



Deborah Bartley Hilburn

July 11, 1947 - January 20, 2024

Deborah Bartley Hilburn,

Passed away on January 20, 2024. She was born July 11, 1947 in Indianapolis, daughter of Edward Ross and Rosemary Miner Bartley. She grew up playing with her someday famous neighbor, David Letterman. She followed the family legacy to Indiana University, where she was an active member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority. She was also a barmaid at Nick's English Hut, and would often sneak in her younger brother, Edward Ross Bartley III "Teddy". After college, she met the love of her life, Jeffrey Woody Hilburn, who proposed in a small cabin on Lantern Road in Indianapolis. Debby briefly moved to Atlanta during Jeff's internship, where their first child Matthew arrived. She moved back to Indianapolis, where Katherine, Jeffrey II and David were born. Debby cherished her family and was highly involved in their lives and activities. That love transferred to her eleven grandchildren: Madeline, Kathryn, Luke, Benjamin, Grant, Andrew, Jacob, Anna, Elyse, Connor and Rhys, who called her stylish nicknames like Grammy or Mimi. She spoiled her grandchildren with gifts and love, and they adored her in return.

Debby was a lifelong educator, starting as a resource educator in 1971 in Washington Township, where she worked on and off for over 50 years. At the time of her passing, she served as a mentor for new teachers. She loved her students with the same passion as her family, frequently seeing them around town and remembering them by name.

Debby loved to travel and led a big, happy life surrounded by friends and family. She will be remembered for her kindness and warm laugh. She is survived by her husband, Dr, Jeffrey Hilburn; her brother, Teddy; her children and her grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 100 W. 86th Street, Indianapolis with visitation one hour prior. For those who are physically unable to attend, the service may be viewed by following this link <http://www.stlukesumc.com/media> Services are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel.

In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Debby's honor to the Marion County Humane Society, 7929 Michigan Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46268.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
100 West 86th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Memorial Service

JAN 27. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
100 West 86th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Tribute Wall



“ *Debbie and I worked together at Wyandotte in 2008 and crossed paths along the years in Washington Township. She was the kindest, sweetest, funniest boss I have ever had to this day. She always had a smile on her beautifully made up face. I learned so much working with her. She taught me all about autism, and how to support an autistic person's needs. My heart is full of sadness at her passing, but also with gratitude for everything she taught me, because I now have an 8 year old son with autism. My heart goes out to her family.*



Naomi Daugherty - September 18, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ *We are so very sad to hear of Debby's passing, and are sending love to all the Hilburn family at this difficult time. We've made a donation to the Marion County Humane society in Debby's honor.*

Lindsay and Jason Jerutis

Lindsay Jerutis - January 30, 2024 at 09:07 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear about Debbie: she was a wonderful, warm, and welcoming person who made us all feel part of your family. We have made a donation to the Marion County Humane Society in her memory. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Jackie Reich, Michael Zipper, Sean de Ganon and Tim de Ganon

Jacqueline Reich - January 28, 2024 at 07:41 PM

CL

“ My husband Randy and I were blessed to know Debby as our daughter’s precious mother-in-law. We are heartbroken as all the family with the news of her sudden passing. Debby loved her family, our daughter and our shared precious grandchildren with all her heart. She was the epitome of a gracious lady, always smiling and caring for others. Our daughter loved having her in-laws visit as she said they were so easy...didn’t need entertaining as they just wanted to be with them. Debby seemed to easily be a friend to all. We will miss her and our relationship with her. She leaves us with wonderful memories. May our Lord bring comfort and peace beyond all understanding to this dear family.

Carolyn Labac - January 27, 2024 at 11:37 AM

AN

“ Administration @ JWM Neurology purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



Administration @ JWM Neurology - January 26, 2024 at 02:07 PM

AN

“ Administration @ JWM Neurology planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

Administration @ JWM Neurology - January 26, 2024 at 02:07 PM

JR

“ Dear Dr. Jeff. Helene informed me of Deborah's untimely death. My condolences. I will pray for her and your family. Peace, Fr. Joe Rautenberg

Joseph F. Rautenberg - January 26, 2024 at 11:50 AM

NT

“ Nikki Mungal-Stille and Joe Turner purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



Nikki Mungal-Stille and Joe Turner - January 26, 2024 at 11:05 AM

NT

“ Nikki Mungal-Stille and Joe Turner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

