



Deborah Dee Simmons Richardson

MAR 13, 1954 - JUL 6, 2025



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Deborah Dee Simmons Richardson

MAR 13, 1954 - JUL 6, 2025

Deborah Dee Simmons Richardson, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully in her sleep at home on July 6, 2025 at the age of 71.

Debbie was born on March 13, 1954, in Washington, D.C., to Boyd and MarRue Simmons. Shortly after her birth, her family relocated to Seattle, Washington, and later to Salmon, Idaho, where she spent her formative years with her seven siblings Kerry, Jude, Robert, Kathy, Jim, David, and Sara, and her foster brother Joseph Firecrow. She graduated from Salmon High School in June 1972 and went on to study nursing at Brigham Young University that fall.

Debbie was married to Daniel Noorlander Jr. from 1975 to 2008, and together they raised seven children: Jamison, Danny, Spencer, Jennica, Reed, Nate, and Katelynn. Debbie worked as a nurse before dedicating herself full-time to raising her children—a role she embraced with deep devotion, love, and energy.

Debbie had an extraordinary gift for making people feel seen, loved, and important. Her life was marked by quiet, consistent service, and she touched countless lives through her compassion and care. In her later years, she recertified as a nurse and returned to the field until stepping away in 2018 due to health concerns.

In March of 2017, Debbie reconnected with an old friend from her BYU days, Dave Richardson. Their friendship blossomed into a deep love, and they were married on July 11, 2019. The following year, on July 11, 2020, they were sealed for time and all eternity. Dave was a devoted partner through Debbie's health challenges, standing faithfully by her side as she faced cancer, heart surgery, a brain aneurysm, and dementia.

Debbie's legacy lives on in her seven children and twenty-two grandchildren, each a testament to her love, faith, and strength. She is survived by her husband Dave; her children Jamison, Danny,



Obituary

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Jennica, Reed, Nate, and Katelynn with their spouses and children; and her siblings Jude, Robert, Kathy, Jim, David, and Sara.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Boyd and MarRue Simmons; her brother Kerry Simmons; foster brother Joseph Firecrow; and her beloved son Spencer Noorlander.

A funeral service to celebrate Debbie's life will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the LDS Church building located at 1674 N 200 W, Orem, Utah 84057. There will be a brief visitation prior to the funeral, from 9:30-10:30AM. For those unable to attend the service in person, a Zoom broadcast has been made available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481743556>
Meeting ID: 864 8174 3556

In lieu of a visitation on Friday evening, the family has requested that you please share your memories with Debbie on the site's memory page.

Debbie was a light in every room, a refuge to many, and a servant in every sense of the word. Her memory will continue to inspire and uplift all who were blessed to know her.

"My contribution has been to keep putting one foot in front of the other, love everyone, especially family, and never give up."

-Debbie Dee Simmons Richardson



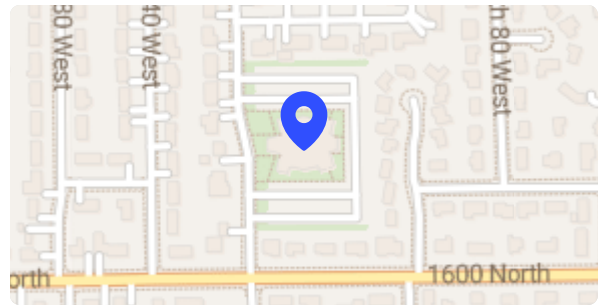
Events

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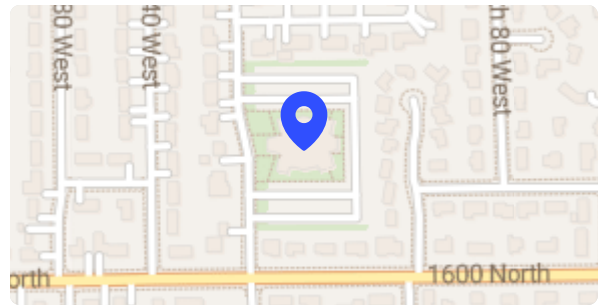
Viewing

- Saturday**, July 19, 2025
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM MT
- Northridge Stake Center**
1674 North 200 West, Orem UT



Funeral

- Saturday**, July 19, 2025
- 11:00 AM MT
- Northridge Stake Center**
1674 North 200 West, Orem UT





Tribute Wall

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AJ

Ann Jackson posted:

Debbie and I shared many joyful times, and a few sorrowful times, since two of my daughters married two of her sons. It was an honor to stand alongside her as grandmother to amazing children! And she was a great example of being a genuine friend. Until we meet again! ❤️

July 20 at 10:49 AM

CY

Cynthyb posted:

I met Debbie in 1975, when we were both working on 2A at Utah Valley Hospital. We immediately became fast friends. My mind and heart are full of beautiful memories with Debbie. I will mention a few, beginning with some that reach way back: When we both had our first child, we took them with us in their little infant carriers in which they sat while we learned to construct leaded glass as a potential job--a job which neither of us got, but we had fun trying together. Around the same time period, Debbie and I put the same two babies in her car, and drove to Salt Lake, where she introduced me to her Great-uncle Ezra Taft Benson, then of the Quorum of the Twelve. Such an honor and privilege. Afterward we went to Bratton's for a lunch of crab. We got up before dawn, another time, to deliver the care packages we had made for Thanksgiving. It never occurred to us that we were just "poor enough" ourselves to merit a care package, but it was always Debbie's mindset to serve and to give. Over the years, we sewed clothes for our children together, cleaned a new church building, drove to California together with babies in tow to deliver a car to her sister, then flew home, met countless times for a gab session and a salad bar dinner at the Sizzler in Provo, chatted on the phone, and met from time to time as our families grew, and circumstances changed. Always so much to talk about, and things of the heart to share. Debbie inspired, uplifted, and taught me--just by being herself. I was a new member of the Church when we met, and I determined right away that she was the paragon of a woman in Zion that I wanted to emulate. She was happy, truthful, candid, funny, generous, trusting, faithful, and a host of other positive adjectives that could fill a book. She was beautiful and genuine. She loved people, served them, and charmed everyone. She was smart, and never afraid to declare her faith in Jesus Christ, and in His gospel. Through Debbie, and open declarations that she was "repenting of this or that," I realized that repenting is a daily, hopeful, joyful thing. I loved her openness and the hope, joy, and vibrancy for life she always manifested. She was one-of-a-kind, and a true and loving friend. The last time I saw her, we spent a week together as she was in the midst of her heart issues, after the cancer had done its worst, during the time shortly before she married Dave. We had a friendship that spanned fifty wonderful years, but that, in truth, will last forever. I love you, Debbie, and look forward with joy to the day we will meet again! God bless and keep you. Love forever. Cynthia

