



Deborah Lynn Guardado

October 23, 1967 - January 13, 2023

Deborah Lynn Phillips Guardado

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Deborah Lynn Phillips Guardado, 55, of Morro Bay, California, passed away peacefully at French Hospital. She was surrounded by tears, stories, laughter and love from her family. Debbie died from her battle with breast cancer.

Deborah, the middle child of 3 girls, was born in Fresno, California. She attended Caruthers Elementary School, where she played the flute in her 6th grade band.

She went on to Caruthers High in the years 1982-1986. At this stage, she played tennis, joined the Spanish club, and even dabbled in acting as part of the drama club. Her high school friends describe her as friendly, unassuming, and respectful. She also spoke up and advocated for those who could not defend themselves.

Majoring in geology, she attended Fresno State University, from 1986 to 1990. During these years, she traveled with a geology study group to many parts of California, especially the deserts and other geologically-active areas. Debbie also studied abroad during a summer trip to Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Hawaii. She loved hiking and socializing with the locals, as one her goals was to immerse herself in the local culture as much as possible. One aspect of the

trip she was not fond of was her overexposure to eating lamb. She came back very thin, to say the least. Because Debbie had to cover most of her college expenses, she worked various jobs including Denny's and 2 summers at a summer camp for children with diabetes. At this camp, as a camp counselor, she developed the skills, the love and passion to teach others.

Debbie eventually switched her major to liberal studies to become a teacher, perhaps due to the influence she had by her experience at the summer camp. She earned a teaching credential from Fresno State and moved to Capitola and the Santa Cruz area. In this central coast area Debbie taught middle school math and science while also working on her masters degree in Education at San Jose State.

In the mid 1990s, Debbie moved to the Salinas area. She earned an administrative credential, as she worked for the Salinas Unified School District and later for the Alisal Union School District. She became a Vice Principal at Frank Paul Elementary in that same town.

To be closer to her family, Debbie moved back to Fresno in 1999. Back in the valley, she married Andres Guardado in 2000, with whom she had 2 beautiful daughters, Andrea (2001), and Lina (2003). Debbie continued working in education: as a vice principal at an elementary school in the Fresno Unified School District and, in the same role, at Caruthers High School, her alma mater. With only a few years living in Fresno and foothills near the Sierras, the whole family became ill of allergies and other related ailments commonly known in the San Joaquin Valley. This prompted a move back to the California Central Coast in 2004.

She commuted for at least 6 months back and forth between Grover Beach and Fresno to make ends meet. In 2005, she worked as a middle school teacher in San Luis Obispo and as technology teacher trainer for the local Office of Education of the entire county.

Debbie developed a sensitivity to environmental allergies that were present everywhere inland, including San Luis Obispo. This necessitated long term jobs back in Santa Cruz and Watsonville. She held teaching jobs during 2 different years, sometimes living in a pop-up trailer that she herself pulled on an SUV. Debbie was an independent soul that firmly believed in supporting herself and who accepted very little help from people. Contrarily, she would support family and friends alike in any way she could with the final goal of instilling self-reliance and independence. For the last 7 years or so, Debbie worked from home as a homeschool teacher for a charter school district. This job allowed her to enjoy an allergy-free environment and to teach using audio-visual technologies. This job also gave her the opportunity to meet an incredible group of parents and colleagues. Several of these colleagues became best friends of hers, pillars and champions during the toughest months of her life.

Debbie enjoyed traveling during the summer. She and the family enjoyed summer camping trips to Lake Tahoe and Yosemite and Kings Canyon. She loved fresh water swimming, so much that she ended up setting up an above-ground swimming pool in her Morro Bay home backyard. Average high temperature is only 64 degrees. She traveled to parts of Canada, England, France, and most of the States. She loved to go on cruise ships. She enjoyed getting together with immediate family as well as being part of large family reunions. Because Debbie grew up in a multifamily setting, she found a home large enough to accommodate several guests from both sides of the family and, in some way, recreate her early years.

Debbie is predeceased by her father, Earl. She is survived by her husband Andres, daughters, Andrea and Lina. From her immediate family, she's survived by her mother, Mary, and sisters, Karri and Tammy.

In lieu of flowers, donations to help cover medical bills and funeral expenses are appreciated.

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN **20**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Reis Family Mortuary and Crematory

991 Nipomo Street

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

(805) 544-7400

k.reis1958@gmail.com

<https://www.reisfamilymortuary.net/>

Tribute Wall

AD

“ Alice Davis lit a candle in memory of Deborah Lynn Guardado



Alice Davis - February 15, 2023 at 11:40 PM

AD

Just knowing that she was a teacher tells me that she was an angel from heaven. God Bless your family at your time of loss and healing.

Alice Davis - February 15, 2023 at 11:43 PM

JC

“ My family is so saddened to hear of this tragic news. She was the homeroom teacher for my children through Heartland and had the patience of a saint. She was so kind and graceful. Prayers for her family, extended family, and friends.

Julie Cruse - January 20, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deborah Lynn Guardado.



January 19, 2023 at 07:24 PM



“ Heidi & Gary purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Deborah Lynn Guardado.



Heidi & Gary - January 17, 2023 at 12:31 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Deborah Lynn Guardado.



January 16, 2023 at 10:21 PM