



## Debra Louise Kucera

September 30, 1960 - August 11, 2019

Debra Louise Kucera, 58 of Cloquet died on Sunday, August 11, 2019 in her home. She was born September 30, 1960 in Mankato to Leonard and Phyllis Thompson. Deb graduated from Carlton High School in 1978. After high school, she pursued her LPN training and worked at the Raiter Clinic and the Duluth Clinic until 1996 when she went to work at Potlatch. On August 31, 1996 Deb married William Kucera. After an injury in 2003 Deb left Potlatch and returned to nursing. She worked at Sunnyside Health Care Center as a Supervisor while going to school to get her RN degree. In 2005 she started working at Community Memorial Hospital as an RN. She felt her personal experiences with life and loss, along with pain and heartache contributed to her empathy, compassion and success as a nurse, a profession she loved.

Deb served in both the Air National Guard as a munitions specialist and later joined the Army Reserve serving as a nurse. Deb enjoyed reading, sewing, designing and making costumes for both her family and herself. She never had a costume order request that she was unable to make. And parties, if there was a milestone or an event, Deb was throwing a party. She enjoyed bringing a little sunshine to everyone around her. One of her greatest pleasures in her life was cooking for her family and friends. She always felt wealthy beyond compare by the family and friends she had been blessed with. She loved to laugh, but appreciated the healing power of tears.

Deb valued fund raising for Special Olympics by taking part in the Annual Polar Bear Plunge. Deb was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and was a firm believer in Christ. She believed that she was saved through God's grace and had an eternal home in Heaven with her Lord and Savior when her life on Earth had ended. She was at peace with death.

Deb was preceded in death by her infant daughters, Jennifer and Elizabeth Johnson; her older brother, best friend and hero, Robert Thompson; son-in-law, Neil Mayo; granddaughter, Peyton Johnson; and her grandparents.

Deb is survived by her loyal and beloved husband of 23 years, William D. Kucera. He was her biggest fan and supporter of any activity she was involved with, "whether he wanted to or not" according to him, yet he was always there for her. She is also survived by her parents, Leonard and Phyllis of Wadena; her children, Kris (Ann) Johnson of Cloquet, Amy (Jeff) Mahmud of Hopkins, Stephanie (Crittter) Nagurski of Blaine, Jacob (Kathleen) Johnson of Barnum, and Bethany Mayo of Cloquet; brother, Mark (Cris) Thompson of Hutchinson; grandchildren, Kendra, Kyrra, Lauren, Adison, Kash, Hendrix, Kohlton, Aili, Kruz, Kinzi, Harper, Ike, and Charlie.

Visitation: 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, August 18, 2019 in the Atkins Northland Funeral Home, Cloquet. Visitation will continue from 10 until the 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Deb's Life on Monday, August 19th in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet. A time of lunch and fellowship will follow in the church social hall. Private family inurnment will be in Hillside Cemetery in Carlton with Military Honors accorded by the Carlton VFW Honor Guard. To sign the guest book and offer an online tribute, see [www.atkinsnorthlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.atkinsnorthlandfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery

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## Hillside Cemetery

520 Webbeking Drive  
Carlton, MN, 55718

# Events

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**AUG** **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

**18**

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Atkins Northland Funeral Home  
801 14th St., Cloquet, MN, US, 55720

**AUG** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**19**

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
1705 Wilson Avenue, Cloquet, MN, US, 55720

**AUG** **Service** 11:00AM

**19**

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
1705 Wilson Avenue, Cloquet, MN, US, 55720

# Comments

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“ Bill and all your family , you are in my prayers for peace at this time, we now gather our precious memories, and make those our greatest future treasures.

**Terry Schultz** - August 18, 2019 at 09:50 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Debra Louise Kucera.



August 16, 2019 at 08:37 PM

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“ So sorry for you and your family Bill, our hearts and prayers are with you all. TJ

**Tim Jago** - August 15, 2019 at 12:31 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra Louise Kucera.



August 15, 2019 at 10:52 AM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Debra Louise Kucera.



