



## Debra Lynn Ritchie

March 29, 1953 - December 7, 2020

Mrs. Debra Lynn Ritchie went to her heavenly home on December 7, 2020 in Tyler. Services will be held on December 16, at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Reverend Kim Beckham will be officiating with burial following in Whitehouse Cemetery.

Debra was born on March 29, 1953, to Raymond J. and Patsy Simpson Clark. She was preceded in death by her parents and her son, Michael Ritchie who she missed every day. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Jimmy Ritchie; two children, Christy Herring of Tyler and Bobby Smotherman and wife, Dana of Winona. She has two sisters, Mary Baldree and husband, Bill, of Tyler, Dana Nichols and husband, Alan, of Tyler; and one brother, Jeff Clark and Donna Tharpe of Whitehouse. Debra has six grandchildren that were the light of her life including Cayley Hendrick, Colton Hendrick, Chandler Herring, Mackenna Thorn, Lindsey Smotherman and Easton Smotherman. She also has one great-grandson, Cayson Moody. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends and was "Momma Ritchie" to so many young adults.

Debra was a member of Central Baptist Church in Tyler. She was a former member of Gateway Baptist Church in Whitehouse where she played the organ for many years. Christian music was one of her great loves.

After attending beauty school upon graduation from Whitehouse High School, she decided to use her talents elsewhere and became an LVN. She was a long-time employee of Trinity Mother Frances where she worked in the nursery, labor and delivery and the Family Care Clinic. There she became known as “the baby whisperer” because babies seemed to be soothed when she held them. She retired from Family Care Clinic in 2015.

People who knew Debra well speak of her generosity and encouragement. She helped many people over the years, especially those who had lost children. She was a great encouragement to parents after losing her own son.

Serving as pallbearers are: Corey Shaw, Bobby Smotherman, Orry Jones, Bill Baldree, Chris McGill, Larry Wheeler, Johnny Vess, Joe Wynne and Alan Nichols.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Philadelphia Blessing Food Pantry in Whitehouse, Texas, c/o Tyler Metro Church, P.O. Box 131510, Tyler, Texas, 75713.

# Previous Events

## Service

DEC 16. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home  
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 581-2008

# Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Debra Lynn Ritchie



---

**Stewart Family Funeral Home** - December 14, 2020 at 04:47 PM

KU

“ Kelley Uzzell lit a candle in memory of Debra Lynn Ritchie



---

**Kelley Uzzell** - December 17, 2020 at 10:58 PM

KU

“ I am so saddened to learn of Debra's passing. I was Michael's first grade teacher in Whitehouse. I loved her and her family. Prayers for all and she will be missed. Rest in peace.  
Kelley Uzzell

---

**Kelley Uzzell** - December 17, 2020 at 10:58 PM

CM

“ Cheryl Mosley Mills lit a candle in memory of Debra Lynn Ritchie



Cheryl Mosley Mills - December 15, 2020 at 01:04 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Debra Lynn Ritchie.



December 15, 2020 at 11:34 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Debra Lynn Ritchie.



December 14, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra Lynn Ritchie.



December 14, 2020 at 09:36 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Debra Lynn Ritchie.*

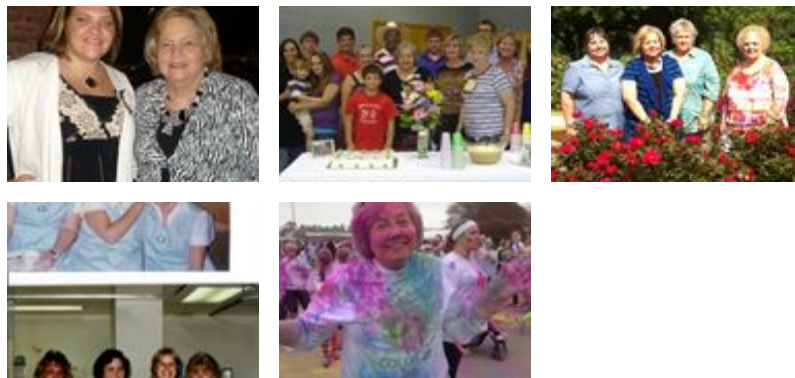


---

December 14, 2020 at 05:55 PM



“ *70 files added to the album Life Tributes*



---

**Stewart Family Funeral Home** - December 14, 2020 at 04:47 PM



“ *Philip Rawlins lit a candle in memory of Debra Lynn Ritchie*



---

**Philip Rawlins** - December 13, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Debra Lynn Ritchie.*



---

December 11, 2020 at 10:29 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Our condolences to your family.*

---

**Stan and Fran Lusk** - December 11, 2020 at 09:57 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Debra Lynn Ritchie.*



---

December 11, 2020 at 01:44 AM



“ *I worked with Debra at Mother Frances Hospital many years. She always had a kind word and was so caring to her patients. I know she will be missed by so many. So sorry for the loss of such a sweet lady .*

---

**Kathy Birt** - December 11, 2020 at 12:54 AM

MA

“ As long time co- workers together at FCC, Debra and I, along with our other co-workers shared so much together. Debra always listened and she was always ready to help. She had the best smile and laugh! Even though she knew the pain of loosing a child she still tried to live in joy and she loved her family very much. We spent many a late night talking through messenger because of insomnia. Silliness to seriousness. We talked about it all. Debra loved our Lord very much and I have no doubt He took her home to Him. Rejoice, Debra! You have reached your heavenly home and you will be missed and remembered here on earth. Good-bye dear friend - Margo

---

**Margo** - December 10, 2020 at 10:59 PM

JR

“ I've known Debra for a long time, we lived down the street from each other and our kids grew up together and went to church together. You never met a stranger. We will miss you dearly ❤️

---

**JoAnne Rogers** - December 10, 2020 at 10:31 PM

LB

“ I always remember Mrs Debra playing the organ at Gateway. I remember exactly here she and her family sat for so many years! I am so sorry for your loss! My heart breaks for you all! You are in my prayers!

---

**Lara Beverly** - December 10, 2020 at 10:22 PM

JC

“ Just sat by her a couple of months ago at Girls Night Out. Enjoyed our visit very much. She will be missed.

---

**Judy Chapman** - December 10, 2020 at 09:06 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Debra Lynn Ritchie.*



---

December 10, 2020 at 03:10 PM



“ *I remember Debra as a young girl at Pleasant Hill, I remember Vernis talking to Debra about playing the organ at Gateway and she came and became our organist. She experienced many things in her lifetime and her testimony of have God helped her through them all was a real blessing to all her heard. May God wrap his arms of love around each of you.*

---

**Linda Rash** - December 09, 2020 at 02:26 PM