



Debra (Masching) Lee

September 11, 1967 - August 7, 2024

Debra Sue (Masching) Lee, age 56, of Robins, IA died August 7, 2024. Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, August 12, 2024, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Hiawatha, Iowa, with Father Emmanuel Fénelus as Celebrant. Visitation will be 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Monday at Murdoch - Linwood Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Cedar Rapids. An additional visitation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday at the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll, Iowa, followed by burial at 3:30 p.m. in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Carroll with full military honors conducted by Offutt Air Force Base Funeral Honor Detail and the Carroll American Legion.

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

She was born September 11, 1967, in Carroll, IA to Marvin and Judith (Pudenz) Masching. Deb was raised in Scranton, Halbur, and Hanlontown, IA. She attended Kuemper Catholic High School and graduated from North Central Manly in 1986. She attended The University of Iowa and graduated from Creighton University with a degree in Exercise Science and Pre-Medicine in 1990. She earned master's degrees from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Aeronautical Science-Operations and Management, and The University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in Counseling.

Deb was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Hiawatha, IA. She taught Faith Formation Classes and was a Eucharistic Minister. She served on the Xavier Booster Club. She loved to follow her kid's school and activities; always being their biggest and loudest supporter. She loved sports and played softball, indoor and beach volleyball, as well as golf. After retiring she was a substitute teacher for schools in North Las Vegas until she started working with General Atomics in California. She loved to fly both in the military and personally.

She attended the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and was Commissioned a Second Lieutenant and a Distinguished Graduate from The University of Nebraska, Omaha in 1990. She started service at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida as an Air Traffic Controller in 1991 and ended at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada in 2015, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1997, she became the first female B-1 Bomber Pilot. In 2004-2006, she served as Commander and Instructor at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Her overseas tours include Bahrain, Afghanistan, Balad, Iraq, becoming the first female Remotely Piloted Aircraft Squadron Commander. From 2012-2015 she flew with the President and Vice President on Air Force One and Air Force Two. After retiring, she went on to work at General Atomics in Poway, CA, AECOM in Las Vegas, NV and lastly at Collins Aerospace/Raytheon in Cedar Rapids, IA as a Senior Program Manager.

Deb is survived by her 2 children, Christian Lee, Grand Forks, ND, and Caitlin Lee, Robins, IA; her dad, Marvin Masching; her siblings, Terrence (Pam) Masching, Lawton, IA; Patrick (Rachel) Masching, Godfrey, IL; Kim (Bruce) Rupp, Bloomington, MN; and Craig (Jill) Masching, Sioux Falls, SD; fourteen nieces and nephews, Mackenzie (Taylor) Riley, Mitchel Masching, Aaron Kirby, Cody (Bella) Masching, Heidi Masching (Special Partner Breanne), Hayley Masching, Brady Schnelton, Haley Schnelton, Kolby Schnelton,

Jessica Rupp, Nicholas (Katie) Rupp, Alysia (Jordan) Swanson, Ethan Masching and Tyler Masching; 5 great nieces and nephews, Olivia Riley, Leia Riley, Leo Swanson, Lily Swanson, and Gordon Rupp; her dogs Bailey and Bear. Deb, CJ, Caitlin and her extended family would like to thank the Xavier High School, Xavier Dance Team, Prestige, and Work “Family” and Friends as well as Robins Neighbors and Military “Family” and Friends who have been supportive since day one of her Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer diagnosis.

She was preceded in death by her mom, Judith Masching; and her maternal grandparents, Norbert and Eleanora Pudenz; and paternal grandparents, Fred and Mary Masching.

Memorials in Deb’s memory may be directed to Metastatic Breast Cancer Research or Shriners Hospital for Children, 2211 N Oak Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60707.

Tribute Wall

ST

“ Susan Teter-Lord sent a virtual gift in memory of Debra (Masching) Lee



Susan Teter-Lord - August 15, 2024 at 04:43 AM

ST

This wonderful lady is what everyone should aspire to be. May God cradle you in his loving arms and take away the pain you were burdened with here on earth.

