



Deborah Lou Pellowe

July 22, 1947 - April 10, 2025

ADRIAN- Deborah “Debby” Pellowe died on 10 April 2025 at Lenawee Medical Care Facility of complications from Alzheimer’s disease. A life-long Adrian resident, she was born 22 July 1947 to Marian Louwilla “Mary Lou” (Lutz) and Edward C. Pellowe and grew up on Westwood Drive. Some of Debby’s favorite childhood memories included summers spent at the family cottage on Round Lake, riding her bike through town, and sledding down Francouer Hill in the winter. Debby’s idea of paradise was time spent on Mackinac Island where she worked for two summers during college, and where she visited countless times over the years.

Debby graduated from Adrian High School in 1965, and went on to attend Western Michigan University, where she graduated in 1969. During college, she met and married Paul Knudstrup, with whom she welcomed her only child.

Throughout the 1970s - 1980s, Debby worked as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), a position few women held at the time. After retiring from service calls, she served as an EMT instructor, coordinating mock disasters and teaching CPR to groups throughout the county. Starting in 1976, Debby took a second job as a media specialist at the Lenawee I.S.D. Vocational Technical Center (“Vo-tec”), writing and producing videos for student instruction. She spent the last ten years as the center’s recruiter, where she had the opportunity to visit every middle and high school in the county. She thoroughly enjoyed helping others find a fulfilling career path with Vo-Tec’s

programs. Debby's own academic aspirations were fulfilled in 1994 when she earned a Masters in Social Work from Siena Heights University.

Debby retired after 31 years at Vo-Tec and stayed involved with her community by serving on the Mayor's Youth Council, as an assistant instructor at Siena Heights University, and on the Red Cross Board of Directors.

However, none of these roles were as fulfilling as that of being Grandma to her only grandchild, Oliver, with whom she shared a very special bond.

Debby is survived by daughter Kiersten Gawronski, grandson Oliver Chapman, brother Christopher (Nancy) Pellowe, niece Amanda (Todd) Pelak, and nephews Michael (Tina) Pellowe and Benjamin (Kierston) Pellowe, as well as several grand-nieces and -nephews, and a large circle of dear friends. Her family takes comfort in knowing that Debby is now spending her time as she wished: on the porch of the Windemere Hotel on Mackinac Island with a glass of Diet Pepsi and a Virginia Slims 120 cigarette in hand and, most importantly, a cat sleeping on her lap.

The family would like to thank the amazing staff of Lenawee Medical Care Facility (Debby's home for the last year), the supportive nurses from Elara Caring (Hospice), and the kind staff at ProMedica Hickman Hospital.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, April 21, 2025 at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian: 10:00 a.m. Visitation, 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Life Program, followed by a light luncheon, concluding with 1:00 p.m. burial at Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of Debby's favorite charities: The Lenawee Humane Society or the Edward C. Pellowe Scholarship Fund at Adrian College, named for Debby's father.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Celebration of Life

APR 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

A light luncheon will follow in the Heritage Room.

Burial

APR 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Oakwood Cemetery
East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

Tribute Wall

MK

“ *Debby was my good neighbor for over twenty years! She was always laughing and made others laugh too! Laughter and fun are a great gift to the world and Debby was always glad to share that! May she rest in peace 🙏*

Mary Ellen Kennedy

Mary Ellen Kennedy - April 21, 2025 at 09:02 AM

MM

“ *When I think of Debbie I think of our shared school years from Lincoln elementary, Drager Junior High, and as a fellow graduate in the class of 1965. Also as a member of First Methodist Church. We shared many friends together throughout the years. Hoped to see you in August at our class reunion. Rest assured you will be a part of many of our conversations and memories. Rest in Rest in Peace. Mike and Patti McCombs*

Mike McCombd - April 14, 2025 at 05:40 PM

BP

“ *❤️ Fond memories and great times serving with Debbie on the Red Cross Board of Directors, in the 1990's. May God Bless the Pellowe Family!*

Barry Purse - April 14, 2025 at 12:21 PM

BB

“ *I'll miss hearing "Hey kid, what's going on?", I'll miss those mischievous sparkling eyes, and the bold red lip. The sharp sense of humor and the kind heart. Deb was one of a kind. Love you Debby. Helping care for you was a privilege I won't forget ❤️*

Bonnie Butler - April 14, 2025 at 04:58 AM

BB

“ *Deb and I went to AHS together. We got reconnected at Lenawee Medical and had many happy times laughing together and remembering the good times. She was a special gal. Barb Becker*

Barb Becker - April 12, 2025 at 12:07 PM

KG

Thank you for sharing, Barb. I am so glad you could reconnect. ~ Kiersten

Kiersten Gawronski - April 13, 2025 at 10:16 AM

LB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



LuAnn Bearden-Welsh - April 11, 2025 at 07:56 PM

KG

What a great picture! Thank you for sharing this, LuAnn. ~ Kiersten

Kiersten Gawronski - April 13, 2025 at 10:17 AM

LB

“ *Deb was a friend from way back in the VoTec days! She was so lively, focused, and a blast. When Mom first arrived at the LMCF, Deb and Mom became fast friends. We enjoyed seeing Deb and shared many laughs, hugs, cry's, and treats. We will miss you dear friend... fly high up there, you've definitely earned those wings!!! Debbie is wearing green and my Mom is wearing blue.*

LuAnn Bearden-Welsh - April 11, 2025 at 07:54 PM

KG

*Mom sure loved seeing you both and spending time with your mom.
"Lively" is a great description of her. Thank you for sharing. ~ Kiersten*

Kiersten Gawronski - April 13, 2025 at 10:19 AM