



Deborah Lynn Hibbard

November 17, 1955 - April 1, 2025

Deborah Lynn Hibbard, a cherished wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, passed away surrounded by loved ones on April 1, 2025 at the age of 69 in Newark, DE.

Born on November 17, 1955 in Wilmington, DE, Deb was the daughter of Gordon E. and Clara Bess (Loessin) Downey. Debbie graduated from Dickinson High School and received her Associate of Arts degree in graphic design from Philadelphia Art Institute. Deb came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and became a member of Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Newark. Here, she met her husband who worked at Great Christian Books, his family's bookstore. Debbie produced the monthly sales catalog, making use of her advertising experience. They got married in June of 1979 and started their family. After the birth of their third child, she made the decision to leave her career so she could prioritize family care and her children's education.

Deb had a passion for history, art, her Irish heritage, and was accomplished in the kitchen, a true culinary virtuoso. She will be remembered for her many family dinners and her unmatched hospitality. Deborah was preceded in death by her parents, Gordon and Clara. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of nearly 46 years, Phillip; her children: Rachael O'Connell (Brian), Katie Pruitt (Josh), Caleb Hibbard (Hannah) and Anna Lum (Joe); her grandchildren: Andrew, Timmy, Maggie, Carrie, Eillie, Wren, a set of twin girls

on the way; her extended family; many houseplants, and her loyal little white dog, Strudel.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life held at Emmanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 1006 Wilson Road, Wilmington, DE 19803 on Sunday, June 29th from 2 pm to 5 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Delaware Valley Classical School, 903 East Basin Road, New Castle, DE 19720 where some of her grandchildren and nephews attend. For directions or to send an online condolence, please visit www.stranofeeley.com

Cemetery Details

Ebenezer Cemetery

525 Polly Drummond Road
Newark, DE 19711

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **29**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church
1006 Wilson Road
Wilmington, DE 19803

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I remember when I choose to come visit her daughter Katie in Delaware I walked in and was greeted with a smile that was so warm that she made it feel like I was apart of her family. As time went down the road I got to enjoy talks about amazing history and the good lord above and her different recipes. I married her daughter Katie in November 25 2023 and everytime we visited I kept learning more and more about her background and more history. She became like another mom to me which I call her maw Deb. It's crazy to only have a couple years to know someone you grow so close and I miss her everyday. I remember our trips to Longwood, and she would just teach me everything of how it became Longwood, and the flowers she love to see. Maw I love you and miss you everyday, but I know one day we will meet again.



Joshua Pruitt - June 28, 2025 at 05:10 PM

MP

“ Mike & Janice Pruitt purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Deborah Lynn Hibbard.



Mike & Janice Pruitt - June 28, 2025 at 01:01 PM

MC

“ I shall always remember how she beat mom in the pie contest at the Delaware state fair and how Katie and her beat out mom and me for the mother daughter recipe contest 😊 She was a beautiful and creative soul. I know mom was there to greet her dear friend when she joined her this past week in that great fair in the sky. Til we meet again precious spirit. Well done



Mary Criscuolo - April 05, 2025 at 09:50 PM

DM

“ Phil, we are so sorry to hear this sad news. We send our sincere condolences to you and all of the family members. At this difficult may all of you find comfort in each other n friends.. All of you shall be in our prayers. Sending prayers, love n hugs.
David n Kathy(Crowe) MacCord

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted".
Matthew 5:4

David MacCord - April 05, 2025 at 08:18 PM

BB

“ Deb was very gracious to me and always wanted to know how things were with my life. Her eyes always lit up whenever she talked about Phil and their children. They were one of the most important parts of her life and she was so proud of her grandchildren. Praying for comfort for all.

Bethany Bohn - April 05, 2025 at 01:43 PM



“ *Deb loved teaching her kids and grandchildren. That was evident in our conversations together as he would share about the latest unit study that she was in the midst of teaching. I enjoyed our conversations together. Deb was a good friend.* ”

Sandy Stahl - April 04, 2025 at 06:28 PM