



Bloomington, Illinois
February 6, 1957 - May 9, 2025

Debra K. Wylie, 68, passed away on May 9, 2025 at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria, IL.

Debra was born on February 6, 1957 in Bloomington, IL; daughter of Kermit Dale and Hazel (Butler) Wylie.

Debra is survived by her siblings: Jack Wylie and Sandra Denman; many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, 1 half sister, 2 half brothers, and 1 niece.

For all of us who knew and loved her, she was the person we went to for comfort, advice, or just a kind word. We laughed together, cried together, watched movies, or ate a meal. Whatever the activity, life was just better in her presence. Long philosophical discussions were her specialty. We called that solving the world's problems. She cared for human beings and cats in equal measure, and did her best to make sure everyone who crossed her path got the care and concern necessary to make their lives better.

Providing some of Deb's fondest memories were being crowned Miss Merry Christmas in 1964, and playing clarinet in jr. high and high school. Her travels took her to San Francisco, San Diego (she lived there for a bit) and a couple of trips to London England (her very favorite).

Deb began her tenure at Illinois State University in October 1995. In 2003, she began operational support to the Gamma Phi Circus organization. In 2009, her responsibilities expanded to full-time management of the circus business office. She served Gamma Phi Circus as program director from 2011 to 2019 when she retired. She was inducted into Gamma Phi Circus in 2019. This was her proudest accomplishment. Go Go Gamma Phi!

We lost our angel on earth, our Aunt Debbie, Deb, Ms. Debbie, Debra K., our dearest friend will forever watch over us all and guide us in life as she always has.

A gathering of close friends & family for Debra will be from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 16, 2025 at Beck Memorial Home, 209 E. Grove St., Bloomington, IL with a graveside service immediately following at 11:30 a.m. at Park Hill Cemetery in Bloomington, IL with Jack Wylie officiating. Memorials may be made in Debra's name to Gamma Phi Circus.