



Deborah J. Stilson

May 27, 1956 - December 10, 2020

Deborah J. Stilson

Schenectady – Deborah J. Stilson, 64, of Schenectady, NY passed away after a long illness on Thursday December 10, 2020 at her home with her family by her side.

Born on May 27, 1956 in Troy, NY, Debbie was a lifelong area resident and attended local schools.

Debbie worked for New York State for 39 years, starting her career as a stenographer, advancing to a legal secretary for the Agriculture and Markets Dept., and after returning to school at Maria College to earn her associates degree, retired from the NYS Attorney Generals office in 2013 as a legal assistant.

A devout Roman Catholic, Debbie was a communicant of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Schenectady where she wore many hats. Debbie served the church community as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, Trustee, and various positions on the Parish Council. She was also active with the youth ministry, a member of the Rosary Society, and part of the Bereavement committee. Debbie and her husband were active with Marriage Encounter and she was an Associate of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. She participated in a local crochet circle and will be lovingly remembered for her baking talent.

Survivors include her husband of 40 years, Morris L. Stilson, III whom she married on April 12, 1980; her 4 children, Jason (Alicia) Stilson of Ballston Spa, Kelly (Shaun Bassett) Stilson of Bedford, MA, Rebecca Parker(Joseph Pyska) of Clifton Park, and Meghan (Steven, Jr.) Clark of Glenville; her 6 grandchildren, Cadence, Conner, Layla, Mackenzie, Nathaniel, and Josie Rae; her brother, Rick (Nancy Glaser) Scott of Rotterdam; several nieces, nephews, cousins and many extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by a brother, Harold Place and her sister, Joan Woodin.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Monday, December 14, 2020 from 2 until 6 p.m. at Griswold Funeral Home, 1867 State St. Schenectady. Masks and social distancing are required.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 11 a.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2777 Albany St. Schenectady followed by interment in Memory Gardens, Colonie. Masks and social distancing required.

In lieu of flowers, the family gratefully requests that memorial contributions be made to

American Cancer Society, Food for the Poor (foodforthe poor.org), or the Dominican Sisters of Peace (oppeace.org).

Cemetery Details

Memory Gardens

983 Watervliet-Shaker Road
Albany, NY 12205
<http://memorygardens.org>

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC 14. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Griswold Funeral Home
1867 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12304
info@sbfuneralhome.com
<https://sbfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul The Apostle Church
2777 Albany Street
Schenectady, NY

Tribute Wall

CW

“ Sympathy love and prayers to the whole family. I knew Debbie from st Paul's church.
Morris one of my favorite memories is the two of you working with the youth group
Father brucker started.

God bless
Camy wyckoff

Camilla Wyckoff - December 17, 2020 at 08:26 PM

NG

“ RIP Deb. Your baked goodies, friendship, and generosity will always be a part of my memories. May you now rest peacefully in the hands of god. You will always be in my heart. I know you're at peace after your long struggle and that brings comfort Till we meet again you're always in my heart.

Nancy Glaser - December 14, 2020 at 12:51 PM

YM

“ Your Friends at 66th FSS Hanscom AFB, MA purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Deborah J. Stilson.



Your Friends at 66th FSS Hanscom AFB, MA - December 14, 2020 at 10:36 AM

JR

“ John Rusnica purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Deborah J. Stilson.



John Rusnica - December 14, 2020 at 08:27 AM

JR

“ Dear Morris: I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Debbie at the Dept. of Ag and Markets from 1992 until she went to the AG's Office. Debbie always kept me (and everyone !) on their toes. As tough as she could be (she didn't suffer fools), she was warm and funny. I always enjoyed conversations with her and appreciated her deep faith (which reminded me of my Mom). She was extremely bright and hard working. I was glad that she furthered her education and went on to become a Legal Assistant. I only saw her sporadically after she went to the AG. Each time I did, though, my day was brightened and I enjoyed hearing about what she was up to and how her family was doing. I hope you take peace in memories of good times spent with her. I hope knowing that she touched many lives brings you solace. John Rusnica, Associate Attorney at A&M

John F Rusnica - December 14, 2020 at 08:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Morris, I realized we first met you in Marriage Encounter and then re-connected at St Paul's and then reconnected again at the retreat house. It will be hard not seeing you together. I remember choosing a seat at dinner and being told that was Morris' seat and I should move or he'll tell me move! I moved quite quickly. That's how important you are to each other. I believe relationships don't end at death and certainly Debbie's spirit will always be with you and your family. I will miss her rolling of her eyes if I said something silly. She was the first person to get me to do a prayer service. I think, actually she twisted my arm a bit. We at DRCC will also miss dearly. Her service was irreplaceable. Thank you for bringing her into our lives. You and your family are in our prayers. Love, Maggie

