



Deborah Smith

March 22, 1963 - January 9, 2021

Mrs. Smith made her transition on Saturday, January 9, 2021 in West Bloomfield, MI. Please leave words of comfort for her family here on the tribute wall.

Deborah Robin (Bright) Smith of Southfield made her transition peacefully on Saturday, holding the hand of her beloved husband of almost thirty years, Carl Henry Smith, Sr., while listening to their favorite love songs. She was 57 years old.

Deborah was born on March 22, 1963 as the fourth child of ten children of Henry B. Bright, M.D., and Mrs. Barbara J. Bright. She grew up in Detroit, MI, attending Catholic schools, Gesu Elementary and Immaculata High School where she graduated with honors, and later attending the University of Michigan. Deborah began a career in accounting at Crain Communications, Detroit, where she met her husband, Carl, who worked at J. Walter Thompson. She married her best friend, Carl, on July 6, 1991. They had two children, Carl Henry, Jr. and Candace Joan, and chose to raise them in Southfield, MI. Together, they prioritized their children's educations and made sure the family enjoyed annual summer vacations, among them, trips to Northern Michigan, Universal Studios and Myrtle Beach. Deborah and Carl enjoyed organizing events for their large extended families from fielding annual baseball games to hosting barbeques and board game nights at their home. They enjoyed traveling together, indulging Carl's love of golf, Deborah's love of spa treatments, and their mutual love for beautiful scenery and great

restaurants.

Deborah made a career change from accounting to real estate where, with phenomenal customer focus, drive, and professionalism, she built a successful business from the ground up. She regularly earned the Top Individual Sales Award several years from Keller Williams Home. She delighted in shepherding first-time homebuyers through the purchasing experience every bit as much as she did selling landmark homes like the famed Berry Gordy "Motown Mansion". As a real estate broker, political activist, and active Southfield resident, Deborah was a member of several organizations including the North Oakland County Board of Realtors (NOCBOR), Southfield Chamber of Commerce, Southfield Commission of Senior Adults (COSA), and Southfield Total Living Commission. Deborah was a great debater, who enjoyed spirited political discussions. She was proud to be elected to serve as an Oakland County Democratic Precinct Delegate representing Southfield in 2020.

Deborah was loved and will be missed by her family and many, many friends. Her motto was "Family First" and she wanted to protect her loved ones to the end. In accordance with her wishes, a memorial will be held for immediate family by invitation only. It will be livestreamed publicly for all family and friends from Kemp Funeral Home on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 12:00 noon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Gleaners Food Bank, Community Health and Social Services Center, or a charity of choice.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 20. 12:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services

24585 Evergreen Rd

Southfield, MI 48075

(248) 702-5367

info@kempfh.com

<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Deborah Smith*



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 22, 2021 at 11:18 AM



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Deborah Smith*



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 20, 2021 at 11:53 AM



“ *Makayla lit a candle in memory of Deborah Smith*



makayla - October 19, 2022 at 06:06 PM



“ *Deborah Smith*

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Deborah Smith*

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. In 2004 my family needed a realtor and Deborah had mailed out her Family First calendars which we stuck on our fridge. It was staring right at us in our face. We realized we had a realtor all along. As the years passed, Deborah became a friend and I will truly miss her strength, passion for families, and her laugh. Deborah RIP.*

PS - May 10, 2021 at 08:06 PM



“ *Mary Williams lit a candle in memory of Deborah Smith*



Mary Williams - February 26, 2021 at 11:12 AM



“ *Mary Williams lit a candle in memory of Deborah Smith*



Mary Williams - January 31, 2021 at 09:10 AM

SM

My condolences to you and the whole family. ❤️

Schantalee McKinney - February 15, 2021 at 08:13 AM

BN

“*Deborah. I’m going miss your smile and our silly moments. RIH. My heart is broken. But God., is here with me during this time. Love you girly.*”

Brigeda Nelson - January 29, 2021 at 03:04 PM

KF

“ Rest in peace Deborah!
Deepest condolences to Deborah’s family (and many friends)!

The memories go waaaaaaaaayyyy back! We started as coworkers and quickly became friends. When she left the company we were at to embark upon her Real Estate career, I was shattered knowing we would not see each other nearly as much. However, I was happy for her as this new challenge really lit a spark in her – a spark which I had not seen in any conversation other than one about her family. We promised to keep in touch. Although we had not seen each other nearly as much as we used to, any time we spoke or got together it was if no time at all had gone by. We laughed a lot!!