July 10 at 8:18 PM



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LB

Leslie Nelson Brown sent a virtual gift in honor of Deborah.

Debbie has had a profound and eternal influence on my life. When she came with her family to Salmon she was full of sunshine, energy and love for everyone around her. She was my best friend and we laughed a lot! We enjoyed being chemistry partners and making purple eyeshadow for our project. I still remember the surprised look when she referred to our teacher one day as Brother Whitehead instead of Mister. She just thought of everyone as a member of the family of Christ. With Debbie there was fun and music and kindness and light! We enjoyed drama, skits, music, dancing, singing, eating avocados, church, school, and learning. She and her family gave me my first taste of what Family Home Evening was—they centered their lives on Christ, following the Prophet, and the Book of Mormon. She blessed my life and the lives of others. She treated everyone like a friend and never knew a stranger. No matter the circumstances she looked on the bright side of people and spoke of how good they were. She loved and delighted in her children and grandchildren. She is a perfect example of the phrase "a brightness of hope". Her greatest joy is her loved ones and Christ in her heart. I thank Heavenly Father for the wonderful blessing of her in my life. (Leslie Nelson Brown)



July 10 at 8:18 PM



Tyler Hogge posted:

I spent many days of my childhood in Debbie's home with my friends Nate and Reed. She had a home full of love even for a neighbor boy. She seemed to always have homemade bread or a fresh picked piece of fruit from the backyard. A wonderful family and a wonderful woman.

July 17 at 2:21 PM

TO

Tory posted:

Best Aunt Ever!

July 17 at 9:02 AM



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EL

Elizabeth Lang posted:

I met Debbie through the Jacksons, and she always impressed me with the energy and love she shares so abundantly with those around her. She was truly a light to those around her and I'm sorry to hear of her passing. My condolences to the whole family.

July 13 at 11:44 AM

DZ

Debbie Zenger July 17 at 2:32 PM

I met Debbie years ago while we both lived in Lindon, we were both standing in line for a movie and she had a bag of change she was trying to count out, she asked me, she didn't even know if she could give me change for dollar bills, we laughed and joked and became friends, and a instant love for here sweet funny personality.... And by the way I just paid for her tickets and let her keep her change!! I have so much respect for her generous love for others!



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GB

Gale Boyd posted:

Debbie and I met in Israel, and I've adored her ever since. She was the laughing light of our "Israel group" of friends. We didn't move back to the States from our adventures abroad until 1996. In 2001, my health collapsed, and Debbie was instrumental in getting my fibromyalgia into remission. She and I presented hormone balance classes together for years afterwards. I know they helped many women who attended. We were always in close touch during the following years, and I used to drop by her house after work after her divorce. I stayed in close touch during her cancer/heart/aneurysm journey, but she got to the point that she could no longer recognize me during her dementia journey. I've been missing her for a long time and know she's tearing it up in heaven. I can't wait until we can do that together! Love and sympathy to the whole family. Gale Boyd

July 12 at 1:35 PM

AH

Ann Hardcastle July 13 at 12:01 PM

The first time I saw Debbie when we moved to Lindon, I was struck by her beauty. I felt a little intimidated by her. We lived up the street from each other and as I got to know her better, I could see that her greatest beauty was from the inside out. She is my forever friend as we worked in church callings together, did many activities together, watched our children grow up together and saw our oldest like each other (well, I know that Kami liked Jamison ALOT and even went to the school of performing arts in Orem where he was going. I don't know for sure if Jamison liked Kami as much as she liked him). Anyway, I remember Debbie telling me once that sometimes she would be so exhausted at nite that she would fall asleep on her knees while saying her prayers. I knew she was a go getter. Baking bread every morning, running her kids to every event and activity, being the best mom and wife and incredible friend. She is my hero and I'm so thankful to her sweet husband, Dave, for being there by her side through everything she has endured. Her example and faith in Christ taught me more than I think she ever knew I am so happy she gets to be with her sweet Spencer, and is in no more pain or suffering. I will love her always. Ann Hardcastle ♥

MW

Mary Beth Wald posted:

The first time I met Debbie was when we were building our house in Appleton, were up on the roof, and she came out and asked if we had seen three little boys. Those boys, and the 4 children that followed, kept her busy, happy and were the center of her life all her life. She was one of the strongest women I know, strong in faith, in determination and in joy! I'm so very grateful that this sweet friend came into my life and her example will be with me all of my life.--Mary Beth Wald

July 10 at 11:15 PM



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Loretta posted:

During Debbie's illness, we spent hours together at her home organizing her papers. She was always upbeat, loving, and gracious. She was an angel on earth. My sincerest condolences to her family and deepest respect to Dave for all he did to help her in her final years.

July 10 at 8:18 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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