



Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice

November 6, 1959 - April 11, 2024

Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice, daughter of Mary T. and George A. Rafferty, Sr. a phenomenal wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and cherished friend died at Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Florida on April 11, 2024, surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Debbie grew up in Gainesville, Florida, the youngest of five siblings. She graduated from Gainesville High School and attended Auburn University before completing her studies and graduating from the University of Florida. She was the consummate mother, caregiver and homemaker focused on raising her children and spreading her unique sparkle with all who were lucky enough to cross her path. It was impossible to not be happy in her presence – she had that effect on everyone. Always looking for the positive and caring about others was her way in life. One of her favorite phrases was happiness is a choice, choose wisely.

She was the balance on family trips, often deviating from the carefully planned itineraries for fun adventures at the Macy's Thanksgiving parade in NYC, traversing the rainforest in Puerto Rico or whale watching from the Golden Gate Bridge. She never missed the kids' dance recitals or basketball games. "DeeDee's" adoration of her grandchildren meant a special silver Christmas

ornament each year to finding that perfect birthday present to hosting fun-filled sleepovers. She was their angel and their light and loved them all beyond measure.

The creative side of Debbie began to shine when she discovered a knack for finding discarded treasures, researching their value and selling them, transforming a hobby into a successful business. Debbie was fiercely loyal to her family and friends and the warmth of her love was felt in the many messages, calls and unexpected gifts that might surprise and brighten your day. She always saw the best in others, no matter the circumstance. Her kindness and caring inspired others to have a positive outlook.

She is survived by her high school sweetheart and husband of nearly 42 years William A. Giudice, daughter and two sons Brittany (Joe) Knippel, Michael (Kristin) Giudice and Drew (Kara) Giudice. The loves of her life were her seven grandchildren Emma, Jack and Lila Knippel, Anna Lynn, Alice and Will Giudice and Palmer Giudice. Debbie is also survived by her parents, Mary and George Rafferty, Sr., siblings Sandy (Rick) Rucker, George (Laura) Rafferty, Jr. and Theresa Stevens. She was preceded in death by sister Patricia (Vernon) McDaniell.

Debbie and her love were a blessing that will be with us always. Love does not die, only our frail bodies. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Moffitt Cancer Center Foundation www.Moffitt.org/donate or the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center through the TMH Foundation, www.tmh.org/tmh-foundation/donate.

The family will receive friends from 3:00PM until 5:00PM on Sunday, April 21, 2024, at Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Road in Tallahassee. The Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00AM on Monday, April 22, 2024, at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 4665 Thomasville Road in Tallahassee, with a reception immediately following in the Church Community Center. The interment will be at Roselawn Cemetery.

Rocky Bevis and Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) are assisting the Giudice family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

815 West Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Previous Events

The Family Will Receive Friends

APR 21. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Funeral Mass

APR 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
4665 Thomasville Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Reception

APR 22. 12:00 PM (ET)

Community Center at Good Shepherd Catholic Church
4665 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Tribute Wall

SF

“ *Sandy and Rick Rucker and family planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*

Sandy and Rick Rucker and family - April 19, 2024 at 05:29 PM

LF

“ *Love, George and Laura Rafferty Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*



Love, George and Laura Rafferty Family - April 19, 2024 at 01:14 PM

TF

“ *The Texas Knippel Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*



The Texas Knippel Family - April 19, 2024 at 10:40 AM

CK

“ *Cam Fentriss and Craig Knox planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*

Cam Fentriss and Craig Knox - April 19, 2024 at 07:33 AM

CK

“ *Cam Fentriss and Craig Knox purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*



Cam Fentriss and Craig Knox - April 19, 2024 at 07:33 AM

JW

“ *Julie, and Kimberly Wistedt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*

Julie, and Kimberly Wistedt - April 18, 2024 at 10:35 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*



April 18, 2024 at 10:35 PM

NF

“ *NHS Basketball Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*

NHS Basketball Family - April 18, 2024 at 08:14 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*



April 18, 2024 at 08:14 PM



“ *The Dallas Public Library family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*



The Dallas Public Library family - April 18, 2024 at 07:02 PM



“ *Founding Fathers and Wives purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*



Founding Fathers and Wives - April 18, 2024 at 11:06 AM



“ *AuntLynn, Steve, Carol, Dave, Gail, Lisa&Bill purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*



AuntLynn, Steve, Carol, Dave, Gail, Lisa&Bill - April 17, 2024 at 09:21 PM

TF

“ The DeConna Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.

The DeConna Family - April 17, 2024 at 04:47 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.



April 17, 2024 at 04:47 PM

SH

“ Sean, Mary Katherine, Thyra & John Hayes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.

Sean, Mary Katherine, Thyra & John Hayes - April 17, 2024 at 10:55 AM

SH

“ Sean, Mary Katherine, Thyra & John Hayes purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.



Sean, Mary Katherine, Thyra & John Hayes - April 17, 2024 at 10:55 AM



“ *Debbie and I met in first grade and were always in trouble for talking too much. When I switched to St. Patrick’s, we stayed friends and all through high school. Eddie and I introduced Debbie and Bill at CYO. My fondest memory was Spring break our senior year when the Rafferty’s let us stay at their beach house. We played the Beach Boys album, danced, laughed, talked and walked for miles. Debbie was the friend that always made you feel special and never less than. We stayed in touch by phone and met whenever we were in the same town. Picture is when they came for my 50th birthday. We had booked a trip to Greece and were to celebrate our 65th birthdays this year. We sat a few hours outside the hospital in March talking about her children and grandchildren, greatest joys in her life and how blessed she was. I have been blessed by her friendship. RIP my good friend*



Deb Goldman - April 17, 2024 at 07:01 AM

GR

“ *George R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*

George R. - April 14, 2024 at 05:06 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*



April 14, 2024 at 05:06 PM



“ *Pamela B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah (Debbie) Lynn Rafferty Giudice.*

Pamela B. - April 14, 2024 at 08:43 AM



“ *I went to school with Debbie..our parents bowled together when we were kids (Ron n Ruth Lentz) up until the time when my parents decided to move to Texas ..I spoke with Debbie a few years ago via Facebook messenger.. she always had kind words and a big beautiful smile..my Prayers and Condolences go out to her family...*

Debbie (Lentz) Harrison - April 14, 2024 at 07:50 AM



“ *Though I haven't seen Debbie in years, I can't remember any time she wasn't smiling. A beautiful soul to match that unforgettable smile. My prayers are with Bill and the entire family during this painful, difficult time. She was the love of Bill's life and adored by so many. God's peace be with you all.*

Diana Hyden Williams - April 13, 2024 at 07:46 PM