



Debra L (Wirthele) Todd

October 10, 1958 - December 25, 2021

Debra Lea (née Wirthele) Todd, age 63, passed away peacefully in her home in Omaha, NE on Christmas Day, December 25th, 2021, after a courageous battle with esophageal cancer. Her family was by her side and cared for her until the end.

Debbie was born on October 10, 1958 in Lincoln, NE to Paul Arnold and Carole Ann (née Yearsley) Wirthele. Debbie attended school and lived in Burr, NE during her childhood, and then attended Douglas High School, graduating in 1976. She attended the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, and earned her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics in 1980. While attending UNL, she met the love of her life, Steve, who later told his father that he fell in love with her because she was “always smiling.” After graduation, the couple married on June 14th, 1980. They made their home in Illinois, where after a few short years, they became parents. The pair missed the “Good Life” back in Nebraska and returned to Omaha, expanded their family, and eventually moved to Kearney, Nebraska, where Debbie worked as a paraprofessional in Kearney Public Schools for twenty years. Debbie retired in the fall of 2020, after she had a benign brain tumor removed. This was, unfortunately, only the beginning of her health problems.

Debbie loved being a mother, raising her three children, Laura, Bryan, and Lisa. Someone once said that only the best mothers get promoted to

grandmothers, and Debbie took her next role seriously too. She was the best grandma, spoiling her grandbabies with sweets, surprises, and so much love. Her love of children was apparent in her choice of a career; she worked with children in two different school districts for almost thirty years total despite having other career qualifications.

Most people knew Debbie for her laugh and her smile. She collected windsocks, whimsical knickknacks (especially birds and holiday and seasonal decor), and was easily distracted by her house plants. She was an avid reader and enjoyed perusing Pinterest and cookbooks for new ideas. Debbie loved to bake for her family, whether it was the long list of family cookies at Christmas, homemade rolls at Thanksgiving, or her husband's favorite chocolate chip cookies or brownies. Although she tried to impart her housekeeping skills to her children, each of the three have only had varying degrees of success in upholding her cleanliness values. It was clear that she felt a clean home was a source of pride and joy. Together, Debbie and Steve enjoyed traveling, attending Husker games, and spending time with family during their long marriage.

Debbie was preceded in death by her father and mother. She is survived by her husband of forty-one years, Steve, her three children, Laura Cushing (Denton), Bryan Todd (Addi Schurrer), and Lisa Williams (Raymond), her brothers, Craig Wirthele (Cheri) and Paul Wirthele (Chris), her sister, Patty Bassett (Steven), her grandchildren, Carter and Layla Cushing, and Sophie Williams, three granddogs, numerous nieces and nephews, and many other friends and family.

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

21901 W. Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68022

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

DEC 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
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Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - December 28, 2021 at 10:55 AM



“ *Debra L (Wirthele) Todd*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Love you, mom.*



Laura Cushing - January 01, 2022 at 04:14 PM



“ *Sandra Neubauer lit a candle in memory of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd*



Sandra Neubauer - December 30, 2021 at 12:45 PM

WB

“ Wendy Boukal lit a candle in memory of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd



Wendy Boukal - December 30, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ Though we lived far apart, whenever I was able to come back for reunions or just get together, Deb and Steve always made the effort to spend time with us. Deb's warm smile and engaging personality made her so very likeable. She and Steve just seemed to complement each other. I am praying for your family, that God's presence, comfort, and peace would soothe your hurting hearts.
Gretchen Link Hendrickson

Russel Hendrickson - December 30, 2021 at 11:55 AM

BR

“ Bryan, Steve, Laura and Lisa--I'm thinking of you, and of your mom, making sun tea on the porch of your blue house in Millard, whipping up a Huskers' game-day feast, rolling her eyes at Bryan and me. I can't make it to Nebraska, but for a few years there, she was like a mom to me too, and I'll never forget or stop appreciating that.
Love,
Ben

Ben Richmond - December 29, 2021 at 07:37 PM

LC

Thanks Ben. ❤️

Laura Cushing - December 30, 2021 at 01:40 AM

SH

“ *Sheryl Hansen lit a candle in memory of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd*



Sheryl Hansen - December 29, 2021 at 07:06 PM

SH

*Debbie and I were roommates at UNL, with Patty we lived over by East Campus. Debbie and Steve moved to Kearney and I actually showed her around town before they moved here....we were members of the same church...Holy Cross Lutheran. Debbie stayed busy at school and with her kids...I will always remember her brilliant smile....
Sheryl (Yost) Hansen*

Sheryl Hansen - December 29, 2021 at 07:09 PM

LC

Hi Sheryl. I am trying hard to keep smiling for mom.

Laura Cushing - December 30, 2021 at 01:42 AM

MN

“ *Steve, Laura, Bryan and Lisa we are saddened to hear of your loss. We lived next to you on Josephine when we became friends. We moved to South Dakota 29 years ago and have been getting our regular updates from Debbie in Christmas card exchanges. Debbie will always be remembered as the wonderful person we all knew and loved. We are praying for you and hoping that in time, peace and comfort will heal your hearts. Mary and Mike Nelson*

Mary Nelson - December 29, 2021 at 06:39 PM

LC

Hi! I definitely remember you two. Thank you. ❤️

Laura Cushing - December 30, 2021 at 01:41 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd.



December 29, 2021 at 05:23 PM



“ Dear Todd family, so so sorry for your loss. Sympathy and prayers for peace and comfort at this time.

Judy Stroy

Judy Stroy - December 29, 2021 at 01:08 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd.



December 29, 2021 at 01:26 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd.



December 28, 2021 at 08:33 PM

CT

“ Chris, Kelleen and Izzy Todd purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd.



Chris, Kelleen and Izzy Todd - December 28, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd.



December 28, 2021 at 05:11 PM

AO

“ Aimee & Lowell Owen purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd.



Aimee & Lowell Owen - December 28, 2021 at 10:07 AM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Debra L (Wirthele) Todd.



December 27, 2021 at 07:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of
Debra L (Wirthele) Todd.



December 27, 2021 at 04:19 PM