



Debra Grebing

November 24, 1952 - October 20, 2020

Debra Yvonne Eastwood Grebing, 67, of Kennett, Missouri died Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis due to complications from her courageous four-year battle with cancer. She was born November 24, 1952 in Wichita, Kansas to Phillip and Margie Eastwood.

On October 11, 1975, she married Jim Grebing in Cape Girardeau, who survives. Other survivors include her son, Jarrod Grebing and his wife Melissa Diemand of Clarksburg, Maryland; grandson, Willem Grebing of Clarksburg; her mother, Margie Eastwood of Chaffee, Missouri; sister, Stephanie Bennett and her husband William of Chaffee; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, Phillip Eastwood.

For most of her career, Debra taught college-level English and Writing at Southeast Missouri State University and Lincoln University in Jefferson City where she worked in the Center for Academic Enrichment. At Southeast, she focused much of her efforts on assisting international students. At Lincoln, she was instrumental in helping develop a program assisting nursing students in completing stringent writing requirements for nursing degrees. She also worked in the reference department at the Cape Girardeau Public Library for several years.

Debra was a 1971 graduate of Chaffee High School and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, and a Master of Arts Degree in English from Southeast Missouri State.

She was a member of Gamma Sigma Chi sorority, several professional

organizations, and St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau. Besides growing up in Chaffee, she also lived in Cape Girardeau, Hermann, Jefferson City and Kennett.

During the eight years she lived in Hermann, Missouri, Debbie was active with numerous organizations coordinating and assisting with community and tourism related events. She was a regular face at weekly summer movie nights at the amphitheater concession stand, helping staff Wurstfest, Oktoberfest, Maifest and other events.

Debbie loved teaching the proper use of the English language, helping students develop their writing skills, and assisting people of all ages to get phrasing just right and grammatically correct so their words were effective and met the intended goals. Throughout her life she always enjoyed a good book and took great joy in the written word. She authored the children's book Tiny Tito and Gigantic Jerome with illustrations by her sister, Stephanie.

Debbie was a sweet, kind, and caring person with a deep compassion for the feelings of others. She brought joy to every occasion.

She was a wonderful cook and baker and enjoyed musical theater, trips to Silver Dollar City, outings to public gardens, and shopping at antique and thrift stores. She was a lover of all animals, especially the dogs and collection of cats she homed throughout her life. She enjoyed the beauty of the world and the love of the people in her life. "Isn't that pretty" was a phrase she used often.

Her greatest joy was her family. A natural caretaker, she was close with her son and best friend, Jarrod, for whom she shared a great interest in comedy movies, author Terry Pratchett, and British television shows. On June 30, 2019, she earned the title Grandma when the family welcomed her "sweet, handsome boy" grandson, Willem Harrison, into the world.

The family would like to thank the warm and loving care from her medical team at Washington University and Barnes Jewish hospitals, and the endless love and dear support from her family and friends.

Visitation will be 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Friday, October 23, 2020 at Ford and

Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will follow at 1:00 pm Friday at the funeral home with the Rev. Terry Grebing officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri Capital Campaign or the Southeast Missouri Food bank. Ford and Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **23**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

OCT **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

SS

“ Ms. Grebing was an essential part of my academic career at Lincoln. I remember her telling me "it's okay, take your time while writing this paper." If it was not for her I do not think I would have finished by academic career at LU. I truly loved Ms. Grebing and I made it my mission to always visit her just to say hello. She impacted me in ways I cannot describe. I send my deepest condolences to her family. With love
-Seleana.

Seleana Smith - October 24, 2021 at 03:43 PM

BC

“ Jim, Just wanted to send our thoughts and prayers for you and your family from everyone here in Hermann, MO

Bruce Cox Mayor of Hermann

Bruce Cox - October 23, 2020 at 05:17 PM

PS

“ Jim, I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Patti Lemonds

Patti Lemonds (I went to lutheran school - October 23, 2020 at 02:11 AM

JE

“ So sorry for your loss. Janet Hoffman Emerson

Janet Sue Emerson - October 22, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra Grebing.*



October 22, 2020 at 02:04 PM



“ *This morning I learned that my friend and former colleague, Debra Grebing, has lost her four-year battle with cancer. We lost a great friend and person much too soon. I cherish so many things about Debbie—her kindness, her quiet spirit, her sense of fun & humor. We shared so many good times during our time at the writing center at SEMO.*

I'm smiling through my tears. I mourn with her family and friends, but I also celebrate a life well-lived and I rejoice that her faith in God was strong. I will miss her.

Judy Strickland - October 22, 2020 at 12:51 PM



“ *Debbie and I shared many a laugh together in the Writing Center at SEMO. She was intelligent, fun, and calm in the face of many student dilemmas. I still cook some of her delicious recipes that she so generously shared with me. RIP, Debbie.*

Carolyn Begley - October 22, 2020 at 12:34 PM

JS

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Judy Strickland - October 22, 2020 at 12:44 PM



So sorry for your loss. Debbie was a kind person and soul mate to Jim, who was a co-worker at the Southeast Missourian.

Mark Bliss - October 23, 2020 at 10:49 AM

MV

jim. I am sorry to hear this. Thinking of you.

Mark vogel - October 24, 2020 at 02:24 PM

JW

“*I had the great honor of working back in the good old days with Debbie on Southeast Missouri State University's newspaper, The Capaha Arrow. Debbie was always a cheerful person with a great sense of humor — and a professional. My condolences to Jim and the rest of the Grebing family.*

The photo is from our 1975 yearbook showing us clowning around about a headline of some sorts.



Jim Wilder - October 21, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Debra Grebing.



October 21, 2020 at 03:40 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Debra Grebing.



October 21, 2020 at 10:57 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Debra Grebing.



October 21, 2020 at 10:38 AM