



Deborah Kathlyn Bunkholt

December 17, 1949 - April 19, 2024

Deborah Bunkholt, 74, of Bloomington MN, was surrounded by family when she passed away on April 19, 2024. She was born on December 17, 1949, in Albany, MN and graduated from Lincoln High School.

She married Clarence Bunkholt Jr. in 1968 and they had two children, C.B. (Clarence III) and Erik. Deb was preceded in death by her parents Al Heinen, Millie Heinen, and husband Clarence Bunkholt Jr. She is survived by her sons, C.B. (Gigi), Erik (Shauna), and Ben, siblings Les (Judy), Joan (Pat), Jean (Joe), Beverly (Rik), Kathy, grandchildren Natalie (Mitch) Radcliff, Nicole Westlund, Jon, Brandt and Kylee Bunkholt, and great grandchild Colter Radcliff.

Deb began her 53-year career for the Bloomington Public Schools shortly after high school and was set to retire in June 2024. She was the executive assistant to five of the nine BPS superintendents and secretary for the Board of Education. The passion of her work inspired all to strive for excellence and to never settle for anything less than the best.

Deb was deeply rooted in the community through her involvement in many organizations. As a black belt instructor for the Bloomington Karate Center, she helped shape countless students on their martial arts journey.

Deb enjoyed riding her Harley, spending time up North, and listening to Elvis. She found joy in so many things life had to offer, but of all the things she enjoyed, nothing could outweigh the love and joy she found in her family and friends. She will be deeply missed and forever in our hearts.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Bloomington Knights of Columbus Event Center, 1114 American Blvd West, Bloomington, MN, on Saturday, May 18th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm, with commemorations starting at 1:15.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 18. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Knights of Columbus Event Center
1114 American Blvd West
Bloomington, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Marek's Towing Family & Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Kathlyn Bunkholt.*

Marek's Towing Family & Staff - May 09, 2024 at 03:36 PM



“ *Heavenly and Harmony was purchased for the family of Deborah Kathlyn Bunkholt.*



May 09, 2024 at 03:36 PM

BB

“My sweet sister, the special person that kept me and so many others grounded here on this earth. I miss you and go to call you or text you every day. I get in my car and it tells me how many minutes it will take to get to your home. I was always comforted by seeing you and being with you because you answered your phone in an upbeat voice and said you were fine, regardless of the amount of pain you were experiencing. I will always feel your strength and hear your voice, “I’ll need to sit with this information for a while” even after hearing the toughest news...the cancer has spread, you have another fracture from the mass in your spine, your lungs are filling with fluid, I’m sorry but we can’t do anything about the blood clots in your legs. We would never want to put anything negative out into the universe, so we held hands and sat silently. In spite of the seriousness of the diagnosis, you continued to fight. You were a warrior and lived by the motto we found on the wall at our first oncology appointment: “I am too positive to be doubtful, too optimistic to be fearful, and too determined to be defeated.” I am relieved and grateful that the Lord alleviated your suffering and welcomed you home with Elvis songs and open arms. It was an honor to be your sister and friend. I know you wouldn’t want me crying but rather celebrating your life. You left such a legacy: LOVE your family, be your best for others, offer the world a smile, strength and support. I hope we all strive to be a better person every day, that we realize the affect our attitudes, words and actions have on others. Goodbye for now. I will see you in heaven for our next adventure...maybe as backup singers :)

Beverly Berkgigler - May 08, 2024 at 09:29 AM

LA

Deb you were one of the most thoughtful and caring friends a person could have in their lives. I will always treasure that friendship. Over the years we worked together, I enjoyed your humor, honesty, loyalty, talent, and enthusiasm. You were dedicated and professional. I will miss our chats.

Leila Anderson - May 08, 2024 at 03:08 PM

MA

Deb and I had a unique relationship. As a teacher, union leader, and community activist we went through many challenges including 5 superintendents each with their own personalities. I never knew you to be anything but upbeat, facilitative and positive. Due to your amazing talents I came to consider you a colleague and a friend. You will be missed.

Marcia Averbook - May 10, 2024 at 08:01 PM

BK

*Sweet Debbie,
I will miss you more than you could ever know. You were the most unique person I have ever known. You were one of those special angels that was planted here on this earth to teach us what kindness, unselfishness, loyalty, caring and love was all about. None of us is perfect but to me you were. You never said an unkind word about anyone and you always knew the right things to say and do in so many situations.*

You were an amazing Executive Assistant but an even more amazing friend. I will cherish our friendship and the many fun memories we created.

I always told you what a warrior you were during these last 10 months, even to the very end. It broke my heart to watch you as you struggled to stay strong and positive even though you were in such pain and knew you were losing the battle.

I will continue to miss you but will hang on to the many fun memories we had. Rest in peace. I love you! Barb

Barb Kranz - May 17, 2024 at 05:47 PM

CQ

“ I’ve know Deb for well over 30 years- one of my best friends Moms and one of my Moms best friends! Deb was such a wonderful woman, mother, friend and influence. She was such a great friend to my Mom and was such a comfort to me while my mom was dying. I am sorry for her families loss but so grateful my mom and Deb are hanging out with Elvis and that Clarence and Deb are reunited❤️

Colleen Wilkinson Quade - May 07, 2024 at 09:25 PM