



Deborah Williams Friend

May 20, 1952 - July 15, 2020

Deborah Williams Friend, 68, of Midland, VA, departed this life on July 15, 2020. Deborah was born on May 20, 1952 in Richmond, Virginia to the late Catherine and David Williams, Sr.

Deborah spent her childhood in Richmond, VA. She was baptized at an early age at the Mount Olivet Baptist Church. She graduated from Armstrong High School, Class of 1969 and continued her education by receiving a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Strayer University.

On February 28, 1971, she married the love of her life, Robert Wesley Friend, Sr. and from that union they had a son, Robert Friend and a daughter, Dawn Friend. Through Bob's military opportunities, they were able to travel and live all over including Littleton, Massachusetts; Panama; Fort Carson, Colorado; Atlanta, Georgia; and Vint Hill Farm Station (Warrenton, VA)—finally relocating and settling in Midland, VA as home.

Deborah worked in accounting for over 31 years in local firms. Before retiring, Deborah used her financial genius to run an accounting firm partnership, Small Business Enterprises, for over five years with her partner, Carole Ortmyer in Bealeton, VA. They handled all aspects of financial ventures from bookkeeping and corporate taxes to mentoring new businesses. The two women shared a twin passion for accounting and helping people!

Her incredibly special gift from God was cooking...she could cook ANYTHING!!! When asked, her husband of over 49 years says her specialty was EVERYTHING! Her son adds in that nobody cooked macaroni and cheese like his mom. Another favorite of the family was her amazing rum cake for the holidays!

She also loved to line dance, read (especially Stephen King), travel, buy clothes and fish. Bob says, "she loved to fish anywhere there was water and she baited her own hook"! She loved her family and would do anything she could for them. If something was going on in the family, you could always depend on Deborah and Bob to be there. She could always be found with Bob cooking on the grill or running the fish fryer with their beloved "Washington NFL team" aprons on! She will be truly missed...

Deborah was preceded in death by two brothers, Alvin Jerome Roots and Victor "Boo-Boo" Roots, and two sisters, Luedora Roots and Jill Roots. She is survived by her very devoted husband, Robert Friend, Sr.; son, Robert Friend, Jr., daughter, Dawn Friend; mother-in-law, Sadie Friend; brothers, David Williams, Jr. (Creola), Carroll Roots (Angela) and Carlton A. Roots, Sr. (Angela); sisters-in-law, Janice West (Charles) and Diane Roots; brothers-in-law, James Friend, Jr. and Noel Friend (Gisele); host of nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

A family visitation for Deborah's Northern Virginia friends will be held at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA on Monday, July 20, 2020 from 7 to 9pm. On Wed., July 22, 2020, a limited walk-through viewing (due to covid-19 restrictions) will be held from 11am to 5pm at March Funeral Home, 2110 E. Laburnum Ave., Richmond VA. Homegoing service will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 10:00am with viewing held one hour prior to the service. Burial will take place following the services at the Virginia Veterans

Cemetery at Amelia, 10300 Pridesville Road, Amelia Courthouse, VA 23002.

Cemetery Details

Virginia Veterans Cemetery

10300 Pridesville Rd
Amelia Courthouse, VA 23002

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **20**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Visitation

JUL **22**. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home
2110 E. Laburnum Ave
Richmond, VA 23222

funeral

JUL **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home
2110 E. Laburnum Ave
Richmond, VA 23222

Tribute Wall

DK

“ *She will be so missed. I really enjoyed working with her, and seeing her infectious smile.*

Debra Kuhn - July 21, 2020 at 11:49 AM

BB

“ *Working with Debbie for as long as I have I have so many fond memories of her. NO ONE could make a rum cake like Debbie! How she'd laugh at me or make me laugh is what most comes to mind. Like all of of us who work in an office environment, Debbie didn't care for people messing with her computer. However she was such a fan of the music I listen too that I had an ongoing list of requested CD's to burn to her computer when she wasn't there. (I took that as the ultimate compliment). I will miss those lists and I miss my friend who made this world a better and more beautiful place to be. Peace, Love & Friendship ❤️ Brian Burleson*



Brian Burleson - July 20, 2020 at 02:28 PM

RM

“ *I was lucky enough to know her as Debbie and saw her weekly until last year when she fell ill. One of the smartest and most compassionate people I ever met. She always had a big smile, even when she felt poorly. Loved fishing and told me good stories for sure.*

We miss having her here doing our books and wish Robert our very best. A great loss for all of us.

Rob Montgomery

Robert Montgomery - July 20, 2020 at 12:51 PM

BB

*Mr. Montgomery,
Debbie thought you were a first class gentleman and thoroughly
enjoyed coming to your office & working with you. - Brian Burleson*

Brian Burleson - July 20, 2020 at 02:36 PM

WM

“ *My parents have been friends with Robert
and Debbie for many decades. This is a great
loss of a wonderful, caring, and genuine lady
whom we have always known as family.
“Gone from our sight, but never from our
hearts.”*



Wendy Merwin - July 20, 2020 at 10:31 AM

BP

“ *Burleson & Associates PC purchased the Emerald
d Garden Basket for the family of Deborah
Williams Friend.*



Burleson & Associates PC - July 20, 2020 at 10:02 AM