



Debra Sue Spitza

October 28, 1954 - February 18, 2026

Debra Sue Spitza, 71, passed away peacefully February 18th, 2026 at her home surrounded by family and friends. Debra was born October 28th, 1954 in Bellaire, Michigan to the late James and Joyce Spitza. A loving mother and dedicated grandmother, Debra enjoyed spending quality time with her family and friends (particularly her best friend Sherry and cousin Dan). Some of her favorite pastimes included morel mushroom hunting, swimming in Torch Lake and marveling at its colors, traveling, and she was passionate about thrift store shopping. Her love for travel led her on many adventures starting out west in her younger years, and ending with Florida and North Carolina later, where she enjoyed the ocean and the beauty around her. Debra also attended Northwestern Michigan College where she achieved a medical assistant degree and also worked at Kalkaska County Clerk's office and Equalizations for a time. Debra is survived by daughters Stephanie Murden (Andrew Mcallum), Jamie Molski (Derek) Shutt, granddaughters Ashley Erickson, Kinzey Shutt, Sister Connie (Brad) Raby as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Debra was preceded in death by her parents Joyce (Sam) Long, James Spitza and sister Pamela Countryman. A celebration of Life for Debra will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, charitable donations can be made to Women's Resource Center in Traverse City, Project Feed the Kids (J&S Hamburg), Kalkaska County Commission on Aging, Kalkaska County Animal Shelter or Michigan Medicine (University of Michigan). Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Tribute Wall

RO

“ I am sorry to learn of Debbie's passing. She was a sweet lady and she loved to laugh. She reminisced over her childhood & she loved her family deeply. I have fond memories of Deb. Rest in peace Deb.
Patty Rodgers, Kalkaska County Clerk Retired



Rodgers - March 10 at 12:44 AM

CL

“ Deb what fun we had growing up cuz, running down to Aunts house, playing in play house and cooking dinner with over ripe vegs from the garden. Catching up with you after all the years was such a joy. So happy to see you at reunion, talking all these month's, laughing every time. I'll miss you along time Deb, I love you...meet me on the shore❤️

Carolyn Lanning - February 27 at 05:45 PM

DB

I remember many years ago in early childhood traveling down a ribbon of highway to Alden, Michigan to join my heart with my cousin Debbie.

The joy of childhood was at its' peak with a relationship full of love and carefree adventures at her Alden farm home. No matter what we did, whether it be climbing hay bail mountains, cleaning the barn, or getting in trouble for robbing the garden of fresh vegetables, life was pure joy when we were together.

And even though decades of time have passed, my recent reconnection with Debbie, confirmed to me that dormant friendships can be reignited! As we spent hours reminiscing the days of the past, we also made plans for adventures in the future. With that conversation, Debbie's smile widened and her eyes were opened with a glimmer of hope.

Hope for me has not been lost, even though Debbie has gone to her Maker. I believe that we will meet again someday and go on a GLORIOUS ADVENTURE IN HEAVEN! Wait for me Debbie! I'll be seeing you!

Daniel Belanger - March 07 at 12:35 PM

CF

“*Heartfelt condolences to Debbie's family. You are on my thoughts. Pammy and I were good friends in elementary school. I was also very saddened to see she passed last year, as well.*”



Cyndie (Thompson) Forster - February 27 at 05:49 AM

TS

“ I'm glad we got to meet even for a short time but you will never be forgotten. Wish we could have had more time together. love Ron
Trudi Shutt

Trudi Shutt - February 26 at 04:41 PM

SH

“ With sixty years of memories I could write volumes. Debbie and I grew up, and grew old together, although she would be the first to say, we're NOT old! We've shared so many adventures and have had so much fun, both of us enjoying the simple things in life. Thank goodness for all the memories. I know I will miss my best friend for the remainder of my time but am thankful for what we've shared.
Rest in peace Debbie. You'll be in my heart forever.

Sherry Howard - February 26 at 02:57 PM

LL

Thru Sherry we met Debbie beautiful person ❤️

Lee Livingston - February 26 at 07:05 PM

CL

You were sisters in every sense of the word ❤️

Carolyn Lanning - February 27 at 05:48 PM