

Debbie Kay Duarte (1958-2010)



Debbie Duarte

Debbie Kay Duarte, 52, of Barstow, died Tuesday evening Nov. 9, 2010, after a long battle with leukemia, passing peacefully with her three daughters, goddaughter, and husband at her bedside at City of Hope, Duarte, Calif.

She was born to Elmer and Bertha Buchanan, April 11, 1958, in Mullens, West Virginia. Debbie moved to Barstow in 1973 and graduated from Kennedy High School in 1976, and received her B.A. Magna Cum Laude in Liberal Studies from California Baptist of Riverside, Calif., in 1997 and her Masters in Education in 1998. Debbie was a very devoted and beloved teacher at Skyline Elementary where she began her teaching career in 1997. She was passionate about making a difference in the lives of her students and she always brightened the day of her fellow teachers. Besides being a loving wife to James Duarte, she assisted him in guiding the Barstow High "cross country teams" to six California State Championships.

Debbie loved her children and grandchildren tremendously. She loved running when she was able to do so, even being named Barstow College Runner of the Year. She loved traveling, whether it was short trips to the Los Angeles area or long exotic trips to Guatemala, Belize or the Yucatan.

Debbie is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, James Duarte of Barstow; daughters, April Garrett (her husband John) of Barstow, Nanette Duarte of Barstow and Christina Duarte of Apple Valley, Calif.; grandchildren, Adrina Garrett and Riley Garrett both of Barstow, and Charisma Anspach of Apple Valley;

her mother and step-father Bertha and Charles Clifton of Barstow; and brothers, Sam Buchanan and David Buchanan of Flintridge, Calif.

Debbie was preceded in death by her father, Elmer Buchanan; and a brother Donald Buchanan.

Services will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 505 East Mountain View in Barstow. A Rosary will be said at 1 p.m., with a visitation at 1:30 p.m., a Mass of Christian Burial at 2 p.m., and a Celebration of Debbie's life, with sharing by family and friends, at 3 p.m. A reception will immediately follow church services at Noonan Hall. A graveside blessing will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010, at Mountain View Memorial Park, 37067 Irwin Road in Barstow. Arrangements entrusted to Horizon Memorial Services of Barstow, 760-252-5222.

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