



Debra "Deb" Jean Riley

April 23, 1959 - April 21, 2018

Debra Jean Riley, age 58, passed away on April 21, 2018. Beloved daughter of Shirley Riley and Eugene (Dee) Riley. Dear sister of Charles, Diane and aunt to Jacqueline, Olivia and Michaela. Loving friend of Denise Sonntag, Deb Wojie and a loving circle of friends . Deb was born in Lansing, but raised in Owosso, MI. She graduated from Central Michigan University and continued on to receive a Masters Degree from Wayne State University. Deb worked as a special education teacher for Chippewa Valley Schools until she retired. She enjoyed camping and had a great love for animals . Visitation will be held on Tuesday (April 24th) at the Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica from 2pm-8pm. Visitation will continue on Wednesday at 10am until the time of service at 11am the funeral home. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Please share a memory at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **24**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

APR **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall

GS

“ *Heartbreaking. Ms Riley was one of my teachers, from 1st grade to 8th grade. I will never forget her compassion and patience she had with not only me but with others! Praying for peace and comfort for her friends and family. She is so dearly missed.*

Gabrielle Simone - June 22, 2018 at 01:42 AM

VH

“ *Prayers to the friends and family and loving memories of adventure with Debby, and the love she brought to my family with her kindness. Heaven needs a tough angle like you, they are lucky! Virginia Harlow*



Virginia Harlow - April 23, 2018 at 09:33 PM

TF

“ *The Scarnecchia Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Debra "Deb" Jean Riley.*



The Scarnecchia Family - April 23, 2018 at 07:07 PM

LH

“ I can't remember how our Algonac friendship started, but I'm sure trouble was involved! I would instigate it, and Deb (sometimes reluctantly) would help me carry it out. We weren't The Mean Girls... we loved to laugh and have fun. Deb was also my "serious" friend. You could count on her to help and always listen. I remember when my mother died. I was shocked when Deb walked into the funeral home (in a skirt!). The funeral was in Cleveland, Ohio! She took friendships seriously and will be missed by so many. Riley, let's create some "havoc" in heaven someday.....

To the family-I'm sincerely sorry to miss the funeral. I'm in Alabama this week.

Leslie Holmes

Leslie Holmes - April 23, 2018 at 02:33 PM

EF

“ I worked with Deb at Iroquois Middle School for many years. She was a great teacher and a fantastic person. Her attention was always on her kids or other students assigned to other teachers. Deb was always pleasant, professional and personable. She was an asset to the Iroquois family and I never saw her get angry or frustrated.

I was so saddened to hear of her earlier stroke and rehabilitation and was shocked to hear of her passing. Deb was always in my daily prayers for a recovery but God wanted her in heaven.

The Iroquois family has lost a beloved and respected teacher as well as a great individual.

May God's peace be upon her family members during this difficult time.

Ed Fencyk
Former 8th Grade Counselor

Ed Fencyk - April 23, 2018 at 01:54 PM

BH

“ It's been some time since I have been a part of the Iroquois family. When I think back on my time spent there, Deb holds a special place for me. Her warm spirit and kind manner made seeing her a true delight. Her sense of humor and laugh were a blessing for anyone in near her.

My heart is filled with sadness for her loss and joy in knowing that she is now with God.

God Bless you, Deb.

Becky Hopersberger - April 23, 2018 at 08:11 AM

BB

“ *Deb was such a nice person to work with. She always had a smile and kind words to say. She made me feel a part of the Iroquois family from my very first day. She touched the lives of so many and she will be dearly missed and fondly remembered.
God has a new angel.
Barb Basharrah*

Barb Basharrah - April 23, 2018 at 08:06 AM

MC

“ *To Deb's loved ones,*

I taught Kindergarten and Deb helped me with a few students through her years when she was assigned to Mohawk Elementary for part of her day to help students with special needs. Deb was a "one in a million" beautiful person who entered a classroom to listen, help, guide and care for any child on her list.

While working with her, it did take me long to observe her compassion for students, and support for teachers. In my eyes, she had a keen sense of respect and humor for everyone she worked with, be it students, parents, teachers or administrators. Deb was a dedicated woman who blessed each one of us who got to know her as our support staff.

Yes, she will be missed but her kindness and love will live on. God bless you "Deb Jean Riley" as you enter God's loving embrace for a JOB WELL DONE. I know you are certainly on that special list as one of the very best people to walk this earth and those of us who knew you for however long or short, are better people because you walked along side of us at one point in your journey. Thank you "Deb" Jean Riley, you will be missed, but never forgotten!

Mary Anne Callaghan - April 22, 2018 at 07:55 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Debra "Deb" Jean Riley.*



April 22, 2018 at 04:20 PM



“ *You came back because you had unfinished business. You touched so many life's, loved by so many. Will meet up with you in Heaven.*

Sheila Krol - April 22, 2018 at 04:11 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Debra "Deb" Jean Riley.*



April 22, 2018 at 04:02 PM



“ *Riley was one of my favorite coworkers, always there supporting everyone who needed it. Whenever I cooked a staff breakfast, she always came early to help and told stories of her camping adventures. She was quick with a smile and a joke, always making others laugh. She was a phenomenal lady and will be missed.*

Lynn Dawson - April 22, 2018 at 02:30 PM

BG

Deb Riley was a kind-heart woman, who shared this kindness with those she encountered, offering guidance where and when it was needed. This Earth has lost a beautiful soul, but Heaven has gained a magnificent Angel to watch over those that she has left behind until we meet again.

Brgitte Gruener - April 22, 2018 at 02:10 PM

KC

“*Deb you will truly be missed on this earth, your kindness, thoughtfulness and sense of humor were some of the things that made you such a great person. We are honored to have called you our friend. Rest in Peace*”



Kim and Chuck - April 22, 2018 at 02:06 PM