



Deborah "Deb" Vonnahme Pedersen

April 30, 1953 - March 9, 2014

Deborah "Deb" Vonnahme Pedersen, 60, of Dunlap, Illinois and formerly of Arcadia, passed away on Sunday, March 9, 2014 at her home.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 14, 2014 at St. John's Catholic Church in Arcadia. The Celebrant will be Fr. Gary Snyder. Music will be by Darlene Leiting and the St. John's Choir. Lector for the funeral mass will be Ron Eich. Gift Bearers will be Deb's nieces. Casket Bearers will be: John Guthrie, Scott Bothun, Michael Benham, Mark Vonnahme, Mike Renze, and Dennis Vonnahme. Burial will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll after 4:30 p.m. on Thursday where there will be a rosary at 5 p.m. and a Christian Wake Service at 7 p.m.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences may be left for Deb's family at www.sharpfuneral.com.

Memorials may be left at the funeral home or the church for Kuemper Catholic Schools or St. John's Parish in Arcadia.

Deborah was born on April 30, 1953, in Carroll, Iowa, the daughter of Erwin and Rita (Behrens) Vonnahme. She married Robert F. Pedersen on August 4, 1973, at St. John's Catholic Church in Arcadia, Iowa.

Deb graduated from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, with a B.A. in 1975 and an M.A. in 1982. She directed theatre and taught secondary speech and English in the Waterloo and West Des Moines, Iowa, School Districts until the family's move to the Peoria area in 1991.

She was an avid gardener, reader, writer, genealogist, supporter of the arts, and traveler having traveled to all 50 states plus numerous foreign countries. She spent many hours in the Dunlap/Peoria area serving on various boards and committees for her church, the Dunlap School District, and WTVP as an on-air host. She also was a member of various philanthropic groups, including P.E.O. Chapter FQ. Her greatest joy was spending time with family and friends.

She was a member of St. Jude Catholic Church where she served as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, and former president of the Women of St. Jude.

Survivors include her husband, Bob Pedersen of Dunlap, IL; her children: Dr. Katrina S. (Travis Wilson) Pedersen of Rochester, Minn., and Dr. Robert D. Pedersen of New York, NY; grandson, Henry F. Wilson; four siblings, Dr. Robert H. (Janice) Vonnahme of Manning, Iowa, John H. (Kathy) Vonnahme of Adel, Iowa, Jane (John) Guthrie of San Ramon, Calif., and Connie (Ernie) DeLost of San Diego, Calif.; sisters-in-law, Judy Hunter Vonnahme of Des Moines, Iowa and Susan Pedersen (David) Hopkins of Nicholasville, Ky.; seven nieces; three nephews; and numerous great-nephews and nieces, plus aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and youngest brother, Daniel A. Vonnahme.

Tribute Wall

 Andrés
Clark

“ *This summer, I will be heading back to Waterloo, IA for the 100th Anniversary of the Waterloo Community Playhouse where I received my professional start in the theatre. I got to thinking this evening about growing up in Waterloo and the trajectory that my life would eventually take. The one person who had a profound effect on the direction of my life was my junior high school speech teacher in Waterloo, Deborah "Deb" Vonnahme Pedersen. Because of her, I moved to New York to pursue a life in the theatre. So this evening, I decided to search for her online. I wondered if maybe the Pedersens might still be in Waterloo. It turns out that they are not. Coincidentally and shockingly, I discovered that she left us two years ago to this very day.*

To the Pedersens and Vonnahmes, I am so sorry for your loss.

- Reed Clark

Andrés Clark - March 09, 2016 at 06:08 PM

SK

Yes, she had a profound effect on my life as well! My thoughts and prayers go out to her entire family. She was a wonderful lady!!!!
Sophia Katz

Sophia Katz - March 09, 2016 at 10:12 PM

TM

“ I'd like to leave my condolences to the family and freinds of Deborah Pedersen
At this time may the God of the Bible , strenthen the family for the day to come becuse DEATH is something we willnever except.
Read what God will Put into motion at Revelation 21:3&4 also John 5:28&29
You can read it online at www.jw.org

Teri Morgan - June 30, 2014 at 02:04 PM

PW

“ Priscilla, Ji Yun, Mary Ann, and Wendy purchased the Written in the Stars for the family of Deborah "Deb" Vonnahme Pedersen.



Priscilla, Ji Yun, Mary Ann, and Wendy - March 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

MU

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Peace & Serenity to your family.
From the family of Fred & Norma Kennebeck

Marilyn Kennebeck Underberg - March 12, 2014 at 08:20 AM



“ Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Deborah "Deb" Vonnahme Pedersen.



March 11, 2014 at 07:53 AM

NS

“ *Our sympathy to the Pedersen's and the Vonnahme's... we are saddened by the news. Deb always had a smile, the kindest person you would have ever met! She will be missed by all. Our thoughts are with you Bob, Kate and family, Rob, and all our dear Vonnahme friends, praying that you find comfort in knowing you all have friends that share in your sorrow.*

Dale and Nancy

Nancy Schmitz - March 10, 2014 at 08:48 AM

BV

Our Deepest sympathy to the Pedersen & Vonnahme Family. She'll be dearly missed. Bruce & Mae Vonnahme

Bruce & Mae Vonnahme - March 12, 2014 at 12:38 PM