Nikki Mungal-Stille and Joe Turner - January 26, 2024 at 11:05 AM

YF

“ Your Entire Annapolis ENT Family. purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



Your Entire Annapolis ENT Family. - January 26, 2024 at 07:50 AM

YF

“ *Your Entire Annapolis ENT Family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.*

Your Entire Annapolis ENT Family. - January 26, 2024 at 07:50 AM

TM

“ *The McGuires purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.*



The McGuires - January 26, 2024 at 07:32 AM

TM

“ *The McGuires planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.*

The McGuires - January 26, 2024 at 07:32 AM

KZ

“ *David,
So sorry for the loss of your mom. Thinking and praying for your family during this time..*

-Kevin and Alyssa Zahraee

kevin zahraee - January 26, 2024 at 12:13 AM

KS

“Katie's Kappa Sisters purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



Katie's Kappa Sisters - January 25, 2024 at 11:59 PM

KS

“Katie's Kappa Sisters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

Katie's Kappa Sisters - January 25, 2024 at 11:59 PM



“Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



January 25, 2024 at 09:09 PM

JM

“Jennifer Mundell purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



Jennifer Mundell - January 25, 2024 at 06:14 PM

GB

“ *Goddaughter Claire, Joe, Jake, Vaish Ben purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.*



Goddaughter Claire, Joe, Jake, Vaish Ben - January 25, 2024
at 06:07 PM

BM

“ *Our special needs son Benjamin was a student of Mrs. Hilburn in first and second grade at Allisonville Elementary in 2001 - 2003. She gave him a foundation in reading and spelling along with her special care. Others built on the foundation. Today, Ben is nearly 30. Because he can read and spell, the world is wide open to his interests. He can spell anything he wants to know about in Google online and read about it. Favorites include jet engines and helicopters. He knows most helos are powered by turboshaft engines and keeps asking what year turbofan helicopters will be built. Ben keeps us scrambling for answers to his questions like that and we learn a lot from Ben's questions. We shared with him Mrs. Hilburn's picture with her name covered and asked who is that? "Mrs. Hilburn" he said. He hasn't forgotten.*

Bill and Mary Ann Maxwell - January 25, 2024 at 04:13 PM

MS

“ *So sorry to hear this news about Debby. Always enjoyed the time spent with she and Jeff. Prayers for her family as they deal with her loss.*

Mary Pat Sharpe - January 25, 2024 at 04:03 PM

NT

“ I knew Deb as a fellow resource teacher. She was professional, dedicated, caring and kind. ❤️ I am very sorry for your loss. Nikki Tepper

Nikki Tepper - January 25, 2024 at 08:18 AM

LP

“ I had the great privilege and pleasure of working with Deb for several years at Allisonville Elementary when she was a resource teacher there. She was a caring friend, a dedicated educator and a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. We stayed in touch for several years after I retired and I always admired her passion for life and dedication as an educator as she mentored first-year teachers of Washington Township. She always cared deeply about her students and gave them her complete support. She will be greatly missed.

Lisa Plank - January 24, 2024 at 08:18 PM

MN

“ I had the privilege of working with Debby at North Central for many years. She was like family to me (and many others). We all share many great memories with Debby... lots of laughs and stories. She was one of the kindest and easiest people to work with. Sadly, it has been a while since I'd talked to Debby, but I remember the last conversation I had with her were about Jeff, her kids, her grandkids, and pickleball.

Mary Ann Neighbors - January 24, 2024 at 07:53 PM

BF

“ Bill Young, Christine & Matt Love Family purchased the Bountiful Rose Basket for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



Bill Young, Christine & Matt Love Family - January 24, 2024 at 05:53 PM

BF

“ Bill Young, Christine & Matt Love Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

Bill Young, Christine & Matt Love Family - January 24, 2024 at 05:53 PM

TF

“ The Young Family purchased the Bountiful Rose Basket for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



The Young Family - January 24, 2024 at 05:02 PM

CP

“ Cecile P. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

Cecile P. - January 24, 2024 at 02:55 PM

WF

“ With love, The Anid Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

With love, The Anid Family - January 24, 2024 at 02:10 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



January 24, 2024 at 02:10 PM

NM

“ I worked with Debbie at Crooked Creek. She was always smiling, always willing to listen, and always had a positive attitude. She was so genuine and loving to her students and worked hard to make sure they were successful. I am grateful I had the opportunity to work with her. She will be missed!

