



## Denise Gayle Johnson

December 3, 1956 - September 11, 2021

Johnson, Denise Gayle (Hoyt) Born December 3, 1956 and died September 11, 2021. Survived by son Cory (Kelly), daughter Jenna, brothers Steve (Paula) and Brad (Heidi), aunt Gail Emerson, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by mother Gayle, father Bruce & brother Lawrence. Denise graduated from Lincoln High School (Bloomington), the University of Minnesota, and attended William Mitchell College of Law. She worked for the family company, Hoyt Construction. Denise was married in 1987 to Joel Johnson and was blessed with two (2) wonderful children. She loved being a mom and was a loving daughter. Known affectionately as "Dennis" to her children's friends, she relished being the cool parent and making her kids and everyone laugh. She was a fantastic mother to several dogs throughout her life and instilled a love of animals in her children. She loved mystery novels, game shows, chocolate ice cream and plain hamburgers with pickle only. She was very witty, had an incredible grasp of current events, and had an infectious laugh. Denise contracted idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) at age 50, received a lung transplant at the University of Minnesota shortly thereafter, and was one of the longest surviving lung transplant recipients in the country. She was grateful to the organ donor who extended her life by 15 years and encourages everyone to consider organ donation. A Memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 9 at 11am with gathering one hour prior at: Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996 West 50th St. & Hwy 100



# Cemetery Details

## Hillside Cemetery

2600 19th Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
(612) 781-3391  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436  
(952) 920-3996  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

# Tribute Wall

SD

“ I will never, ever forget Denise (and Larry's) laugh. So contagious. She was so witty and spoke sarcasm fluently. So many good memories. You will always be alive in my heart, my old friend. 💜💛🌷



Sandy Dwyer - October 09, 2021 at 01:55 PM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Denise Gayle Johnson.



October 08, 2021 at 04:10 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Denise Gayle Johnson.



October 07, 2021 at 04:59 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Denise Gayle Johnson.



October 03, 2021 at 05:27 PM