



Debra Jo Steffen

March 25, 1973 - February 11, 2026

Debra Jo Steffen, 52, of Dewey, Oklahoma, passed away on February 11, 2026, in her home surrounded by family and loved ones, after her long and hard battle with cancer.

Born on March 25, 1973, in Vinita, Oklahoma, she was the child of Lester O'Bryne Praytor & Mary Belle Quary. As a child, Debra loved reading- you could often find her curled up in a chair with a book- she also loved walking with her mother and sister in downtown Vinita when the weather was nice. Debra enjoyed camping on Grand Lake with her mother, father, and sister Amy. They had a pop-up camper, and she had a many happy weekends with her family in Bernice.

She attended Tulsa Community College and went on to get her Master's Degree in Child Development. She was the owner and operator of Kountry Thyme daycare for 17 years while also working at Eggbert's for 10 years. Even while she fought Stage 4 appendix Cancer for the last 2 ½ years, she still worked with the Delaware Tribe as a Teacher, showing her dedication and determination in shaping the minds of young children.

In 2017, she and Nicholas A. Carither began their shared life together and, for 9 years, enjoyed riding motorcycles, movie nights, date nights every Sunday, and became foster parents together.

Debra is survived by her 4 sons, Zakery, Dalton, Dakota, Hunter, and Jacob Simpson, her bonus son. Her grandchildren, Emmarose, Zoey, Rylee, and Colt. Her sisters, Glenda Gregory, Robin Kepler, and Amy Fletcher (Alfred). Lots of family love and will miss debra. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, her 3 brothers, Carven Dale Praytor, Dennis Epperson, and Johnny Epperson, and her grandchild, Zayne

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, February 27th, 2026, 2 p.m at First Baptist Church of Dewey. We will also be having a second celebration of life at her home at a later date to be announced.

Flower donations may be made to 402 E 10th St, Dewey, Oklahoma 74029

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **27**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Dewey First Baptist Church

300 E 10th St.

Dewey, OK 74029

(918) 534-3001

<http://www.fbcdewey.org>

Tribute Wall

MF

“*Deb was truly a dedicated teacher who deeply loved the children in her care. Her compassion and commitment were evident each and every day. I personally cherished having her as both a coworker and an employee—she made my job easier simply by being part of our program. Her presence made a lasting impact, and she will never be replaced. I will cherish the time we shared.*

Monica Fisher - February 23 at 02:31 PM

KG

“*Deb was one of my truest friends. I met her while working in childcare and we have remained close friends since. I have always loved her and looked to her as a strong person and special person. I miss her deeply but she will always shine her light on us. I love you Deb! Ms.KK*

KK Gee - February 20 at 02:57 PM

AJ

“*I went to high school with Debra and we worked together at Walmart during the same time. She was a very nice girl and will be truly missed. I am so sorry to hear she passed. I speak comfort and peace over Amy and all of Debra's family.*

Audra Johnston - February 17 at 09:46 AM