August 15, 2019 at 09:43 AM

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“ I am proud to say Your daughter, wife, mother and grandmother was my Friend.

Our lives have intersected many times over 40+ years. Grade school to graduation. We've had kids who've graduated together. Then amazingly 5 years ago we became co-workers in the ICU at CMH. We have laughed, cried and supported each other many times over.

To my delight for the last 5 yrs we have been able to share countless memories which tend to be forgotten. And shared the joys of being grandmothers.

Deb had an amazing memory! One day she quizzed me on a piano piece I played at a grade school Xmas concert. Who knew she would know but she knew the name of the song n year, and a few days later for my birthday she framed the sheet music "Go Tell It On The Mountain". I proudly display it on my piano to this day. It was this unique thoughtfulness that made Deb who she was and which I always will cherish. From her scrubs to her clown outfit to her poodle skirt n pink scarf flying in the breeze driving her classic car Deb brought joy.

God's peace to all of Deb's family and friends.  
Vicki (Aanerud) Rostollan

Vicki (Aanerud) Rostollan - August 15, 2019 at 04:24 AM

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“ Bonnie Zeise Brown lit a candle in memory of Debra Louise Kucera



Bonnie Zeise Brown - August 14, 2019 at 07:36 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Debra Louise Kucera.



August 14, 2019 at 03:42 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Debra Louise Kucera.



August 14, 2019 at 11:09 AM

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“ Deb was the most thoughtful person I know. At work she was always thinking of others and what she could do for them. She had a great imagination for coming up with things that boost the moral at CMH, I'm so glad that I could call her my friend. My last words are “you will be missed and I love you”.

**Dar Maniekee** - August 14, 2019 at 10:17 AM

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“ Debbie and I were best friends in 6th and 7th grade. Individually, we were good girls but together we were TROUBLE! We would hide in the garbage can of the 2nd floor girls restroom and reach up through the swinging top to grab at unsuspecting students hands as they tossed paper towels in the bin. Not everyone thought this was as funny as we did and soon we were being threatened to be beat up and had to find better gags to pull on different kids. In classes, teachers said we drove each other amuck.

After volleyball practice, Debbie and I could be found plugging the shower drain in the locker room and body surfing across the floor until Coach Sjodin or some other players chased us out. We were just so goofy together but we shared such creativity and imagination that I think it just spilled out that way at that age. I can't believe she's gone and I'm so sad that our lives never really intersected again after we got older.

I miss you, Debbie. You are a part of me I will always cherish. "Bert" Barb Bertrand Bassa

**Barbara Bassa** - August 14, 2019 at 01:26 AM

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“ Words can't express how much we will miss you. Our whole world is going to be different. As Christians we don't grieve as those without hope and yet your leaving and our sudden loss is never the less depressing. Stuart Hamblen said it well in a song, .....".remember I love you and you're still daddys girl ! " Will miss our email exchange, we learned some things together. We will learn to cope but your mom and I will miss you and always love you. Til we meet again ! I always signed off on my emails to Debra this way. yer pa

Leonard and Phyllis

**Leonard and Phyllis Thompson** - August 13, 2019 at 10:51 PM



“ We have known each other since kids in Sunday school. Shared and went through a lot of things together. How will I adjust to this?

**Muriel (Twite) Gustafson** - August 13, 2019 at 11:09 PM

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“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Debra Louise Kucera.



August 13, 2019 at 08:56 PM

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“ Very deepest sympathy at this difficult time!

Tom and Cindy Smith and Family

**Cindy Smith** - August 13, 2019 at 05:06 PM

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“ She was the kindest woman I got to work with at sunnyside. Always had a smile for everyone, and so compassionate. Deb you will truly be missed.



**Sheila Skaj** - August 13, 2019 at 04:17 PM