Susan Teter-Lord - August 15, 2024 at 04:46 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra (Masching) Lee.



August 12, 2024 at 03:54 PM

FH

“ Friends at Jersey Community Hospital planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Debra (Masching) Lee.

Friends at Jersey Community Hospital - August 12, 2024 at 03:54 PM



“ *Your Lawton neighbors on E. Oak purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Debra (Masching) Lee.*



Your Lawton neighbors on E. Oak - August 12, 2024 at 11:39 AM



“ *Debra's family is in my thoughts and prayers. Debra was in my daughter's class when they lived in Scranton. Cherish your memories and take care of each other.*



Charla Grote - August 12, 2024 at 12:15 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Debra (Masching) Lee.*



August 11, 2024 at 01:51 PM

JM

“ One of the most diverse obituaries I've ever read. Deb is someone who personifies what it means to use your God-given talents to make the world a better place for others. She is a role model for all of us. Talking with her after mass one Sunday I got a sense that she was at peace with her journey. Not in the sense she was conceding defeat but that she accepted the path she was on and how it might inspire others. May we pick up that torch. Rest in peace. You gotta be tired but...

- There's a peace I've come to know
Though my heart and flesh may fail
There's an anchor for my soul
I can say "It is well"

https://youtu.be/nzBFv3Bzn3o?si=qLOH_zhY1Hd-OoYL

Janet (Stitz) Muhlbauer - August 11, 2024 at 12:35 PM

JS

Beautiful Janet. Well said. ❤️

Joleen (Rotert) Sellers - August 14, 2024 at 12:31 PM

JS

I grew up with Deb when we both lived in Halbur. I have thought of her ever since on Sept. 11. I am praying for the entire family, especially you, Kim, knowing you have lost your Mom and only sister. But Please know you have other sisters out here praying for you all. Much love & big Father hugs to you all.

Joleen (Rotert) Sellers - August 14, 2024 at 12:34 PM

GD

“ We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Deb’s family. Glenn worked at the Halbur Co-op with Marvin and I had the pleasure of staying with the kids sometimes when Marvin & Judy went out. Keeping your family in our prayers. Glenn & Lois Dentlinger



Glenn & Lois Dentlinger - August 11, 2024 at 12:19 PM

EM

“ Our deepest sympathy to Debra’s family.
Gene & Diane Meiners

Eugene Meiners - August 10, 2024 at 03:25 PM

MT

“ Mike,Molly,Adriane,Angela & KG-3XA Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Debra (Masching) Lee.



Mike,Molly,Adriane,Angela & KG-3XA Team - August 10, 2024 at 09:15 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra (Masching) Lee.



August 09, 2024 at 02:48 PM

RJ

“ Rosie D., Averyonna K, and, Elizabeth J planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Debra (Masching) Lee.

Rosie D., Averyonna K, and, Elizabeth J - August 09, 2024 at 02:48 PM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra (Masching) Lee.



August 09, 2024 at 09:18 AM

DR

“ Sincere sympathy to Debra's family. We knew her as a child when the family lived in Halbur. You deserve to be very proud of her accomplishments and her service to our country. We will keep her and all of you in our prayers! Dean and Doris Riesselman

Doris Riesselman - August 08, 2024 at 08:26 PM

RS

Reading through this last night. Quite an amazing life coming from small town Iowa. Just goes to show it doesn't matter how a person starts, it is how a person finishes. The Masching's moved when I was younger. I remember them but didn't really get to know them. Family picnics the first weekend in June we would always see each other. I had to show my wife, Melissa the obituary as this is something you just don't see everyday. Deb truly became all she could be. How many people have accomplished what Deb accomplished? I am sure her family is unbelievably proud to call her mom, sister, and daughter. May God bless your family.

Randy Stitz - August 09, 2024 at 08:14 AM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Debra (Masching) Lee.*



August 08, 2024 at 05:43 PM