



Debra Jean Irby

November 1, 1954 - April 2, 2021

Debra Jean Irby peacefully passed away at the age of 66 on Friday, April 2, 2021 while holding the hand of her loving and devoted husband, John Irby. Debra, known by most as Debi, was a lifelong Maryland resident and is survived by her husband, John Irby; her mother Inez Michael; her children Shana Lowry and Joey Khachab; her sister Donna Reedy; her brother Bruce Michael; and grandson Luke Lowry. She is predeceased by her father Henry Michael and brother Craig Michael.

Debi was born on November 1, 1954 in Washington, DC and graduated from Bowie High School in Maryland. After high school, Debi began to learn and master Raqs Sharqi, the Arabic expressive dance, also known as belly dancing. Debi would eventually travel the world and became a world renown dancer. She frequently traveled and performed with her loyal and lifelong best friend Nancy Thomas. After traveling the world, Debi married Joseph Khachab and welcomed her son Joey and daughter Shana. Debi was a devoted and loyal mother to Joey and Shana. In 1999, she met and later married John Irby. Debi and John were inseparable from the first day they met.

Debi lived her life the right way; a caring, warm and loving person that would always be there for you if you were fortunate enough to have known her. She recognized the good in people and made you a better person after being around her. She was another mother, sister, and friend to so many people

throughout her life, especially caring for friends of her children. She was always there if you needed someone to talk about life's issues, advice, or a just a shoulder to cry upon. She had an uncanny ability to reach people in a deep and positive way. She would encourage you to pursue your passion in life, understand what is truly important, take chances, and live life with compassion for others. She truly cared for people and her life's actions showed that. Debi, a uniquely artistic and creative person, was known to write you a poem, draw you a meaningful picture, or spend hours making a gift solely dedicated to you. If you knew Debi, your heart is broken today because you knew how much of a good, caring, and loyal person she was and will forever miss her beautiful smile, contagious laugh, gentle spirit and positive and uplifting view of life and people. Debi will be deeply missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.

A celebration service of Debi's life is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Mid Atlantic Community Church (MACC) located at 2485 Davidsonville Road, Gambrills, Maryland 21054. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the MACC.

<https://themacc.org/give>

Tribute Wall

LC

“ *A rare and beautiful soul - gone but never to be forgotten by those who loved her.....*

Laura Cline - June 11, 2021 at 07:57 PM

TS

“ *Debi's service was so beautiful just like she was! Everyone who was blessed to know her has been forever touched. Much love & prayers, Dede & Gary*

Tribute Store - April 19, 2021 at 05:38 PM

GF

“ *God Bless You and Your Family. I know how much you love and adored your beautiful Wife. I hope and pray you celebrate her life and the love you have.*

Glenn Roehsner and Family - April 16, 2021 at 10:20 AM

TB

“ *So sorry for your loss. Debbie was a very special person and will truly be missed.*

Tim and Lori Barr - April 16, 2021 at 08:17 AM

DS

“ *John, We are so sorry for your loss. Debi was such a strong, beautiful woman. We love you. Deborah, Bob and Rita*

Deborah Smith - April 13, 2021 at 10:28 PM

ML

“ Sent with love and remembrance of beautiful, kind, spirited Debi. We will miss her.

Mark & Lauren - April 12, 2021 at 08:32 AM

EM

“ I first met Debi in the 1980s when we danced together. She always danced with elegance, dignity and joy. And her professional ethics were impeccable. Debi was a sweet soul and a purely loving person. She was kind to everyone. Her parents raised a lovely woman who was always willing to go the extra mile to be good to others. I remember when my mother had cancer and I was in my 30s. I was devastated but I told Debi that I felt I should be more mature. I was trying to hold it all together and she said; “But that's your Mama. And nothing can ever take the place of your Mama.” That is when I lost it and she sat quietly with me while I cried until I couldn't cry anymore. I still get misty when I remember those kind moments of compassion and validation. My mother lived for another 35 years and Debi rejoiced with me about that too. She was just naturally like that and she understood people and their emotions so well. She could say in one sentence just the right thing that a person needed to hear. Debi will be missed by everyone who loved her and everyone who knew her could not help but love her. She was so easy to love. Debi will dance with the angels now and she will watch over John, her Mom, Shana and Joey. She would want us to remember the good times and to try to not be too sad. That is going to take some time. May God bless John and her family through this difficult time.

Elizabeth Artemis Mourat - April 11, 2021 at 05:54 PM

TS

“ Debra Jean Irby

Tribute Store - April 11, 2021 at 05:53 PM

BH

“Debra Irby” will remain in our hearts forever.

