



Deby Jene Groves

MAR 8, 1958 - MAY 10, 2018



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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In the early morning of Thursday, May 10th, and at the budding age of 60, Deby Groves was taken from us by metastatic breast cancer. It is impossible to capture someone like Deby in something like an obituary, but you must know at least two things from the outset: Firstly, that although her legal name was Deborah Jene Groves, you could expect to be punched in the throat should you refer to her as “Deborah;” secondly, although metastatic cancer took her from us, she did not “succumb” to it after “a long battle.” Sometimes cancer just takes those we love. The fact of the matter is that anyone who knew Deby could tell you that she had more zest and desire for life than anyone else they knew. Even her oncologist called her “disco girl” as she danced through her clinic appointments.

Although I called her “mom,” over the course of her life Deby filled many roles, including daughter, sister, wife, mother, computer IT analyst, and general bad ass. Just after she was placed on hospice, I asked her for a list of her 25 favorite songs. Since mom has always been the best authority to define herself, using those lyrics seemed like the best way to capture who she was. Should you manage to identify any of the songs in her obituary, know that the two of you would have gotten along just fine.

Deby lived by the philosophy to Just go ahead, let your hair down. No matter how stressful life got, she would help her loved ones to take time Watchin’ the tide roll away. Nevertheless, life has consequences, and she taught my siblings and I that What goes up, must come down, spinning wheel got to go ‘round. While she knew that in this world The winner takes it all, the loser standing small, Deby always made it clear that what mattered most was people—that Nobody’s right if everybody’s wrong. Continually giving those she loved more chances than they deserved, she deeply understood that Your lonely nights have just begun when you love someone. As I grew up, however, I always felt like her Love will build a castle in the air.



Obituary

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Rebels been rebels since I don't know when, and Deby was a rebel. She dropped out of high school, married her sweetheart, and had the one and only Jamie Leigh Emmett Burnham at age 19. After that, life threw her plenty of curve balls. Regardless, she would Learn to take these broken wings and learn to fly; completing her GED in 1985—one year after I was born—while raising four kids in a blended family. No matter what, Deby followed her passion, knowing that You can't start a fire, you can't start a fire without a spark. Case in point, a few marriages later, she completed a general studies degree from Weber State at age 42, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology at age 52. I vividly remember her studying for exams while working full-time and raising me. From her I learned to look at life's failures and simply declare, I'll be back, back on me feet, this is far from over. Besides, Good things in life take a long time.

Absolutely no summary of my mom would be complete without acknowledging her love of quilting. Simply put, nothing would Take away [her] worries of today and leave tomorrow behind, like sewing together a quilting block. Though she also loved to Ride like the wind either on her road bike or the PT Cruiser which she inexplicably loved so much.

For all those who loved and felt of Deby's love, we are left to sing, This world was never meant for one as beautiful as you. As is now all to clear to me, Dreams of our moments together color my world. Deby is survived by her daughter, Jamie, who continues Deby's fierce love for All the hearts in all creation; by her son, Daniel Lane Lancaster, in whom she instilled her conviction to Just listen to yourself, not what other people say; by those who chose to call her "mom," including Shane and Crystal; by her siblings Gina, Jackie, Sandy, and Rick; by her father, Dick Groves; and by everyone else who will See [her] face in every flower, [her] eyes in the stars above.

Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing and loving Deby is invited to an open house memorial for her, at Alta Lodge. The memorial will be taking place on Tuesday, June 5th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Please bring your memories of Deby to share, otherwise These memories lose their meaning.



Tribute Wall

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RO

Rustin Owens posted:

Deby was a very special person. She was the first one on my new team at work to befriend me and make me feel welcome. I only had the opportunity to work with her for less than a year, but I always enjoyed our chats, her jokes, and seeing her smiling face when we were both in the office on the same days. She taught me that life is meant to LIVE, no matter what the circumstances are, you live life to the fullest with what you have. She is an inspiration and a great friend. I miss seeing her at work much! Rest in peace my dear friend! Rustin Owens

June 5 at 12:33 PM

MJ

Mike Johnson posted:

I did not know my cousin all that well, but what I do know is that she is an inspiring human being full of laughter and amazing courage. Love and miss you Deby. Cousin Mike...

May 13 at 1:02 PM

PS

Patti Spittler posted:

I met Deby on a day when we both were taking on something new and doing it alone. We were in line to register for the Avon walk for Breast Cancer. As we spoke we realized two things, we were both there alone and we had the same birthday. We were immediately connected. We became walking partners and tent mates that day, and became birthday sisters forever. After that walk we joined the AWBC crew and became members of the Rest Stop 2 Crew and shared many years doing that together. I sleep under one of Deby's quilts every night and I find comfort knowing she is wrapped around me and keeping me warm. I will miss you every day my friend.

May 13 at 9:06 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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