



Debra Gay Spike

SEP 13, 1952 - OCT 15, 2016



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Debra Gay Spike

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In the early morning of October 15th, 2016, Debra Gay Spike passed away peacefully in her home after the bravest fight with cancer anyone had ever seen. Her closest family was with her: her husband Jeff, her children, Stephanie (Dmitry), Gregory (Tamara) and Jonathan Spike, and her brother Ronnie Gibbons. Her three grandsons, Nathan, Jonas and Luca were always on her mind, if not nearby. Debbie was born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri to Marvin and Dorothy Gibbons in 1952. She married her high school sweetheart in St. Louis in 1970. She raised their children during his career in the military and then she found her own. Debbie earned two nursing degrees and was very proud of her more than 30 years of exemplary service. She will be remembered for always putting family and patients before herself. She loved reading, holidays and decorating her farmhouse with antiques. Debbie retired from the Florida Department of Health in 2014 and was able to enjoy some rest before her diagnosis. Her struggle and her husband's caregiving can be no better testament to who they are.

A graveside service will be at the Tallahassee National Cemetery on Friday, October 21st at 10:00am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the American Cancer Society.



Events


Debra Gay Spike

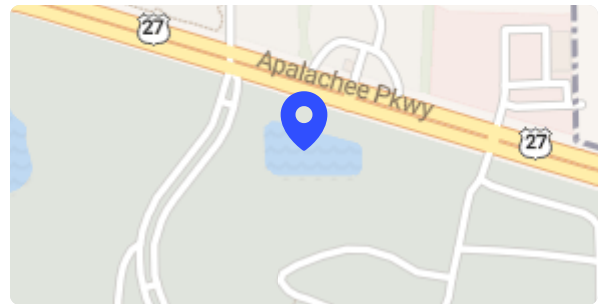
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Graveside Service

 **Friday**, October 21, 2016

 10:00 AM ET

 **Tallahassee National Cemetery**
5015 Apalachee Pkwy, Tallahassee FL 32311





Tribute Wall

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JL

Johnny Lloyd posted:

I would like to offer my heart felt condolences to the family of Debbie Spike. As a TB Program Coordinator with the Bureau of TB and Refugee Health. I could always depend on Debbie to provide me with the assistance I needed and words of encouragement, so many times we would just talk about the state of the TB Program and she would always give me sound advise. I spoke with her the week before she retired and told her that I would miss her. She has always been a constant wind on a sea of uncertainty. You Will be Missed. Johnny Lloyd

October 24 at 5:05 AM

CB

Cynthia Benjamin posted:

My deepest condolences to the family of Debbie Spike. I met Debbie while she worked in School Health at the Duval County Health Department in Jacksonville, but I got to know her when we worked together at the Bureau of TB and Refugee Health in Leon County Tallahassee Florida. Debbie had such a sweet spirit about her. She had that soft calming voice when she spoke with you. I am glad I got to work with and know her. I know she is now residing with the angels and our heavenly father. May the family find comfort in your memories of your wife, mother, sister and grand-mother. She will be missed not only by you, but by the many people whose lives she touched. Cynthia Benjamin

October 21 at 4:54 AM

ML

Michelle Laycock posted:

Sending sincere condolences to the entire family. I had the pleasure of having Debbie as my first coordinator when I began in school health in Duval County in 2001. She was sweet, patient, and just a delight to be around. May your many memories offer comfort in the days and months ahead. Michelle Laycock, RN

October 20 at 9:08 AM

CJ

Cannella Jefferies posted:

To an extraordinary friend and fellow co-worker, Debbie always treated everyone with such kindness and respect. Her warm and loving spirit will remain in my heart forever. To the family my prayers and condolences are with you all during this difficult time. Cannella Jefferies

October 20 at 6:31 AM



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SA

Sevim Ahmedov posted:

Debbie was, for me she always is, one of finest human beings who epitomized the kindness, thoughtfulness and gracefulness of God which we all carry in our souls but do not always fully exhibit in our daily lives. Debbie made it look easy to put humanity and caring about family, patients, friends, co-workers, inmates you name it, selfishly above everything else; her generosity of spirit and giving it all, and at all times, left an indelible mark on me and set an example which is darn hard to follow. Although I've met Debbie through work, she became one of my closest friends and I enjoyed tremendously every minute of our interactions even when they took place in strange places like Florida prisons while doing outbreak investigations or being stranded on the side of the highway because we ran out of gas (thank you Jose) in the middle of the Panhandle..I know she is in a much better place now doing I am sure what she always does: caring and comforting with a smile and open heart that illuminates those of us left behind to think of her, miss her, cherish her memories, and strive to be better fathers, husbands, sons and simply human beings. For that, thank you Debbie!My sincere condolences to all the family..sevim

October 20 at 1:21 AM

GS

Geneva Saulsberry posted:

I never got to meet Debbie "in person" but I can still hear her voice on the countless TB Conference calls that we shared over the years. I'll remember her most for her patience and kindness in assisting new TB nurses to insure that they received the information or training they needed in order to do their jobs well. My condolences and prayers to Debbie's family as they go through this time in their lives.

October 19 at 10:02 AM

CB

Connie Bane posted:

The first time I met Debbie was at the TB comprehensive course at A.G. Holley. I always felt a connection to her after that class. She always made herself available to assist when I had TB questions. I hated it when she retired but I am glad she had that time with her family.I will keep the family in my prayers and pray for God's peace, comfort and love during this difficult time.Connie Bane

October 19 at 9:09 AM



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MW

Marcia Woodham posted:

My condolences to the family. Debbie was a great TB mentor and my "go to " on many occasions. She will be missed by many. May God bless the family with His peace and comfort .Marcia

October 19 at 6:08 AM

KF

Karen Farrell posted:

I am very grateful for the time I worked with and for Debbie in the TB Control Program! Debbie was dedicated to assisting nurses in TB Control throughout Florida. She always had time to listen, comfort and advocate for the needs of the staff and clients that she served. I will miss her very much. My deepest condolences to her husband and family! Karen

October 19 at 5:09 AM

KW

Kathy Walker October 24 at 9:08 AM

My condolences to Debbie's family. She offered so much guidance and support to the nurses throughout the state and did so with a cheerful demeanor and a smile. She will be greatly missed. I am so sorry to hear of her passing.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Debra by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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