



Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones

June 7, 1960 - August 31, 2016

Memorial services for Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones, 56, of Tyler, will be held on Sunday, September 4, 2016, at 3:00 PM at Pollard United Methodist Church with Rev. Richard Luna officiating. Visitation will follow the service at the church, under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mrs. Jones passed away Wednesday, August 31, 2016 in Tyler.

She was born June 7, 1960 in Jacksonville to Dick and Jane McElmurry.

Debbie grew up in Tyler, graduating from Robert E. Lee High School, Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Tyler.

She was a math teacher at TJC and Robert E. Lee for over 30 years and was beloved by her students. She has also taught thousands of children to swim over the past 30 years. Debbie was a faithful member of Pollard United Methodist Church and Apache Bell Gold.

She was preceded in death by her father, Dick McElmurry and brothers, Dick, Jr., Mike and Phillip McElmurry.

Debbie is survived by her husband of 16 years, Jeff Jones; children, Tiffany Enfinger and husband Rusty, Adrian and fiancé' Emily, Mitch, Maddie, Meg, Matt and Misty Jones; sisters, Judy Murray and husband Joe, Pattie Fennell and husband Rick; brothers, Robbie McElmurry and wife Rhonda, Ronnie McElmurry and wife Emily; mother, Jane McElmurry and numerous nieces and nephews.

Debbie's most precious accomplishments were her children. She spent countless hours at swim meets, dance recitals and soccer, baseball and

football games. She had a special love of drill team and dance, having served as Captain of REL's Southern Belles and a member of the Apache Belles 32nd line. Debbie was so proud that 3 of her daughters have also been Southern Belles and 2 of her sons were Southern Belle Guards.

Two daughters have continued on to be 3rd generation Apache Belles, serving as Dance Captain and Head Dance Captain.

Honorary pallbearers will be TJC Apache Belles and the REL Southern Belles.

A gofund me account has been established for the benefit of the family in Debbie's memory.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Debbie Jones Memorial Fund at [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) or the Debbie McElmurry Jones Apache Belle Scholarship Fund made through the TJC Foundation, P. O. Box 9020, Tyler, Texas 75711-9020.

Previous Events

Mem. Service

SEP 4. 3:00 PM (CT)

Pollard United Methodist Church
3030 Copeland Rd.
Tyler, TX 75701

Visitation and reception after service

SEP 4. 4:00 PM (CT)

Pollard United Methodist Church
3030 Copeland Rd.
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall

HH

“ We are so sorry about the loss of your dear loved one. She will be missed by so many people. We always want our times on earth to last forever, but life isn't that way. Now Debbie continues to live in the hearts and memories of so many people who will always love her. What wonderful times you shared together that will always be treasures to remember.

Debbie was such a sweet and thoughtful lady. I math taught with her at Robert E. Lee High. I was blessed to be friends with many of her family members. Her mother, Jane taught swimming to both of our children. Her brothers, Ronnie and Robbie were two of my students who I will never forget.

May God comfort you,
Hedwig and John Hardie

Hedwig Hardie - September 15, 2016 at 10:19 AM

Jackie Swanson

“ Debbie was more than a past teacher she was a friend. Although we didn't speak or see each other often, but when we did see each other we picked up where we left off from the time before. It's shocking because I just hugged and laughed with you on that Friday night at the game. You will truly be missed. Praying for strength, understanding and comfort for your family.



Jackie Swanson - September 04, 2016 at 10:07 AM

AK

“ She was one of my favorite teachers and made a huge impact on my life. Praying for your family.

Amy Hayes Kirkpatrick - September 04, 2016 at 09:16 AM



“ She mentored me to the greatest and opened my mind towards the world of math "Algebra 2"!!! She helped me reach my dreams and all that I can achieve in life !! To be honest, I was planning to visit her at school to share what I achieved now, and thank her in person !! I never forget the first day in class when she started calling me "Just Jay" :(... Thank you so much for everything Ms Jones you will be sadly missed. My condolences to you and your family.

Harel Jay Salvador - September 03, 2016 at 11:53 PM



“ Mrs Jones was a sweet, kind lady. I remember been in her math class we would have so much fun. Ever time I see her she would give me a hug and ask how I was doing. She was my favorite teacher and she will be miss by so many. I will be praying for the Jones Family..... RIP Mrs.Jones...

From schwanda simmons- moaning. Class 91.....

Schwanda Simmons-Moaning - September 03, 2016 at 10:55 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones.



September 03, 2016 at 03:06 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones.*



September 03, 2016 at 12:46 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones.*



September 02, 2016 at 10:35 PM



“ *Hilary Knarr Lee sent a virtual gift in memory of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones*



Hilary Knarr Lee - September 02, 2016 at 09:45 PM



“ *Jennifer Smith lit a candle in memory of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones*



Jennifer Smith - September 02, 2016 at 08:53 PM

CC

“ Prayers and love to the Jones family.

