



## Deborah Robertson Gordon

August 21, 2025

Deborah Denise Robertson Gordon, was welcomed into God's Garden on August 21, 2025, now enjoying heaven's best pair of wings and an eternity of well-deserved rest. Her beloved father Adrian Robertson was there to welcome her to God's head table with open arms, while her adored daughters Rachel and Karlee Gordon look up to her in heaven as much as they looked up to her in life.

Debbie was a best friend to everyone she knew, a lighthouse for every boat that crossed her path. She emanated warmth, hope, and happiness. God took time and care crafting her heart of gold, and one needed only a single interaction with her to prove it.

Along with her daughters, Debbie is survived by her mother, Connie Robertson, brother Craig, and sister-in-law Natalie. Among those who mourn her as a sisterhood found in life are Mrs. Dora Ellsworth, Mrs. Anne Orwig, Mrs. Daphne Templeton, and Mrs. Vicki Newman. She leaves behind many loving Aunts and Uncles, among whom are Mr. A.D. Robertson, Mrs. Jackie Neal, Mrs. Eileen Dyson and Mr. Jimmy Dyson. She also leaves behind a host of cousins who share her heart of gold, among whom is Mr. Terry Robertson.

Debbie was a true and proud Virginia native. After graduating from Western Branch High School in Chesapeake, Virginia, Debbie earned a bachelor's

degree in marketing education from Old Dominion University. In 1986, she obtained her master's degree from ODU in computer science, being among some of the first women to focus her studies on the emergence of computer technology. Debbie began her career with the Virginian Pilot newspaper in Norfolk, Virginia. She then founded a computer learning center in Chesapeake, Virginia. She followed with a successful and rewarding career with AOPA Pilot magazine in Frederick, Maryland. Upon moving to Orlando, Florida, she raised her daughters the only way she knew how: by being the best. In devoting her life to her daughters, she became avidly involved in the Girl Scouts of America, various Parent Teacher's Associations, served as a board member of the Birth Defects Research Association, and served as an integral member of the United Parish of Celebration church.

When Debbie's eldest daughter, Rachel, fell seriously ill at 19 years old, Debbie became a full-time caretaker, working endlessly to ensure Rachel lived the rest of her life in comfort. Simultaneously, Debbie ensured her youngest daughter, Karlee, pursued her dream of attending law school with no obstacles in Karlee's way. Only three months prior to Debbie's passing, she watched Karlee graduate from William & Mary Law School while Rachel sat next to her mother enjoying a newfound stability in her medical journey. Suffice to say Debbie's time for eternal rest arrived when she knew her life's devotion to both of her daughters could come to a rewarding and bittersweet close.

When she was not making her loved one's smile, serving as a rock for her daughters, or fighting the battles God set before her, she enjoyed gardening while keeping an eye out for red cardinals, cooking delicious meals, cross-stitching masterpieces, and loving any animal that needed a home. She had a particular fondness for the most enriching of reality television and laughed to the series "The Office" regardless of how many times she watched it.

While the eternal love Debbie's family and friends have for her make it certain many tears will be shed, she would not want those tears to flow endlessly. Her daughters ask that she is remembered in happiness, and not in sorrow. Her daughters ask that her loved ones remember and replicate her laughter and smile to comfort them on their hardest days. Lastly, her daughters ask that her loved ones try to bear the unending mountain that was Debbie's strength and live life knowing Debbie lived hers for the happiness of everyone she held in her heart.

Details of the memorial service will follow. In lieu of flowers, Debbie's daughters ask that donations be made in her honor to either the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the "ASPCA") or the Wounded Warriors Project.

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ I will never forget the mother’s love and pride Debbie showed when she celebrated her daughters’ accomplishments after Karlee’s law school graduation and Rachel’s renewed health. No detail was too small to show love for her daughters. Her memory is a blessing. God’s love shines around her and comforts all who mourn her. Sending love.

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**Sue Saunders** - October 29, 2025 at 06:09 PM

SI

“ Rachel and Karlee,

*I am so sorry for your loss. For our loss. Your mother was my best friend. My soulmate. The best thing that ever happened to me. She gave everything she had to the people she loved. And she loved more than anyone in this world. There is no one who will ever compare to her. No one who lived a life like she did. And no woman better than her. Except for her daughters. I loved her so much. And I love you both. With all my heart. And everything I have. - Sinio*

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**Sinio** - September 14, 2025 at 07:54 PM

BM

“ Really cannot believe taken so young. Debbie was my childhood neighbor. I remember her brother, mom and Dad well. Mr Robertson like to plug is lawn.

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**Brenda Price Mccready** - September 04, 2025 at 12:11 AM

MG

“ Rachel and Karlee,  
I went to school with your mother. She always had the most amazing smile that made anyone happy when they needed it most. Please  
Know your grief journey will be difficult but your beautiful memories of your mom  
Will make it so much easier. Sending hugs and prayers for peace

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**Michele Taylor Graupmann** - September 02, 2025 at 05:23 PM

JH

“ Dear Rachel and Karlee - We are so very sorry to learn of Debbie's passing. We have unforgettable memories of your mother when you were both so little and Lucy and Rachel became good buddies. Debbie was always so kind, beautiful and radiated charm and grace. And how she loved you girls! We are all holding that space for you at this time. May her memory always be a comfort to you both. Love, Dan, Jenn and Lucy Habel.

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**Jennifer Habel** - September 02, 2025 at 02:55 PM

CF

“ I knew your mother (and dad) while we were all stationed at Ft Stewart. She was a great friend during that time. I am so sorry for your loss.

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**Carrie Ferguson** - September 02, 2025 at 10:38 AM

TM

“ I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your mom. I have many wonderful memories of her and things we did as friends in high school. Although we drifted apart as adult life got going, I always thought of her with fondness. May your memories of her help get you through this difficult time.

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**Terry Ellis Murphy** - September 02, 2025 at 08:09 AM



“ I met Debbie in elementary school and we discovered that we shared the exact same birthday. We became friends but lost touch during our college years. I would see your mom from time to time at reunions or when she returned to the Western Branch area. Your mom was a light that shined bright and she will be missed by many. I'm sending prayers for comfort, strength and peace to your family.

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**Lisa Hartsell Nash** - September 02, 2025 at 07:10 AM

TR

“ Although we attended ODU together, we didn't truly meet until working in the advertising department at the Virginian-Pilot and Ledger-Star. Debbie lit up a room whenever she entered and always had a way to make you feel special. We both got married and parted ways ,but the military has a funny way of giving you opporutnites to cross paths many times which we did in Northern Virginia AND Orlando. Debbie your smile and spirit will be miss. May you have peace joy and rest in the arms of your heavenly father.  
Fair winds and following seas my friend ~~ Trish Kessler Sorce



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**Trish** - September 01, 2025 at 10:57 PM