

DEBRA (ALFONE) MAY



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Debra (Alfone) May, lovingly known as Lizbeth to her college friends, who peacefully departed this life on February 9, 2025, at the age of 59. She passed away at home in Mt. Lebanon, PA, surrounded by her devoted husband and youngest son. After a courageous battle with brain cancer, Debra will be remembered for her enduring love, kindness, and

generosity. She formed lifelong friendships wherever she went, but above all her accomplishments, motherhood was her greatest calling. She embraced it with boundless love and dedication, finding her deepest joy and purpose in raising her children. Her relationships, with family, friends, and all those she held dear, brought her immense happiness.

Born on October 29, 1965, in Weslaco, TX, Debra was a natural leader and an inspiration to all who knew her. A lifelong learner and voracious reader, she had an insatiable curiosity and passion for knowledge. She eagerly shared articles and insights with family and friends, always encouraging those around her to learn and grow. Her love for learning began early; she was a precocious child who quickly developed a deep curiosity about the world, fueling her academic excellence.

Debra distinguished herself in high school, not only through her top-ten class ranking, but also through extracurricular achievements. She was the spirited voice of football games as an announcer, the only female member of her Quizbowl team, a state competitor in impromptu speaking and debate, and a force of confidence in traditionally male-dominated arenas. These accomplishments laid the foundation for her college years and professional career.

She attended Louisiana Tech University, where she was a proud member of Kappa Delta sorority, and later served as its president. After graduating in 1989, she pursued her passion for law at the University of Texas School of Law, earning her Juris Doctor in 1993. During law school, she interned at the Rose Law Firm under Hillary Clinton, gaining invaluable early experience.

Debra began her legal career with the State of Texas, first at the Office of the Attorney General and later at the Department of Insurance. She approached her work with integrity, fearlessness, and excellence, forming lasting bonds with colleagues who became lifelong friends. However, just as her legal career was taking off, she made the selfless decision to pause her professional ambitions and dedicate herself fully to raising her children, a choice she had never expected to make but embraced wholeheartedly.

After years devoted to her children, Debra returned to her career, ultimately finding her true calling as Assistant Director of the U.S. Library at Reed Smith. In this role, she seamlessly blended her legal expertise, technological acumen, and leadership skills. Highly respected by firm leadership, Debra's negotiation skills and deep industry knowledge resulted in significant cost savings for the firm. She was known for her innovative mindset, mentorship, and unwavering support of her colleagues, leaving a lasting impact on the Reed Smith community.

She remained dedicated to her work until illness forced her to step away. Despite her professional success, Debra's greatest joy was in the love she shared with her family and friends. She spent her life giving to others, sharing her time and heart with Michael, her children, family, and anyone in need. Her warmth and generosity left an indelible mark on the lives she touched.

Debra is survived by her devoted husband, Michael May; her beloved children, James, Lauren, and Joseph; her cherished mother, Maria; her siblings, Mary, Megan, Parker, John, and Joe; her sister-in-law, Shonda; her brothers-in-law, Dan, Jeff, and Michael; and her many nephews and niece. Her memory will forever live on in the hearts of her family and all who were fortunate enough to know her.

A viewing will take place at **LAUGHLIN CREMATION & FUNERAL TRIBUTES**, located at 222 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15216, on Thursday, February 13, 2025, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

A celebration of Debra's life will be held on Friday, February 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM, at St. Thomas More Church-Resurrection Parish located at 126 Fort Couch Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Interment will follow at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery. Following the interment, a funeral luncheon will be held at St. John Capistran Church, 1610 McMillan Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15241.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to support glioblastoma research at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. Donations can be made online at hillmanresearch.upmc.edu/giving/hope-gifts/gifts-honor or mailed to: Development Office, UPMC Cancer Pavilion, Suite 1B, 5150 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Debra May will be deeply missed, but her love, strength, and legacy will continue to inspire us all.

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