Maggie Whelan - December 13, 2020 at 11:40 PM



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



December 13, 2020 at 07:25 PM

MA

“ I have memories of many late night conversations with Debbie and Morris as they traveled the States to attend OP events. My prayers surround you all as you live each day remembering her loving care. Marybeth Irvine

marybeth - December 13, 2020 at 10:57 AM

BR

“ *Morris,
What a blessing for us to get to know Debbie and you through Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Debbie and you were a special couple, a truly loving couple, an example of what marriage is all about.
May Jesus continue to walk by your side each day in this most difficult time. You were there for Debbie in sickness. May she rest in peace now in heaven.
Remember all that you shared together. Keep her close to your heart. Stay strong, God bless you and your family.
From your Marriage Encounter friends - Butch and Judy Russell*

butch and judy russell - December 13, 2020 at 10:19 AM

DA

“ *Morris my condolences to you and your family. I remember seeing you two walking in the concourse. Cherish all the good memories of your love for each other. God will get you thru the difficult days ahead. God Bless you and your family.*

Donna Ackerman

Donna Ackerman - December 12, 2020 at 11:16 PM

CG

“ *I hardly have words. I will miss this sweet spunky spirit. So many memories of her witty responses to my smart ass comments to her. She will be missed for sure. I have sat in prayer this week wrapped in the prayer shawl she made for me about a year ago. Love to each and every person who will grieve her loss. So many prayers being sent to Morris and her children and grandchildren. The world has lost a great person and her loss will leave a void in many communities.*

Colleen Garbarini - December 12, 2020 at 10:17 PM

MR

“ *What a loss to the community that she was so deeply involved in . A beacon of brightness in a dark world. May the memory of her many contributions not soon be forgotten.*

Miranda Rand

Miranda Rand - December 12, 2020 at 09:04 PM

DH

“ *Morris and family, I was so sorry to hear about Deb's passing, even though I know she is in a much better place. I worked with Deb for a couple of years as a paralegal at the Public Service Commission and always enjoyed her insight when dealing with case law. She was a person who loved a challenge. I will keep all of you in my prayers.*
Donna Hausmann

Donna Hausmann - December 12, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Deborah J. Stilson.*



December 12, 2020 at 02:20 PM

MV

“ *Morris, I am so sorry for your and your family's loss.in Debbie's death. We shared many laughs and tears, trips to hoffman's with our kids, visits, picnics and our trip to Ireland, which I'll never forget, especially our return trip home, pulling into St. Paul's parking lot to see the Stilson family holding their banner, showing their love welcoming Debbie home. I'm sure there was another banner, welcoming Debbie to her new home. She was a gift to all who knew her. Marilyn Vitch*

Marilyn Vitch - December 12, 2020 at 01:53 PM

SH

“ *Deborah was an amazing person, and I feel privileged to have known her. I know you will miss her deeply. My prayers and thoughts are with you during this difficult time. Sharon Hope, Former Instructor at Maria College.*

Sharon Hope - December 12, 2020 at 01:25 PM

CA

“ *Morris and family, I am so sorry for your loss. What a beautiful picture of Debbie. It shows her vibrancy so clearly. Your loss is a tremendous loss to our St. Paul's community as well as those of us who call Debbie our friend. I have so many memories of Debbie. Gatherings together, where Debbie brought one of her wonderful baked goodies. "Cookies, Cocoa and Christmas Carols" where we were singing Christmas songs and enjoying festive goodies. Debbie reviewing something or other that we were working on and telling me "Mass" is always capitalized. We worked on many things together, and she taught me so much. Morris, you have been her rock through this entire ordeal. I pray for your peace, and that, in time, you will find great comfort in your many wonderful memories with Debbie. She will be missed. "Good and trustworthy servant, you have done well." Rest in God's peace, Debbie.*

Cheryl Aini - December 12, 2020 at 11:15 AM

PG

“ *May loving thoughts and prayers comfort you and bring you peace in your sorrow. With heart felt sympathy.*
Phil and Joyce Gibbs

Philip Gibbs - December 12, 2020 at 09:48 AM

DD

“ *Our heartfelt condolences to Morris and the Stilson family. Deb was a great friend and spiritual inspiration to us for many years. Dave and Sarah Dorgan*

Dave and Sarah Dorgan - December 12, 2020 at 06:14 AM