Brooke,Eddie.Jessica .Elise and Edwin HALL - April 10, 2021 at 08:29 PM

BO

Debi, 1001 Thanks for all you did to help make my dream come true of dancing professionally in the exact venue I wanted. You always said I thanked you too much- but I can never thank you enough for my happiness. And for you and the girls of your generation for the class, elegance, courtesy, and patience they always gave me. To Debi's Mama- I don't know you Ms. Inez- but you brought up the nicest, sweetest girl of great kindness. She is with the angels now, and may we all meet again. I know this is devastating for you to lose a child- but I want you to know she made her mark in our sometimes harsh world in her kindness to others and you and the family have every reason to be very proud of the newest Angel. Love and Light to the Family, Bonita the belly dancer

bonita - April 09, 2021 at 04:40 PM

DS

Oh, just seeing your photograph after all of these years fills me with so much emotion. I have never met any other person quite like you-- few could match your presence, extraordinary beauty, practical intelligence, honesty and kindness..not to mention that warm sense of humor which was always just under the surface when the world was cold. Sending so much love to your beautiful children and to your wonderful family. I've never forgotten you and never will.

Dawn Stonebraker - April 07, 2021 at 05:39 PM

BH

“ *What a wonderful tribute to an even more wonderful woman, wife, mother and friend. Debi- you ARE missed and always will be. Your spirit was/is one of a kind, and your presence literally would light up a room. Although John, Shana, Joey, Inez and all of the others that loved and cherished you are coping with your loss, your spirit will and always will remain. Shine on, smile on, keep on keeping on Debi. Your spirit sure will. Bill*

Bill Hocking - April 06, 2021 at 05:48 PM

CZ

“ *May your energy live on. You taught me so much. You will be dearly missed. Till we meet again. Love you*

Carmen Zagami - April 05, 2021 at 09:28 PM

MR

“ *Debi was always so generous and kind. If you expressed that you liked something, she would find a way to gift it to you. One time I told her she smelled good and within the week I had my own bottle of perfumed powder which she wore so I can smell just like her. I wear it often and relish in the fact I can hold on to her scent. I will surely miss her smile and laugh, as well as her mashed potatoes and gravy! I'll see you in my dreams until we meet again, Aunt Debi!*

Melissa Reedy - April 05, 2021 at 04:09 PM

RF

“ Debi you truly will be missed!! I loved your gentle loving free spirit. John adored you and I will never forget the first time I met you... your daughter Shana was getting ready for her high school prom and I saw the most beautiful interaction with a mother and daughter and wished at that moment I would have that kind of love some day with my daughter. Thank you, Debi for showing us all how to love and laugh. We will miss you and keep you in our hearts always. Rest in Peace with our Lord in heaven! Prayers for your family.

Rina Flood - April 05, 2021 at 03:20 PM

MG

“ I met Debi when I was barely 15 and fell in love with her right away. I never met anyone like her. She was so in tune to herself, who she was, what she wanted so accepting of others. So fun and loving. She changed my life and I will always be thankful for the day she walked into my life. You could not ask for a better friend. We could go years without talking and pick up like we never missed a day. Rest In Peace Debi. You fought so hard. I love you!!!

Mandy getz - April 05, 2021 at 01:44 PM

DO

“ Debi there are no words to describe how much you will be missed . You were so brave and i thank you for putting up such a fight when you were so tired . But you knew we were not ready to let you go . Thank you for being the best sister anyone could ask for . Your beautiful face and smile will be in my heart for ever. I love you so much . Rest in peace . God knows you deserve to be at peace . Love you my beautiful sister.

Donna - April 05, 2021 at 01:42 PM

RS

“ *Debbie I am so sorry god has called upon you so soon; but I know he needed more angles, which fits you all the way. I will never forget all the deep fulfilled private talks we had, after I lost my son Anthony. It helped me so much. You were so understanding of my pain, and your kind helped me a lot. I could identify with a lot of your challenges. Thanks for your compassion. Don't worry about John, we got him; and he will always be my brother! I celebrate your life, not mourn your death! You will be missed! Love you and R.I.P.* 🙏🙏
😊😊❤️❤️

Rita Sparacino - April 05, 2021 at 01:27 PM

NC

“ *It was always a joy being around Debi. She always asked about our son Shane and commented on his growth as a person. Not only was she a good friend we considered her and John as family. We offer our condolences to her entire family. Love Fran, Nancy and Shane Cray*

Nancy Cray - April 05, 2021 at 10:50 AM