



## Ms. Debra Ann Bruinsma

January 19, 1958 - May 25, 2024

Ms. Debra Bruinsma (Anderson) of Okotoks, Alberta passed away at the High River Hospital on May 25, 2024 at the age of 66 years after a lifelong, courageous battle with kidney disease. Although the disease took her life too soon, she did not let it control her life while she was here. She lived every day with grace, compassion, selflessness, and kindness. She approached each day with a genuine smile on her face, a family member or friend on her mind, and a coffee in her hand. She will be missed dearly by her 14 grandchildren and all her “adopted” grandchildren, who she loved more than life itself.

Debra is survived by her daughters Lana (Joel), and Christina (Jason); sons Stewart (Amanda), David, and Ryan (Renee); grandchildren Joshua, Caleb, Kai, Luke, Cayla (Bo), Jayden, Chance, Charley, Zion, Bailey, Sadie, Payton, Bennett, and Everly; mother Justine “Judy”; sisters Rhonda, Karen (Norman), Janet, and Janice (Walter); brother Stanley, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, “adopted” grandchildren, and extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by her father Stanley “Bruce”.

Debra was born in Vermilion, AB on January 19, 1958 to Stanley “Bruce” and Justine “Judy” Anderson and fondly remembered growing up in Drumheller and High River, among other places in Alberta. She loved being part of a big family. This devotion to family continued as she became a mother to two

daughters and three sons. The one thing she was the most proud of and fought relentlessly for was her children and her grandchildren.

Before starting a family, Debra worked in the main office of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Calgary, and also as a receptionist in a dental office. Between 1976-1983, she had five children and stayed at home to care for them. In 1989, Debra went back to school and the workforce while raising her children. Her final 20 years of employment were spent working with Safeway Canada.

Debra loved quilting and cross-stitching. She was an incredible crafter and always knew how to make things beautiful. She loved spending time with her closest friends, and cherished the trips to Victoria and Italy. Debra was beautiful, both in appearance and spirit and she made everything and everyone around her beautiful.

The family would like to express a special thank you to Okotoks/Foothills EMS, the Palliative Care team, Safeway Pharmacy, Dr. Hansraj, the South Calgary Dialysis Centre, and all the specialists involved in Debra's care.

Most of all, "thank you to Uncle Stan who gave us another 20 years with mom. Your generosity will never be forgotten".

To honor Debra's love for motherhood, memorial donations may be made to the Rowan House Society - [www.rowanhouse.ca](http://www.rowanhouse.ca).

A Celebration of Debra's Life was held at the High River Alliance Church on Friday, June 7, 2024 at 1:30 PM.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

JUN 7. 1:30 PM (MT)

High River Alliance Church  
1318 - 9th Ave. SE  
High River, AB T1V 1L2 (CA)  
(403) 652-4170  
info@highriverchurch.com  
<http://www.highriverchurch.com>

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ Heart felt condolences to all of Deb’s family. Wishing you peace in the days ahead and loving memories to hold in your heart.



Debbie Craig Schmuland - June 07, 2024 at 04:48 PM

SM

“ Debbie was such a kind and vibrant person, always interested in anything you were up to. She loved her flowers and crafts, but most of all her family. She was always doing for all of them. I was honored to have her for a neighbor for a few short years, and a friend for many more. She helped me in so many ways. We always tried to get together whenever we could, and I thought of her often. So many memories. This photo was taken in Florence in an outdoor cafe under the shadow of El Dome. It was our last day in Italy and all of us were just having the time of our lives. Salute my friend!



Sandra Miller - June 04, 2024 at 11:04 PM

SK

“ Susan Karman lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debra Ann Bruinsma



Susan Karman - May 31, 2024 at 02:23 PM

MK

“ Margaret Karman lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debra Ann Bruinsma



Margaret Karman - May 31, 2024 at 02:21 PM

SS

“ Susan Schaller lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debra Ann Bruinsma



Susan Schaller - May 31, 2024 at 11:18 AM

CC

“ Cathy Couey lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debra Ann Bruinsma



Cathy Couey - May 31, 2024 at 11:08 AM

LA

“ Mom, I still have so many things to tell you and so many things to learn. I miss you so much. You will never be forgotten- your fight for life and for us was unreal! I've heard that heaven is a place of perfect peace and rest - you deserve that. Enjoy Paradise, share some laughs with grandpa, and dwell in the joy that only comes from and eternity spent with Jesus. I can't wait to see you again. Rest In Peace my sweet mom.



Lana - May 31, 2024 at 01:50 AM

CA

“ Janet and the Anderson family,  
It has been many years since we used to have coffee at Janet's house Deb would show up with some of her children and the kids would play and we would have coffee and oh the laughs we used to have .  
My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.  
Carol

Carol - May 30, 2024 at 08:20 PM

PJ

“ Deb was always smiling and ready to share a laugh with that little twinkle in her eyes. She will be so missed by her family & friends alike. My sincere condolences to them all. ❤️



Peggy Jackson - May 30, 2024 at 06:16 PM

LA

*Thank you for sharing your memory of our mom and thank you for your condolences. Her smile was the best!*

**Lana** - May 31, 2024 at 01:57 AM



*Deepest condolences to all on the loss of your sister, mother, grandma, and friend! May your fond memories bring you all peace and strength.*

**Angie McCormick** - June 12, 2024 at 08:07 PM

CN

“ Cyril And Bev Norrie lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debra Ann Bruinsma



**Cyril and Bev Norrie** - May 30, 2024 at 01:27 PM

JF

“ Janet Fraser lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debra Ann Bruinsma



**Janet Fraser** - May 30, 2024 at 11:52 AM

JF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Janet Fraser** - May 30, 2024 at 11:51 AM