



Debra Marie DeCoster

April 4, 1958 - March 26, 2021

Debra Marie (Stephenson) DeCoster, 62 of Kansas City, Kansas passed away on March 26, 2021. Debra was born in Kansas City, Kansas on April 4, 1958, attending Saint Benedicts grade school and graduated from Bishop Ward High School in 1976. She attended college at St. Mary's College from 1976-1979, now known as the University of Saint Mary.

She met her husband, George "Joe" DeCoster Jr. at a Halloween party and their first date was a night at the movies to see two horror films. They were married on April 21, 1979, and would have celebrated 42 years of marriage this April.

She worked at Hallmark Cards Inc. for 13 years until she had her daughter Jennifer and became a stay-at-home mom, she had her second daughter, Sarah 18 months later. She has been a freelance writer for 26 years writing for the Kansas City Kansan, Kansas City Star, Shawnee Magazine, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth Neighborhood News as a freelance feature writer, Kansas Magazine, Woman's Own, and New York Daily News. She was currently a Staff Reporter for the Kansas City Hispanic Newspaper. She began working with the KC Hispanic Newspaper in 2005, working with them for 16 years. She was also a member of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Kansas City Press Club for 10 years and served as President for 2 years in 2010-2012. Debra was a gifted writer receiving many awards for her writing which she proudly showed off.

Debra loved spending time with her family and friends and especially her 2 ½-

year-old grandson, Liam. Her passions were writing, gardening, and her animals. She took care of a variety of animals including cats, dogs, rabbits, chickens, ducks, quail, a pigeon, a chucker, and many others as she was a volunteer and worked in PR with Operation Wildlife. Her family always joked there was an invisible sign in the yard that said “all animals welcome here” as she took in many injured, abused, and abandoned animals.

Debra is survived by her husband George, her two daughters Jennifer and her husband Josh of Olathe, Kansas, and Sarah and her husband Aaron and grandson Liam of Kingston, Tennessee who love her and will miss her so much. As well as her sister, Carol Cowdrey and her husband Bob and two nephews, Rob and Ryan Cowdrey.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Earl LeRoy and Catherine Stephenson. Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6th at Our Lady of Unity: Sacred Heart. Burial will be at Chapel Hill Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Debra’s memory to Operation Wildlife.

Cemetery Details

Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens

Kansas City, KS

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
2646 S. 34th St.
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 677-1277

Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Debra Marie DeCoster*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - April 02, 2021 at 04:56 PM



“ *Debra Marie DeCoster*

October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *Debra Marie DeCoster*

September 17, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra Marie DeCoster.*



April 05, 2021 at 10:04 AM

AM

“ *Ann Meyers lit a candle in memory of Debra Marie DeCoster*



Ann Meyers - April 04, 2021 at 05:34 AM

AM

“ *Ann Meyers sent a virtual gift in memory of Debra Marie DeCoster*



Ann Meyers - April 04, 2021 at 05:34 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra Marie DeCoster.*



April 03, 2021 at 10:29 PM



“ 162 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - April 02, 2021 at 04:52 PM

PP

“ *Debbie, as a reporter, interviewed me often about events in our community. She looked for the personal impact. I always enjoyed visiting with her at church. My prayers go out to the girls and Joe.*

Pat Pettey

Pat Pettey - April 01, 2021 at 08:15 AM

CB

“ *Debbie and I rode to Bishop Ward High school every day for 4 years. We just lived a few blocks from each other. My mom drove us the first 2 years and then when I got my car I took us. She would wait on the corner of Orville and 32nd street no matter the weather. We enjoyed our rides together! We didn't have classes together but we could share other aspects of days so there was never a lack of things to talk about.*

After graduation we went our separate and touched base a few times these past few years through Facebook. I'm glad I found her again and am proud of her accomplishments.

May she Rest In Peace and May you all remember the good times with a smile on your faces!

Connie Stawowy Bradbury - March 31, 2021 at 10:50 PM

JF

I am so sorry to hear about Debra's death. She was a talented and persevering journalist and writer. She was a freelancer for The Star when I headed the KCK bureau from 1995 to 2004. It was always a pleasure to work with her. I reconnected with her later after she had written a book. She loved KCK and made a mark on the community. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her family.

Jim Fitzpatrick - April 02, 2021 at 09:54 AM