



Debbie Polk

October 28, 1952 - April 7, 2026

Deborah "Debbie" Polk passed away peacefully on April 7, 2026, in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Born in Hamtramck on October 28, 1952, Debbie was a trailblazing businesswoman, serving as Vice President at First Federal of Michigan, and finishing her career at Dykema as Manager of Payroll where she worked for 13 years. Her Dykema family remembers her as kind, friendly, and always willing to go the extra mile. Debbie's positivity was infectious and she made many lasting friendships that she cherished and nurtured even after her retirement.

Diagnosed with MS at 40 and living with a brain tumor for 25 years, she used her situation as a reason to give back to others. Debbie frequently volunteered with the National MS Society and attended their annual walks with her daughters and friends. Always finding the special joys in life, she was an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers and local news program "The Nine", and was passionate about art and live theater, especially The Lion King. She loved having fun at Detroit casinos and held a deep appreciation for Detroit and Belle Isle.

A dedicated and caring friend, Debbie loved spending time finding new restaurants, trying different food, and exploring local areas with those close to

her. However, she said the three things that brought her the most happiness were her daughters, their dog Takara, and meditating. She will be remembered for her humor, sharpness, kindness, and sass. Often described as a "one-of-a-kind woman," Debbie lived life on her own terms. She was known for having an eclectic group of friends spanning all ages and backgrounds, as well as her generous and accepting nature. To know Debbie was to love her.

While she experienced additional health ailments later in life, Debbie was a fighter until the very end. She spent the past two years living independently at Baldwin House in Hazel Park, where she loved taking meditation classes, playing keno and bingo, pampering herself with manicures, and making new friends.

Debbie is survived by her two daughters, Stefany and Elizabeth Novak, and her three sisters, Cynthia Ciesla (Bill), Margie Maladecki (Bob), and Cheryl Gawel (Gerry). She was preceded in death by her parents, Eleanor and Aloysius Szczerba, and her husbands Stanley Novak (d. 1999) and Ronald Polk (d. 2014).

A visitation will be held at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors, 705 W 11 Mile Road, in Royal Oak on Thursday, April 16 from 1-8 p.m. On Friday April 17, there will be a visitation at 10 a.m., with a service to follow at 11 at the funeral home.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 16. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Memorial Service

APR 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall



“ *Lisa Steiner (Pelak) & Family. purchased the Fier
y Lily and Rose for the family of Debbie Polk.*



Lisa Steiner (Pelak) & Family. - April 16 at 09:18 AM



“ *A [Memorial
Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Debbie Polk.*

April 15 at 04:00 PM

LA

“ Dear Stefany & Liz & family,
You have been in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.
Stefany and Liz, you are your Mom's biggest joys & blessings and
will continue to be forever

.
I am very grateful that I was blessed to grow up with your Mom &
our friend Lynn on our fun & very special Sherwood St. in Detroit
and were very special friends, since we were young children. Your
Mom holds a very special place in my heart forever and in all the
hearts of all who knew and loved your Mom.

Thanks for all you did for your Mom with love, care, concern, joy,
and laughter. You are awesome daughters and are very special to
Ron & me too. Your Mom will be your very special guardian angel
still loving, guiding, & protecting you from above & forever. Love
never ends, and we will see your Mom again. But boy, how much
we miss your Mom now and until we see her again.

In closing, our heartfelt sympathy and love to you both and the
family & all who loved & knew your Mom. God, thank you for the gift
of my special friend, Debbie.

Debbie, I love you forever & thank you, my forever bff! Sending
hugs, love, & prayers to you.

Linda & Ron Amrozowicz   

Linda Amrozowicz - April 15 at 02:19 PM

YF

“ Your Craft family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Debbie Polk.

Your Craft family - April 14 at 04:24 PM

YF

“ Your Craft family purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Debbie Polk.



Your Craft family - April 14 at 04:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Debbie Polk.

April 12 at 12:46 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Debbie Polk.



April 12 at 12:46 PM

LI

“ Love, Kayla, Dylan, Mimi and the Iveys purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Debbie Polk.



Love, Kayla, Dylan, Mimi and the Iveys - April 11 at 09:06 AM

LI

“ Love, Kayla, Dylan, Mimi and the Iveys planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Debbie Polk.

Love, Kayla, Dylan, Mimi and the Iveys - April 11 at 09:06 AM

TF

“ The Davis Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Debbie Polk.

The Davis Family - April 11 at 08:58 AM

TF

“ The Davis Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Debbie Polk.



The Davis Family - April 11 at 08:58 AM

JA

“ I never got to meet Debbie but I can tell not only is she a beautiful, kind, loving, Lady, friend and Mother, she had a lot of class about her. Stefany and Liz you both took such great care of her and was always there, carry that with pride. Keep all the wonderful memories in your hearts. By looking at her picture I am sure she is telling you both with a smile "If you could only see me now you wouldn't shed a tear". Although she is no longer there her spirit that is real is still very much alive. She has just been set free. Our heart and prayers are there with you both and I am always here for you.

Jackie - April 10 at 09:13 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Debbie Polk.*



April 10 at 05:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Debbie Polk.*



April 10 at 03:16 PM



“ *I never had the fortune of meeting Debbie, but I have met and know her two daughters, where her legacy of kindness and humor will certain live on. My condolences to the family.*

Mark FP - April 10 at 02:34 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Debbie Polk.*



April 10 at 02:32 PM