



Debra "Debbie" Kay Woods

September 19, 1952 - December 8, 2024

Debra "Debbie" Kay Woods, 72, of Petersburg, Illinois, passed away to her Heavenly home on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at Memorial Hospital in Springfield, Illinois. She was born on September 19, 1952, in Rushville, Illinois, to James and Yuvonne (Dew) Combs. Debbie had one sister Vicki (Milo) Vogt who preceded her in death in 2018. Debbie was a proud Oakford girl before moving to Petersburg.

Debbie met the love of her life Richard "Rick" Woods in 1972. She was the mascot for the Lincoln Land Loggers and cheered Rick on in basketball. They married on November 2, 1974. Debbie and Rick had 2 children, Eric and Emily, who loved her with all their hearts. She was always their number one fan. Years later she became "Memaw" to her grandchildren she adored. She attended any event that showed support for her children and grandchildren and was always their loudest cheerleader.

Debbie was a Teacher's Assistant at PORTA Elementary School for over 30 years. She was involved in many organizations such as Menard County Fair Woman's Committee, Menard Caring, the Menard County Singers, Petersburg Women's Club, and volunteered delivering meals for Daily Bread. Debbie loved singing and led music to the St Paul's Evangelical Free Church where she was a faithful member.

Debbie was the kind of person that would lend a hand to anyone who asked her for help. She was kind, thoughtful and never met a stranger, one of the most selfless people. She enjoyed gardening, hummingbirds, decorating cakes, making her famous fudge, going out to eat with family and friends, and shopping at Kohl's. Debbie had a love for fireworks, she and Rick would travel many miles to watch them.

Debbie leaves behind her husband, Rick, of 50 years; Son Eric (wife Kristen) Woods, daughter Emily (significant other, Kellen Kirchner); and grandchildren Keegan, Ella, Kallie, Easton, and Emmary. Also, her in-laws, cousins, nieces, nephews and many bonus children over the years.

Cremation rites were accorded by Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg. Debbie's family is planning a Celebration of Life with services all at Wankel's in Petersburg on December 29, 2024, at 4 p.m. followed by dinner.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Town of Country Women's Club for benches at Jaycee Park, St. Jude, or St. Paul's Evangelical Free Church of Petersburg.

Please visit Debbie's online obituary at www.hurleyfh.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC **29**. 4:00 PM (CT)

Wankel's in Peterburg
18239 Kelly St.
Petersburg, IL 62675

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Debra "Debbie" Kay Woods.*



December 28, 2024 at 08:51 PM



“ *Joe Osuma & D6 LA Staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Debra "Debbie" Kay Woods.*



Joe Osuma & D6 LA Staff - December 27, 2024 at 06:52 PM



“ *Stacey James purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Debra "Debbie" Kay Woods.*



Stacey James - December 27, 2024 at 05:14 PM



“ *Hanke Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Debra "Debbie" Kay Woods.*



Hanke Family - December 24, 2024 at 10:56 AM

SF

“ Susan and Travis Flugman purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Debra "Debbie" Kay Woods.



Susan and Travis Flugman - December 16, 2024 at 02:39 PM

MB

“ To Kristen Woods and family. Extending my sympathy and prayers for peace.

Marilyn Blakeley - December 12, 2024 at 04:47 PM

LH

“ Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Debra "Debbie" Woods



Larry and Mary Hundt - December 11, 2024 at 10:37 AM

AB

“ I was a nurse at Memorial who had the pleasure of caring for Debbie for 3 days. She was a ray of sunshine even at her illest. The whole family (the tribe that just kept growing in the room ❤️) were also SO WONDERFUL. My thoughts and prayers are with all those grieving her transition. Big hugs to you all 🍷🍷🍷 ps I've been thinking about you all ever since the nursing relationship ended. Beautiful beautiful woman and soul

Ashley Bokamp - December 10, 2024 at 07:25 PM

LH

That is lovely 😊

Larry and Mary Hundt - December 11, 2024 at 10:36 AM

LW

On behalf of our family, thank you Ashley. Aunt Debbie was always so grateful to those who took care of her through her journey. ❤️

Lindsay Wilken - December 12, 2024 at 10:38 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Debra "Debbie" Kay Woods.*



December 10, 2024 at 03:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Debra "Debbie" Kay Woods.

December 10, 2024 at 03:42 PM

ML

“ *I can remember Debbie and sister Vickie when I was in Oakford grade school. I was a few years younger and these girls would try to embarrass me by asking questions and talking about "girl stuff". They were just having fun and not being mean. Debbie was always an Oakford girl and proud to have grown up there. She was a person who would roll up her sleeves and help out with whatever was needed. May she be with her maker now and have everlasting peace.*

Mark Lounsberry - December 10, 2024 at 10:34 AM

CJ

Debbie and I were friends for 50 years either singing or laughing. We were the best "Dolly Parton" duette ever, loved our families and sharing our best shopping values. Debbie had the kindest heart ever and will be so missed by many. May she rest in peace. Love, Coleen Janssen

Coleen Janssen - December 10, 2024 at 01:09 PM

KW

Thanks for sharing Mark

Kristen Woods - December 10, 2024 at 01:27 PM



Debbie, what a great friend you were from high school to our lunches with high school friends throught the past years. I will miss you so much and I know so many others will to.

Deborah Price-Schrowang - December 10, 2024 at 03:06 PM

DB

Where does a person start to talk about what a wonderful person she was. I was blessed to work with Debbie at PES and we became friends. Debbie was so creative, compassionate, and most of all loving. I have happy memories of sock hops, wiener roasts, haunted house trips, progressive dinners, and singing in many of her written skits. She was loved by so many and will be missed so much. Heaven gained a beautiful angel. Much love to Rick and his family.

DEBRA K BAUMHARDT - December 10, 2024 at 04:21 PM

MF

I got to meet Debbie when I was 16 taking care of her mom and we were friends after that and I've never met a woman as sweet and with such a huge heart and would help anyone that needed the help I loved her so much and will be missed dearly. My heart is broken. Rest in peace beautiful lady

Marilyn Ferrell - December 10, 2024 at 10:46 PM

BF

Such a loss. Hearing the news was sad. Deepest sympathies for Rick, Eric, and Emily.

bethany flynn - December 11, 2024 at 01:53 AM

JP

Debbie was a wonderful person. It was my pleasure to be your boss for number of years. She was anal part of PES. I will miss her greatly John Peters.

john peters - December 11, 2024 at 12:01 PM

VW

My deepest sympathy to the family, Deb was a beautiful soul. I had the pleasure to be in Menard County Singers, and sorority with her. Her passing is a loss for many.

vickie wahlbrink - December 12, 2024 at 07:23 AM

FJ

I find that empathy is the most important characteristic a person! Debbie had her empathy which was infinite and she is missed!

Frank Washington Jr - May 07, 2025 at 01:10 AM