



## Debra Ann Wittenborn Lehman

October 7, 1952 - September 29, 2016

Debra Ann Wittenborn Lehman, beloved wife, mother and grandmother went to be with her Lord on September 29, 2016. Deb was born on October 7, 1952 in Peoria, IL to Gene and Frances Wittenborn. She was raised and received her education in Sparta, IL, graduating as class valedictorian in 1970. Debra received a Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and a Masters of Statistics from Oklahoma State University. She worked as a high school mathematics teacher in Michigan, Florida, Missouri and Kansas. She was an online professor of Mathematics at Columbia College and State Fair College for the past eleven years.

Deb married Donald Lehman on August 9, 1980 in Lenzburg, IL. She has three children: Christina (Robert) Luton, Joseph (Ashley) Pickett and Abigail (Alex) Lehman. She has two stepchildren: Tiffany (Mike) Kraus and Nicole (Steve) Ehinger. Debra was a wonderful, generous grandmother to her grandchildren: Spencer, Jacob, Drew, Evie, Jenna, Henry, Makinze, Jaxson, Samuel, Mikey, Timmy, Max, Tessa, and Kaylan. Deb was an active part of her children and grandchildren's lives and nothing made her happier than spending time with them. She was her granddaughter's Girl Scout leader, taught her grandson Algebra and Geometry and never missed a piano recital, sporting event or band performance. She was known for amazing "grandparent birthday trips", took her grandchildren ziplining and encouraged them each to be the best they could be.

Deb was diagnosed with Ovarian cancer in 2005. Since that time she has worked to inform other women of the symptoms of Ovarian Cancer. She spoke at symposiums, community forums and participated in a television documentary promoting Ovarian Cancer awareness. She was involved in the Survivors Teaching Students program through OSU Medical School in Tulsa, OK for prospective OBGYN students. She was a fighter and lived a full life for the eleven years she fought this disease, providing support, love and hope to many other cancer victims.

As well as her mother, husband, children and grandchildren, she is survived by her five sisters: Jeanne Finley, Pam Campbell, Cathy Hess, Laura Deutschmann, and Becky Rhodes. She is preceded in death by her father, and two grandchildren: Jacob William Kraus and Thaddeus Joseph Kraus.

The family will be receiving friends from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, October 2, 2016 at the funeral home. Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, October 3, 2016 at the First Christian Church in Caney, KS. Interment will be Wednesday, October 5, 2016 in the Marissa Cemetery, Marissa, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to: First Christian Church, 100 East 4th Street, P.O. Box 126, Caney, KS 67333. Arrangements are under the direction of Walker-Brown Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Posted by Doris Cavalier from Sparta, Illinois  
May the Lord provide comfort and peace to all Deb's family and friends. Deb was suchj a special person who will be missed by so nany.*

*10/01/2016 at 04:45pm*

*Posted by Sharon Runge from Sparta, Illinois  
Wonderful lady!! I taught her in seventh grade. She always had time to stop and visit when we would see each other in Sparta!! Prayers to all of her wonderful family!!*

*10/01/2016 at 06:08pm*

*Posted by Micki Hallock from Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Deb, such an amazing & special woman taken from us way too soon. I felt doubly blessed with Deb in my life, she was my friend and family. I know your hearts are aching as is mine----may God cover all of you with his grace, peace, strength & love now and in the difficult days to come. My love to all of you-----Micki*

*10/02/2016 at 07:44pm*

*Posted by Scott Turner from Bartlesville, Oklahoma  
Deb is with the Lord and enjoying His presence and her new (forever) home. She will be missed, but we will all get to reunite with her when our time comes. Deb was an amazing example to us all to fight the good fight of faith and to trust God from the bottom of our hearts. She lived life passionately, she was an example that strength and kindness go hand in hand, and loved her savior and her family unconditionally. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Lehman Family.*

*10/04/2016 at 06:26pm*

*Posted by Edward Shuler from Tallahassee, Florida  
Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote a poem entitled "What Is Success" that epitomizes the qualities of Deb as though it were written for her:  
To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest*

*critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty; To find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; This is to have succeeded. Deb's life was surely a success and she will be sorely missed, but we know we'll see her again someday in Heaven! - Edward & E'Lane Shuler (Spencer's other grandparents)*

*10/04/2016 at 11:56pm*

*Posted by Jane Mudgett from Tulsa, Oklahoma*

*I got to know Deb when we began sharing our Ovarian Cancer stories to medical students at OU and OSU. We felt it was helpful for them to learn about the often silent killer when they were in their OB-GYN classes. We each shared our stories - as survivors - regarding diagnosis, treatment, symptoms and our experiences. Deb was always hopeful, even though her story of cancer was not always positive. I so respected her strength to share this, and she is a tremendous role model for me. Yet, I am sad that she died of cancer and never imagined that to be the end of her story. Many hugs to you, Don, and your family, for I know each of you was an integral part of her network of love and support.*

*10/06/2016 at 07:27pm*

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**Dffh Dewey Chapel** - January 03, 2019 at 04:39 PM



“ Posted by Jeffrey & Anne Hill from Gorham, New Hampshire  
Missing Deb and Sending our thoughts and prayers to all of you  
during this difficult hour.  
09/30/2016 at 10:34pm

Posted by Gayla Rogers from Stillwater, Oklahoma  
So sorry to hear about Deb. She made such an impact on countless  
lives of Girl Scouts here in the Stillwater area. Through her vision of  
making our camp better so the girls could enjoy it more (flushable  
potties & showers) to mentoring new leaders, her influence will last  
for many, many years. My thoughts & prayers are with her family.  
Rest Well fellow Girl Scout!  
10/01/2016 at 01:30am

Posted by Dixie Clayborn from Bartlesville , Oklahoma  
I am sorry for your loss. She was such a great grandmother. You  
will be in my thoughts and prayers.  
10/01/2016 at 03:58am

Posted by Terri Barrett from Hominy, Oklahoma  
Thoughts and prayers to the family . Ma the Lord wrap his arms  
around you all during this dufficult time and give you all the strength  
to carry on .  
10/01/2016 at 10:22am

Posted by Claudia Kerens from Sparta, Illinois  
Prayers and sympathies for the family. Prayers for you and yours.  
10/01/2016 at 03:01pm

Posted by Linda Linker from Sparta, Illinois  
So sorry for your loss. Prayers for comfort.  
10/01/2016 at 03:03pm

Posted by Vicki B from Chicago, Illinois  
I remember Deb as the big sister of a very dear friend. I haven't  
seen Deb in years, and yet in that picture she looks just as I

*remember her. I remember her as a young, feisty girl with a lot of spunk who was full of spirit!! She was self confident, yet there was a softness to her. She would make fun of us in a big sister way, while also laughing and smiling (and then she would take us where we wanted to go or let us play the music we wanted to play)! It makes me smile to think of those memories. She was funny and honest and sweet. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of her family.  
Hugs.*

*10/01/2016 at 03:27pm*

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