Carleta Cates - September 02, 2016 at 06:56 PM

R1

“ I've known Debbie since she was 15 years old. It was my first year to teach Southern Belles pep squad. She became one of those students to me who you just never forget. I have a picture of Debbie in her Southern Belle Caption uniform holding my daughter who was a newborn and the only mascot the Southern Belles ever had. She is now 38 years old, and she too remembers Debbie with fond memories. Debbie taught her to swim also. To me, Debbie was an unforgettable student, close friend and a wonderful teacher. She will never be forgotten and always loved. I love you Debbie and I will miss you very much. My heart and prayers are with her family.



Roxy Kirk(Southern Belle 1975-81Sponsor - September 02, 2016 at 06:24 PM

R1

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Roxy Kirk(Southern Belle 1975-81Sponsor - September 02, 2016 at 05:46 PM

LK

“ Lorraine Grant and Kaitlyn purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones.



Lorraine Grant and Kaitlyn - September 02, 2016 at 01:52 PM

TC

“ Tammy Jones, Stacey Kelly and Nettie Shubert Cox purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones.



Tammy Jones, Stacey Kelly and Nettie Shubert Cox - September 02, 2016 at 01:04 PM

BM

“ Prayers for the family! Thomas & Beth Miller

Beth Miller - September 02, 2016 at 10:28 AM

TJ

I am so very sorry for the loss of your wife and mom. There are no words that makes this easier and I pray each of you can feel the peace and comfort of God's promise that you will see her again 🙏

Tammy Jones - September 02, 2016 at 12:12 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones.



September 02, 2016 at 10:22 AM

DS

“ *Our deepest prayers and sympathy are with the Jones family. We were so saddened by the news of Debbie's passing. You will all for sure be in our thoughts and prayers daily.*



Dina, Brent, & Emily Sanders - September 02, 2016 at 10:15 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones.*



September 02, 2016 at 10:13 AM



“ I'm so saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Debbie. We did swim lessons with her this summer after I found my 2 year old in the pool. He was fine but he made no attempt to get out and we couldn't get him to try to swim at all. So we drove from Nacogdoches to Tyler for a week and a half and Mrs. Debbie was amazing with him. He screamed the first 3 lessons but she didn't care. She was so practical, calm, sensible and just consistent. In the fourth lesson he was happy and started swimming even better. We were so impressed with her methods. Even my four year old perfected his swimming because she let him hang out on the other end of the pool during the lesson and had to swim unassisted.

My husband went to our last lesson with us and he and Mrs. Debbie talked and talked about church and life. She loved to talk about her children and she wanted to know about ours and asked lots of questions about my son's food allergies. She seemed to really care. She wanted to know about our church since my husband was a pastor.

When my husband and brother passed away a couple of weeks ago she was very concerned and my sister-in-law said she sent 15 messages checking on us. This has been a very tough time for my family and it struck a chord when I heard she had passed too. My husband, brother and Mrs. Debbie just didn't seem like ones that would be taken from us so soon. I immediately was heart-broken for the family but then I thought you know, she and Ryan can finish their conversations they enjoyed so much from heaven. I will be praying scripture over the family as I pray for my own too.

My deepest sympathy goes out to all the family and friends. I am at SFA and if you guys needs anything (She mentioned she was hoping her son would go there too) please let me know and I will get it done if I can't personally help. I was looking forward to seeing her at one of the games cheering on her daughter. I'll miss her after just knowing her a short time, I'm sure she will be missed so greatly by all.

Lastly, I would just like to share a verse that has helped me tremendously in the last 3 weeks. Romans 8:10 And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you ... 28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Mrs. Debbie clearly loved God and she is in her heavenly body. I'll continue to pray for you all as you miss her terribly.

Brittany Adkison-King - September 02, 2016 at 08:24 AM

CB

“ *Carol Deese Bragg lit a candle in memory of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones*



Carol Deese Bragg - September 02, 2016 at 08:15 AM

CB

Praying for you Jeff, and your family. I'm so very sorry..

Carol Deese Bragg - September 02, 2016 at 08:17 AM

DC

So sorry to hear of your loss

Darren Chaney - September 02, 2016 at 08:43 AM

BT

Our prayers are with you and your family Jeff. Bobby and Donna Turner.

Bobby Turner - September 02, 2016 at 10:12 AM

MB

“ *Michelle Boivin lit a candle in memory of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones*



Michelle Boivin - September 01, 2016 at 06:40 PM

 Kellie Socia

“ *Kellie Socia lit a candle in memory of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones*



Kellie Socia - September 01, 2016 at 05:59 PM

GT

“ *Gay Tyra lit a candle in memory of Deborah "Debbie" Elaine Jones*



Gay Tyra - September 01, 2016 at 12:23 PM