We had not been in touch since I reached out to say “Happy Birthday” back in March, so I didn’t know she was embarking on the battle of her life. The news hit me like a ton of bricks. I was hoping and praying it was just a bad dream. As the memories were flooding in, I shared one of my favorite memories of Deborah with another friend, and thought I’d share it with anyone bothering to read all of this 😊

When Karaoke started becoming popular back in the 90’s, a group of us went to the bar after work. To my surprise, Deborah willingly stepped up to the mic and began belting out “I believe I can fly”. We were blown away! None of us had any idea that she could sing!! It was beautiful. Deborah believed she could do anything she put her mind to, and her accomplishments thereafter had repeatedly strengthened her belief, and endurance, to do more.

I’m also sharing a photograph that I took about a month before Deborah took flight. I find Snowy Owls amazingly beautiful, and now this one “in flight” reminds me of Deborah - flying high, touching the sky.

It’s times like these that make us reflect on memories which would normally make us laugh, but now triggers a different emotion. That

will change back over time if you let it. It will get better - if and only if, you believe...

*Sincerely,
Kathy Fenner*



Kathy Fenner - January 22, 2021 at 06:17 PM

DJ

“ *My heart is saddened and I extend my deepest sympathies to Deborah's extended family and friends. I'm mindful of the many conversations we shared about her family and how she would just "glow" with pride. I'm thankful to God for allowing me to know her.*

Rest in heaven my friend...you will be missed!

Darroll Jenkins

Darroll Jenkins - January 21, 2021 at 07:25 AM

MB

We will all miss her ❤️

Makayla Bright - January 21, 2021 at 09:37 AM

LY

“ *Deborah an Amazing Woman and Leader. It seems like yesterday when she spearheaded a class reunion in 2018 for our small intimate High School-Immaculata High. She was not only a go-getter but ahead of her class. Her confidence, down-to-earth personality and SMILE was contagious. She had an innate skill for diplomacy when interacting with others. She was an intellectual astute person whose was known for being clever and fair. My ole neighbor from Marygrove St. , friend and Immaculata High Sister ...your presence will be dearly missed. Sending my love and Condolences to Debbie's Family-*



lynn young - January 20, 2021 at 07:45 PM

LC

“ *Lynelle Carr lit a candle in memory of Deborah Smith*



Lynelle Carr - January 20, 2021 at 07:31 PM

JL

“ *Jami Lewin lit a candle in memory of Deborah Smith*



Jami Lewin - January 20, 2021 at 06:14 PM

JW

“ Jennifer, I'm sorry for your loss. I will pray for you, and your family, to heal after losing such an important member of your family.
~your friend, Joyce



Joyce Walls - January 20, 2021 at 06:05 PM

BR

“ I am so thankful I was able to celebrate the life of Aunt Debbie with everyone, even if it was virtual. She will always be remembered as a strong, beautiful woman that I am proud to have known. I look forward to celebrating in person as soon as we are able. I love you all and will continue praying for your peace.

Briana - January 20, 2021 at 01:54 PM

MB

“ Makayla Bright lit a candle in memory of Deborah Smith



Makayla Bright - January 20, 2021 at 01:49 PM

MB

“ She was my favorite aunt she will always be in my heart. We all miss you aunt Debbie. Love you. I will see you again ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Makayla Bright - January 20, 2021 at 01:46 PM

DE

“ *Debra lit a candle in memory of Deborah Smith*



Debra - January 20, 2021 at 01:37 PM

JB

“ *Jaime Botsford lit a candle in memory of Deborah Smith*



Jaime botsford - January 20, 2021 at 01:27 PM

JB

“ *Deborah was a true role model of strength, confidence and grace. She will be more than missed and I will cherish the memories of her laughter always. Thinking of Carl, CJ and Candace and all her family and friends. Sending love and condolences to all.*

Jaime botsford - January 20, 2021 at 01:17 PM

 Lisa Banks

“ *Deborah will be missed. She was not only my boss at one time, my realtor, but my friend and mentor. 💕💕*



Lisa Banks - January 20, 2021 at 11:36 AM

MB

“ Thinking of Deborah's family and friends during this difficult time. I am so sorry for your loss and you have my deepest sympathies. May God keep and comfort you.

Mona Bain - January 20, 2021 at 09:59 AM

TF

“ Our deepest condolences to Deborah's beloved family and friends. May God comfort and keep you during this difficult time.

The Bain Family - January 20, 2021 at 09:49 AM



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



January 20, 2021 at 08:15 AM

SG

“ MAY GOD COMFORT HER FAMILY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME, DEBORAH WAS A CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL KIND HEART AND MADE A DEFINITE MARK IN THIS WORLD. MISS YOU BLUE ANGEL...SHAWN K. GATLING

Shawn K Gatling - January 20, 2021 at 03:46 AM

HE

“ The world lost an amazing, funny, smart, beautiful, professional, real person far too soon. I will always remember her laugh, positive energy, honesty and her boldness. She was great friend, colleague and wonderful person.

