled with friends as a young woman throughout Europe staying in youth hostels. After graduating from Central Michigan University, Debbie worked in a nursing home in Cadillac before moving to Lansing in 1979. Debbie was hired by the then Ingham County Medical Center as a unit coordinator and later advanced to Executive Secretary for various Directors of Nursing at the now McLaren Hospital. Debbie retired from McLaren and in her retirement life, volunteered at City Rescue Mission and other charities.

Debbie was a special, loving woman who had the gift of being a listener and encourager to others. Her heart was huge and she contributed much to those who knew her. Debbie had a strong faith in Christ and served others as Christ wanted us to do. Debbie was generous with her time and finances and loved little children. All who knew her were touched by her life. Alzheimer Disease ravaged her mind, but not her spirit.

Debbie is predeceased by her sister, Nanalou, who passed at a young age; three brothers, Kenneth (Nora) Nelson, Norman (June) Nelson, and Duane (Shirley) Nelson; and three sisters, JoAnn (Ralph) Kunkle, Betty (Clyde)

Harris, and Cindy (Hal) Leader. Several nieces and nephews survive her. Debbie was a very special member of the Woodard Family and will be missed by all family and extended family.

Family would like to thank and commend Fairview Nursing Facility in Grand Ledge for taking excellent, patient, and most of all loving care of Debbie. CorsoCare Hospice provided hospice services and various departments were very helpful to Debbie to ease her transition.

Final arrangements are by Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. We would like to thank Tyler Pray for stepping in and helping us as we navigated this final passage for Debbie.

Due to travel arrangements and the possibility of inclement weather, A Celebration of Life is planned for May, 2024.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ I met Deborah when she was the Executive Secretary for Deb LeBlanc. I always remember her helpful nature and beautiful smile. I am so sorry for your loss. May you find peace and comfort as you learn to move forward without her. She was a beautiful soul.

Michelle Harper - November 21, 2023 at 04:17 PM

SH

“ It's been many years but I have many sweet memories of times spent with Debbie. She touched so many lives and we will miss her, but I rejoice and look forward to the day we meet again in Heaven.

Sheree Hanna - November 21, 2023 at 01:14 PM

GJ

“ I am so grateful to have known Debbie. She was always so gracious to remember my birthday and to speak encouraging words to me every time I saw her. She is missed very much. I'm grateful to know we will be reunited with so many others for eternity. See you later, Debbie!

Gina Johnsen - November 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM

DN

“ A friend's death is a great sorrow for all who loved her. I mourn for her beautiful friendship of 50 years, but I rejoice in the fact I know where my friend is. And that she is Healed, Happy and Whole...
I'll see you again someday Debbie Starr ❤️

Donna J. Newell - November 21, 2023 at 08:23 AM

SP

“ It was a pleasure knowing Debbie back in our unit coordinator days. We lost contact over the years though. Now she is in the presence of God. R.I.P. Debbie.

Sandy Peabody - November 20, 2023 at 10:03 AM

BK

“ I'll always remember your sweet giving spirit and kind heart. Rest in peace dear friend. Memories from many years ago are fresh in my mind today.
Ken & Betty Keast

Betty Keast - November 20, 2023 at 10:02 AM

MW

“ Always a joy to work with at Ingram Medical Center Nursing office. So many great thoughts and prayers to the family

Michael Williams - November 20, 2023 at 07:11 AM

LB

“ I met Debbie in my early days at Ingham when she was working with Dorothea. She was sweet and caring, and always with a smile. May she rest in peace.

Linda Brown - November 20, 2023 at 04:25 AM

JM

“ I worked with Deb for many years as she was an excellent unit coordinator before moving on to work with many DON. I will keep the family in prayer

Jaye Murphy - November 19, 2023 at 08:56 PM

BF

“ *Debbie was such a sweet person. I'm glad that her suffering is over & heaven her reward.*

Betty Milbourn Fitzpatrick

Betty Fitzpatrick - November 18, 2023 at 01:37 PM