



## Debra Louise McDonnell

November 30, 1954 - February 24, 2014

Debra L. McDonnell, 59, lifetime resident of Ephrata, WA, died February 24 after a courageous 3 ½ year battle with cancer. Born on November 30, 1954 to Julian and Sylvia Agranoff she joined two sisters, Gail (Mike) Miller of Puyallup and Judy Galfano and John Lex of Snoqualmie. She graduated from Ephrata High School in 1973 and holds the state and Ephrata High School record for the 100 yard dash. She went on to run track at Eastern Washington University for three years and completed her B.A. in Early Childhood Education from Ashwood University.

She married Daniel Wiersma in April of 1976 and had four children. In 2007, she married James F. McDonnell and made him the happiest man in the world. She is survived by husband, Jim at home, daughter Rachel (Chris) Gehrlein of Pasco, son Wesley Wiersma of Lynden, son Derek Wiersma of Nooksack, and estranged daughter, Danielle Salmon of Wenatchee. Also survived by stepchildren Casey (Sarah) McDonnell, Rachel (Todd) Huffman, Jason (Lindsey) McDonnell of Spokane and Nathan (Jessica) McDonnell. She was a fun loving grandmother to Mylie, Tehya, Colin, Rylan, Santino, Colby, Marlee, Maddie, Lily and special grandsons Kekoa and Kaleo. She was also the favorite aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Deb was active in the Ephrata Schools and the community. For over 25 years she worked with special needs students in the Ephrata Schools system. She was a beloved cheer and track coach and was considered a second Mom for many of these Athletes. She touched many lives as a caterer for weddings

and special events. Deb had a sense of humor that caught many off guard and a laugh that was contagious. She loved life and everyone in it. There will be a private graveside service and then a community memorial celebration to be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial donation in Debra McDonnell's name to Susan G. Komen for the Cure at [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org). Please express your thoughts and memories for the family and view the online tribute video at [www.nicolesfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicolesfuneralhome.com). Arrangements are under the care of Nicoles Funeral Home of Ephrata, WA.

# Cemetery Details

## **Ephrata Catholic Cemetery**

333 E St. SW  
Ephrata, WA 98823

# Tribute Wall



“ *Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park created a Tribute Video in memory of Debra Louise McDonnell* ”



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**Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park** - February 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ *Tehya sent a virtual gift in memory of Debra Louise McDonnell* ”



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**Tehya** - June 29, 2018 at 09:35 PM

TE

“ *Tehya sent a virtual gift in memory of Debra Louise McDonnell* ”



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**Tehya** - June 29, 2018 at 09:34 PM

TW

“ i loved my grandmother very much. i miss her every single day i remember going to her house and playing with the typewriter that she had on the floor, i also remember she gave me an orange stethoscope. I love you grandma.

Love Tehya

Tehya Wiersma - January 24, 2018 at 11:23 AM

TE

Those were my very favorite memories of her, I miss her every day of the year

Tehya - June 29, 2018 at 09:33 PM

JM

“ I remember having Deb in my same classroom for the first four years of elementary school at Parkway. Then all of junior high and high school. My biggest memories of Deb are her wonderful smile and the love she always showed. I will miss her greatly!!! My heartfelt sympathies go out to Jim and her entire family!!!!

John MacDonald - March 13, 2014 at 01:11 PM

MM

“ Mike & Joyce Mulliken lit a candle in memory of Debra Louise McDonnell



Mike & Joyce Mulliken - March 09, 2014 at 11:37 PM

MI

Jim, Julian & Sylvia ... We are so sorry for your great loss. Please know you are in our prayers. Deb was so talented and a very special lady.

Mike - March 09, 2014 at 11:40 PM

MU

*Mike & Joyce Mulliken*

**Mullikens** - March 09, 2014 at 11:42 PM

DP

“ *Dave,Randie & Kaylee Ponozzo lit a candle in memory of Debra Louise McDonnell*



**Dave,Randie & Kaylee Ponozzo** - March 03, 2014 at 09:57 AM

KS

“ *Kim Groom Schloer lit a candle in memory of Debra Louise McDonnell*



**kim groom schloer** - March 03, 2014 at 09:33 AM

MR

“ *Marcia Lizotte Randall lit a candle in memory of Debra Louise McDonnell*



**Marcia Lizotte Randall** - March 02, 2014 at 10:12 PM

BJ

“ Jim, Julian and Sylvia. We send our condolences for the loss of Debbie. She was a fighter and an example of how to deal with adversity. Now she is at peace and not having with pain and the awful cancer anymore. Thank God for that. Jim I know how happy you made each other, you both deserved it so much. I am so glad that we will all meet in heaven. Your friends, Bob and Lynne Jones

Bob and Lynne Jones - March 01, 2014 at 01:14 PM

MP

“ Marian Menzia Pedersen lit a candle in memory of Debra Louise McDonnell



Marian Menzia Pedersen - February 28, 2014 at 04:11 PM

MP

A candle burning bright for you Deb and your family and now you are free of pain. Marian Menzia Pedersen

Marian Menzia Pedersen - February 28, 2014 at 04:12 PM

MP

May the light shine bright for you and your family and free of pain.

Marian Menzia Pedersen - March 01, 2014 at 11:55 AM

LL

“ Laurie And John Linder sent a virtual gift in memory of Debra Louise McDonnell



Laurie and John Linder - February 28, 2014 at 03:14 PM