



## Deborah M. Marois

February 28, 1956 - October 25, 2019

Deborah Maureen Marois, 63, of Traverse City, was unexpectedly called home to glory on Oct. 25, 2019. Deborah was born Feb. 28, 1956 in Grand Rapids, daughter to Rufus and Antoinette (Bastiaens) Yount.

Some of Mom's earliest and happiest memories were of times spent at her Grandma and Grandpa Yount's near Mesick, swimming and fishing in Grandpa's trout pond and playing with beloved cousins. Mom was a hard worker, never doing anything halfway. She always did things properly, even if it made for a more difficult task. This commitment to excellence could be seen in every occupation she held. Mom worked for a number of companies over the years, always in a detail oriented, managerial type position that called upon her excellent organizational skills, finally settling into bookkeeping, a field she loved because numbers were always black and white and had a right and wrong answer. She proudly called herself a bean counter. Most recently Deb had been employed by The Resource for Great Programs and consulted for NMEAC.

Mom loved to make people laugh with her dry and mischievous sense of humor, owed largely to her dad, Rufus, whom she loved dearly. A fan of slapstick and the ridiculous, she took great delight in a yodeling pickle and was so glad to buy grandson, River, his first whoopee cushion. She also learned from her father to always find a way to compliment those with whom she came in contact in her daily life.

Mom loved music and dancing, and while she could not carry a tune in a bucket, she had excellent rhythm and danced in double time, singing joyfully anyhow. Mom took great pride in keeping her home and yard neat, tidy and beautiful, creating an always welcoming and comfortable place for her family and friends. She was a gourmet cook and watched Food Network constantly, never shying away from a new ingredient or recipe. Her salsa and soup skills are legendary, and when entertaining she always went above and beyond in making the event a special occasion.

Mom loved northern Michigan and its natural resources, speaking out passionately about

environmental issues that were important to her. One of her favorite places to be was basking in the sun on a Lake Michigan beach, with a packed to overflowing cooler of food and drinks. She always put others first, was always giving to others. She wasn't afraid to speak her mind, inheriting a feisty spirit from her mother, Antoinette, and her tenacity was enviable and admirable, though sometimes embarrassing to her daughters.

Her children were her greatest pride and the joy of her life. We never doubted her love for us and knew she had our backs no matter the circumstance. She taught us all so much: how to spot B.S. from a mile away; to take our own car, just in case; to keep some cash on hand; how to have and be fun; to be capable; to love fiercely; to care deeply; to never doubt our worth; to hold family close and Jesus closer. She is mourned with a depth of grief we didn't know existed. We are taking comfort, though, in the knowledge that Mom is full of joy and health in the company of Jesus, her Savior.

Deb is survived by her husband of 32 years, Roger "Mike" Marois; children, Tonna (Jera) Osko, Kellie (Jason) Parks and Katy (Calvin) Higgins; grandchildren, Devin (Samantha), Danyelle and Delayna Osko, and the apple of her eye, grandson, River Parks; greatgranddaughter, Ella Osko; mother, Antoinette Staal; siblings, Rebecca Yount, Larry Lensing, Pat (Ken) Mansel, Tom Lensing and Tim Lensing; numerous nieces and nephews; and her Yount cousins whom she loved as siblings.

Deb was preceded in death by her father, Rufus Oatley Yount; and stepfather, Aloysius (Luke) Staal.

A celebration of Deb's life will take place at noon Wednesday, Nov. 6, at First Congregational Church, 6105 Center Road, Traverse City, MI 49686. Consider wearing your favorite dancing shoes in Deb's honor.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wings of Wonder, 13035 Greenway Trail, Empire, MI 49630 or at <http://www.wingsofwonder.org/support/>; or to Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council, PO Box 1166, Traverse City, MI 49685.

Deborah and her family are being cared for by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services; [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com)



# Comments

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“ Love to Deb's family. So sad.

**Jackie Freeman** - November 07, 2019 at 06:14 AM

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“ Deb was the first person I met when I moved to Traverse City. Kelly was three years old. We became fast friends. Over the years she would come to get her hair done. Phil called her June and she called him Ward, and we all have a good laugh! I have so many stories and many memories! I will miss my friend. Always in my heart!

**Connie Kruzan** - November 06, 2019 at 09:03 AM



“ You were so dear to Mom, Connie. Truly a treasured and loved friend.

**KP** - November 08, 2019 at 06:15 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**stefanie Murphy** - November 03, 2019 at 05:17 PM



“ I am so saddened that this beautiful friend is gone. I'm very grateful to have made so many memories with her. If you ever were in need of something when out with her she was guaranteed to have it in her car! She never did anything half way and she did it with class! I'll miss our summer get togethers. I'll always be dancing one for you

**stefanie Murphy** - November 03, 2019 at 05:26 PM

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“ The best days of my life were spent dancing with my “band wench-mates”! What a time we had! I will miss you until we meet in our “Summertime Shoes” in heaven.





“ Katy,  
I'm so sorry to hear of your mom passing. That's a huge loss for you & your family. I never met your mom, but remember how proud you were of her and how she held a special place in your heart.

May you find peace and strength as you navigate through this most difficult passage of life.

Laurie Bassett

Laurie Bassett - November 01, 2019 at 09:24 PM

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“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Ken Judy Nichols - November 01, 2019 at 07:40 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ken Judy Nichols - November 01, 2019 at 07:35 PM

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“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



KP - November 01, 2019 at 09:19 AM



“ Deb loved life, she loved adventure, she loved a challenge!!!  
Deb was vivaciously in love with life and she lived it well! She was a blessing to all, and each of us are grateful for her being in our lives! To simply say “she will be missed” is not enough! Cause she truly had a huge impact on all of us, and especially on her immediate family! That radiant smile will never be forgotten and little River has an abundance of memories of his Gram!  
Prayers and thoughts of love are taking up space in my head constantly and we are holding you up to the Father during this most difficult time! Wish now there had been more times throughout the years for the Yount cousins to gather! Love to all

**Dick and Susan (Yount) Young** - October 29, 2019 at 10:07 PM

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“ Deb was always a smiling, caring person. Bob and I are sorry to hear of her passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Bob and Cathy Griffin

**cathy griffin** - October 29, 2019 at 04:17 PM

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“ Prayers for her family and all those whom her life has affected.

**Jeanie Mallison** - October 29, 2019 at 09:40 AM

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“ Sorry we were not able to get together this summer. So many wonderful memories growing up. Prayers for your family.

**Debra (Mercer) Deachin** - October 29, 2019 at 09:31 AM

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“ Deb IS one of the most genuine, down-to-earth, "say it like it is" people I have ever known. I wasn't done with her yet!! I had more things to pick her brain about! I send heartfelt condolences, many prayers for comfort and peace and invite you to reach out where I can fill in holes you don't know exist yet. With much love - Kathy

**Kathy Garwold** - October 29, 2019 at 08:30 AM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**Denise Baker** - October 29, 2019 at 07:37 AM