I meet Debra 13 years ago when I joined Keller Williams Home. My office was next to Debra's office. Debra touched so many lives by her selfless and countless acts of kindness and always giving. She was great mentor to many realtors, offered so much knowledge and experience and thought many classes without expecting anything in return. She was loved and respected so much in the office.

Rest in peace my friend. I will always cherish the memories.

Hulya Erol-Garvett

Hulya Erol-Garvett - January 20, 2021 at 12:14 AM

GW

I've known Deborah since the 4th grade at Gesu and graduated with her from Immaculata High School we came together again in 2017 as if we had never been apart it was exhilarating. Deborah's energy, kindness, compassion and grace was most impactful, she treated me like a friend. I will never ever forget her smile, strict work ethic and love for her children, husband and family. I know she will be missed by many people but even more by her loving family. Please except my deepest condolences and love as my IHS sister has ascended into the sky's as the angel she truly is.

*Thank you Deborah for being you.
Much love Gilda L. Walker*

Gilda Walker - January 20, 2021 at 07:11 AM

RG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Raegina Gunn - January 19, 2021 at 11:52 PM

DS

“ Deborah, I was always proud to show my husband that you were a real estate agent. Your card would come in our mail every so often and I would say to my husband, that the pretty lady on the card is my cousin. You are not suffering any more. I am praying for the strength of our family members for the loss of such a beautiful spirit.

Darcel Stewart - January 19, 2021 at 08:35 PM

JA

“ It was a pleasure to know two sides of Deborah. The highly professional no nonsense realtor and the softer warm woman she became during our conversations about our families. The love and pride she had for her family showed on her face when she spoke of them. I did not know she was ill. I am shocked and sadden to hear of her passing. To her family I cannot imagine your grief . Just know that she loved you dearly, cherish your memories and when able, go forth and do the things you know she would want you to do. She is safe and suffering no more.

Joyce Aldridge-Hunter - January 18, 2021 at 10:19 AM

KM

“ Deborah I cannot believe you are gone. I relish our conversations about our children in the office and I am thinking of them now as one mother to another. My sincere prayers are for your children. May GOD help see them through these tough days ahead. RIP Deb.

Kimberly McCree - January 17, 2021 at 11:11 AM

JG

“ It was so nice to have known a beautiful human being. We worked at Keller Williams Home. RIP Deborah. Joanne Goolsby



Joanne Goolsby - January 16, 2021 at 11:59 AM



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



January 16, 2021 at 11:37 AM

SP

“ I am thankful to have shared memories with Deborah. I will miss her, and her impact on our family. She was a go-getter. Our family is making a garden again. God Bless Us. With Sincerest Condolences 🙏
The Pitts Family



Suzanne Pitts - January 16, 2021 at 01:20 AM

NC

“ I knew Deborah from her days at Yazaki. She was the kind of person that could instantly brighten your day with her quick wit and a smile. We shared stories about family, raising children, careers....and life. There was a lot of laughter and a few tears along the way, but always, we looked forward to the next bright tomorrow. I am blessed to have had her in my life. To her family and friends- my thoughts and prayers are now with you. Peace to all.
~Nancy Conley

Nancy Conley - January 15, 2021 at 08:02 PM

SM

“ Our Beloved Deborah R. Smith will be truly missed. May Comfort and Strengthen all of us that are grieving the loss and absence of Deborah physical presence here on Earth!!

Sikondre Mathis - January 15, 2021 at 03:41 PM

SM

May we all be comforted and strengthened during this time!!

Sikondre Mathis - January 15, 2021 at 04:13 PM

GC

“ Carl, We are so sorry to hear of this. Debbie was such a wonderful person, we know she will be missed very much. Our prayers go out to you and your family. - Sue and Greg Campbell

Greg Campbell - January 14, 2021 at 11:26 AM

ED

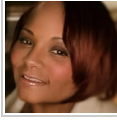
*Carl,
Pat and I are so very sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Edward Daniel - January 14, 2021 at 11:52 AM

JB

Carl, My heart goes out to you and your family and I am so sorry for your loss. Thinking of you at this difficult time.

June Billie - January 14, 2021 at 03:41 PM



*Our deepest sympathies to the Smith & Bright families. Heaven has truly gained an Angel. RIH, Debbie!!
James & Juanita Roye & Family*

Juanita Roye - January 15, 2021 at 07:09 PM

RC

Carl, Mark and I are so very sorry to hear of your loss. Sending you hugs and prayers during this very difficult time.

Reem Cassel - January 19, 2021 at 10:06 AM