



Denise "DeeAnne" Annette Bonebright

November 20, 1959 - May 13, 2022

Denise Annette "DeeAnne" Bonebright (nee Gardner)

Beloved wife, mom, grandma, daughter, sister, friend, DeeAnne Bonebright passed away suddenly from a ruptured aneurysm on May 13, 2022 at the age of 62.

DeeAnne was born in Oakland, California on November 20, 1959. The oldest of three sisters in a pastor's family, she moved with her parents from Berkeley to Corwith, Iowa, then to Mobridge, South Dakota, Neenah, Wisconsin and finally in 1972 moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1978 DeeAnne met Cecil during college and two years later, they were married at her home church, Central Baptist Church of St. Paul. They set down roots in the Como Park area and raised their children James and Alicia.

The Bonebright family became faithfully active and remained longtime members of Central Baptist Church. At the time of DeeAnne's death she had been serving as Chair of the Board and had worked diligently toward rebuilding a church structure to last for future generations.

DeeAnne was a gifted academic and women's advocate. As a PhD. in Organizational Leadership and Policy Development from the University of Minnesota, DeeAnne's published work centered on topics of leadership

development for women. DeeAnne served on a Sexual Violence Task Force, and as the Director of the Women's Leadership Institute for 11 years during her tenure at the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. She was passionate about creating systems that train and empower both women and men to achieve their full potential.

DeeAnne was a voracious reader and learner who loved travel, hiking, bird watching, gardening and flowers. She went on several mission trips to the Children's Shelter of Cebu, an organization she passionately loved and served. She treasured friends, book clubs, holidays, and could take anything and turn it into soup!

By far, DeeAnne's greatest joy in life was her family. She found great fulfillment in parenting and watching the growth and maturity of her children James and Alicia. She was overflowing with the expectation of becoming a grandma to two grandbabies. Two days prior to her death, DeeAnne was thrilled to welcome granddaughter, Penelope. She died while still in happy anticipation of the arrival of her second grandbaby, the gender of which would be a surprise to everyone. Annette Mae was born 5 days after DeeAnne passed.

DeeAnne is survived by her husband of 42 years, Cecil; son James (Rachael) Bonebright, daughter Alicia (Scott Lopez) Beinbrech and granddaughters Penelope Jeanne and Annette Mae. She is also survived by her parents LeRoy and Shirley Gardner, sisters Jill Pagel and Carol Pollitt, brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, a niece, nephews, great-nephews, a great-niece and many friends.

Please join us in celebrating her life at her Memorial Service on June 11, 2022 at 11:00am. There will be a visitation at 10:00am, one hour before the Memorial Service at Central Baptist Church 420 N. Roy Street, St. Paul, MN

55104.

This event will be livestreamed at: www.centralbaptistchurch.com.

Memorials to Children's Shelter of Cebu -- <https://cebushelter.org/donate>

Tribute Wall

PS

“ *It was always a pleasure to be in meetings with DeeAnne, she will be missed by the University communities she served!* ”



Peg Sherven - July 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *As a former director of the University of MN Women's Center, I had the privilege of working with DeeAnne on several programs. Her passion and commitment about women's issues was evident, and her optimism in achieving advances for women was ever present in her smile, no matter the challenges.* ”

Clara Walter-Marchetti - July 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ *As co-leader of the Women's Leadership institute with DeeAnne, once I became the Women's Center Director, and soon her friend, I am so sorry to hear this sad news. I feel so very lucky to have met DeeAnne and learned so much from her as a compassionate, supportive leader willing to take risks and try new things. Her legacy lives on in all of the amazing leaders she supported in their own journeys. Thanks DeeAnne!* ”

Peg Lonquist - June 30, 2022 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *So sad; You will be missed by the many U of M staff who worked with you to improve the climate.* ”

Kay Cooper - June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *DeeAnne led the Women's Leadership Institute at the U when I participated many years ago. She was a lovely, smart, positive, and inclusive person. My condolences to her family for losing a bright star so suddenly.*

Susannah Smith - June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *As one of the many of DeeAnne's University of Minnesota colleagues and a participant in the Women's Leadership institute that she led back in 2003, I am so sorry to hear this sad news and share my sympathy with her family and friends. I feel so very lucky to have met DeeAnne early in my career. I learned so much from her model of humane, compassionate, and supportive leadership, and she continues to inspire me.*

Kirsten Jamsen - June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *I worked with DeeAnne via HERC and via her role at the system office. She was always so kind and helpful. It was such a shock to hear of her passing. Condolences to her family, close friends and our MinnState colleagues who had the privilege to work with her. DeeAnne will be missed by all.*

Kim Claggett - June 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ I am so saddened to hear of this tragic loss. DeeAnne's kindness and love and support of others lives on within the MinnState system. When I was diagnosed with stage 4 Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma last year, DeeAnne took time to reach out to me and share the news with colleagues and friends. Her love was a ripple effect that lead to many notes of support and positive vibes. I only wish I could do so much for her and her surviving family. To her husband and loved ones, she is with you in spirit, watching over you as your guardian angel now. Sending all my love..
~Chelsea Anderson

Chelsea Anderson - June 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Prayers for peace and healing during this time.

Catherine Ford - June 07, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Please accept my sincere condolences. DeeAnne was a key pay of my Luoma Leadership experience.

Matt Bissonette - June 07, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ Cecil and family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. I was a Luoma candidate and worked with DeeAnne during my training. DeeAnne was such a kind and good person. I was always so impressed how she delivered professionalism with such caring and kindness in her ways. I will forever remember DeeAnne as an inspiration and someone I could only hope to be more like in life. DeeAnne was a beautiful person inside and out. She will be very missed.



Lynnette Lancor - June 07, 2022 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I was fortunate to work with DeeAnne for many years when we both were with University of Minnesota. She was inspiring! She brought her intellect, heart and soul to all she did. She is missed!



Kate Schaefer - June 06, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ My sincere condolences to this family of DeeAnne. She was so vibrant and giving. How wonderful she got to see and hold her first Granddaughter, but oh so sad her second is only seen from Heaven above. Thank you for all she did for Central Baptist Church.

Judy Morneau - June 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JM

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Judy Morneau - June 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ DeeAnne was such a bright spot in my life, and I will miss her. She always brought a creative, thoughtful and joyful energy into the workplace which made such a difference. I am so grateful she was able to meet her grandchild before passing over. Condolences to her family. Marie Villano

Marie Villano - May 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Love and prayers for DeeAnne and her family during this difficult time. I have loving memories of working with her at UMN. She was gracious and very caring in all that she did. May you rest in peace, Dear DeeAnne.



Jeanne Schulze - May 19, 2022 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ I am so, so sorry to hear the news of DeeAnne's passing. What a hard-working and professional colleague she was during my time in the U of M HR department. Condolences to her family and friends.

Patty Bales - May 17, 2022 at 12:00 AM