Natalie Manthey - January 24, 2024 at 01:39 PM

JE

“ Debby was my new teacher coach last year. She visited my classroom once a month and always treated me with such kindness and thoughtfulness. I will miss her. Sending love to her friends and family.

Journey Evans - January 24, 2024 at 12:41 PM

JK

“ Jennifer K. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

Jennifer K. - January 24, 2024 at 12:29 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

January 24, 2024 at 11:30 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



January 24, 2024 at 11:12 AM

AM

“ I am so very sorry for your incredible loss. ~ Abby Marmion ~



Abby Marmion - January 24, 2024 at 11:05 AM

AJ

“ Andrea, Bob, Alex and Jessica purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



Andrea, Bob, Alex and Jessica - January 24, 2024 at 10:25 AM

JH

“ This was posted in the North Central Faculty Bulletin. It really captures Debby's spirit as a teacher and champion of students:

IN REMEMBRANCE: One of our dedicated tutors and teachers, Debby Hilburn, unexpectedly passed away Saturday. Mrs. Hilburn was a longtime teacher in the district, having taught Special Education at Allisonville Elementary School, Wyandotte Preschool, and North Central High School. Following her formal retirement, Mrs. Hilburn continued to tutor 2-3 days/week in the Learning Center and mentored many new teachers throughout the district.

Mrs. Hilburn was one of the kindest individuals you could encounter. She truly loved the students and helping them learn. Many students looked forward to working with Mrs. Hilburn and would seek out her assistance, daily. Mrs. Hilburn always had a smile on her face, and constantly engaged students with her bubbly personality. She had a way about providing assistance, which demonstrated such respect and care for the students. Students walked away from interactions with Mrs. Hilburn feeling more confident and willing to ask questions. There was no doubt that Mrs. Hilburn loved her students and the staff she worked with daily. She will be greatly missed, and there is a huge hole in the MSDWT community from her absence.

Julie Hunt - January 24, 2024 at 07:29 AM

BH

“ *Debby was a beautiful person both inside and out. I worked with Debby as a new teacher coach for the past ten years. She was a joy to work with. She was always positive and truly loved helping teachers. I will miss Debby so much.*

Becky Hall - January 24, 2024 at 07:12 AM

AT

“ *Ascension St. Vincent Neuroscience teams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.*

Ascension St. Vincent Neuroscience teams - January 23, 2024 at 03:31 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.*



January 23, 2024 at 03:31 PM

GD

“ *Gary, Cathy and Davi Dyer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.*

Gary, Cathy and Davi Dyer - January 23, 2024 at 01:56 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.*



January 23, 2024 at 01:56 PM



“ *She was the best person, a good teacher, a kind person, someone cared about her students. Someone who always had a smile on his face and a good helper. After the first semester break she asked me to show her my first semester class and when she saw my class she was so happy she told every teacher that I got all A's and she always He loves his grandchildren very much. And I will always love her and no one will ever take her place in my heart. She had a great personality and great person*



Hafisah - January 23, 2024 at 12:55 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Dr. Hilburn and his family at the untimely passing of their loved one wife, mother and grandmother Debbie! She walked in beauty and light and was a wonderful , beautiful lady! She will be greatly missed by all who knew her! May she rest in peace and joy in the arms of her Creator! Prayers for her and the family!*

Janet (Betty) Wong - January 23, 2024 at 10:22 AM

FS

“ Frederick Hoberg Linda Stefanko planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

Frederick Hoberg Linda Stefanko - January 22, 2024 at 11:04 PM

FS

“ Frederick Hoberg Linda Stefanko purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.



Frederick Hoberg Linda Stefanko - January 22, 2024 at 11:04 PM



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

January 22, 2024 at 09:57 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.

January 22, 2024 at 08:45 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Deborah Bartley Hilburn.*



January 22, 2024 at 08:38 PM



“ *Oh my Gosh ...this is way too soon and so very sad! Debby and Jeff spent many evenings at our house having dinner and laughs together with mutual friends! Her laugh was contagious and heartwarming! Loved her and will miss her*

Carole Erlandson - January 22, 2024 at 08:09 PM



I am so sorry for your loss. I love the fact that every time I saw Dr. & Debby, Dr. Hilburn always referred to her as his bride. How special is that!!! Her smile will never be forgotten. Hugs to all! Shari Campbell

Shari Campbell - January 23, 2024 at 12:07 PM