



Debra Krokstrom

October 23, 1957 - October 23, 2012

Debra K. Krokstrom, 55, of Niagara, was carried home to her Heavenly Father by the angels on Tuesday, October 23, 2012.

Deb was born August 4, 1957 in Iron Mountain, the daughter of Ray and Alice (Ring) Person. She graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1975 and was a lifelong resident of the area. Deb was employed at Dickinson County Hospital for over 30 years. She was also a dedicated volunteer at the hospital and spent many hours helping with hospital based programs. Deb was passionate when it came to politics and formerly held a seat on the Iron Mountain City Council. She had a huge heart and always took the time to help anyone in need. Deb was known for her sense of style and was always seen looking very fashionable. She was an avid Packer fan and enjoyed gardening and her animals including her dog, Turbo and cockatoo, Sonny. Most of all, Deb loved her family and especially adored her grandchildren. Deb was an amazingly loving, dedicated and supportive mother. Despite the distance, she had a very intimate bond with her only daughter and a closeness many can only dream about.

She is survived by her loving husband and life partner for the last 21 years, James "Cookie" Krokstrom of Niagara; a daughter, Michelle (Zachariah) Sparks of Santa Rosa, CA; her parents, Ray & Alice Person of Iron Mountain; a sister, Sandra (Michael) Hurtubise of Springfield, IL; three grandchildren,

Milo Wickman and Tyler & Ronin Sparks; nieces and nephews, Marc, Adam, Toby, Angelo, Alicia and Giga; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends including special friends, Sue Dawe, Robin Tchokreff and Karen Kollman.

Deb was a vibrant and beautiful part of an incredibly close family who loved her more than the moon and stars. She was preceded in death by her Grandmother, Katie Person, and a close aunt, Marcella Croci, as well as several other relatives and friends. Two other significant losses were her beloved dogs Luke and Lambeau.

All who were fortunate enough to know and love Debbie were encouraged by her enthusiasm and verve for life. The memories she formed with those she knew will always bring laughter and joy to their hearts whenever she comes to mind.

Friends may call from 4:00 to 6:00pm on Friday at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. A Celebration of Debra's Life will follow at 6:00pm at the funeral home. Rev. David Anderson will officiate.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Debra Krokstrom online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **26.** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Celebration of Life

OCT **26.** 6:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

CC

“ *Ray, Alice, Sandy and family;*

Our most heartfelt condolences on the passing of Debbie. I know she battled many challenges both personal and with Michelle and survived them all. Our thoughts are with you on this loss. We have been on vacation in CA for the last 10 days, or we would have been there on Friday for the funeral.

Again, all our best and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Chris, Diane and Andrew Gall

Chris,Diane and Andrew Gall - Appleton, WI - 2nd Cousin - October 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *First of all I want to express my sincere condolences to the family for your loss. I met Debbie through Cookie, and although I didn't know her very well, I knew/know him. What I know is that he loved her very much, with the respect he always gave her in our talks. I will always remember the Halloween party with Cookie and Deb dressed in the zombie pilot garb. That was a fun night. Many hugs go out in this sad time!*

Sue Ellis - Iron Mountain, MI - Old TSA worker with Cookie - October 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *To Debbie's Family-*

What beautiful tributes were paid to your wife, mom, daughter and sister at her passing. From the beautifully written obituary to the music, readings and personal tributes spoken at her service tonight, and the full house at the funeral home - all were testimony to how very loved she was. And how very much she loved all of you! All of her hospital "family" and friends knew about your family and how she looked out for all of you. None of us could ever forget her fear when Michele was sick, her excitement when Michele got married and Milo and Ronin were born and more recently when her sister's family adopted. She proudly shared stories of family gatherings and pictures of you all and more importantly, she shared her life with us. Everyone who knew and loved Deb will surely miss her. God Bless you all.

Sheri LeBombard - Vulcan, MI - Friend from work - October 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Farewell my dear friend,*

If I had known then, what I know now, I would've spent more time with you.

Things go by so fast and I wish I could go back and change the past.

Your friendship was truly a blessing and I will miss you so much. We shared many secrets, had so many good times together over the years and

you have left me with the best memories ever!

But God came to take you home.....

I love you forever and you will always live within my heart until we see each other again.

My deepest sympathy to Cookie, Michelle, Alice, Ray and Sandy. Thinking of you all and praying that God will give you comfort and peace.

Tammy Hardwick - Friend - October 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dear Michelle, Ray, Alice, and Debbie's extended family-
I am so sorry to hear of Debbie's passing. I can only imagine the struggle she went through fighting her disease the best she could. I want you to know that I always enjoyed my interactions with Debbie talking about everything from family history at the cottage, our mutual love of rock concerts, and even the more serious matters such as the cancer fight that can afflict and affect so many including members of our own families.

There are survivors and there are those who fall short in their personal battles with malignancy, but there are never losers. They are ALL warriors.

I will say an extra prayer tonight that Debbie is at peace.

*God Bless-
Matthew*

Dr. Matthew T. Gall - Eden Prairie, MN - distant relative/second cousin - October 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dearest Michelle and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. Debbie was a vibrant, loving, beautiful, smart, funny and wonderful woman. We will think of her often and with a smile. Her love touched and enriched our lives immeasurably. Life without her physical presence is painful, but life having never known her at all is unthinkable. Debbie was, and continues to be, a great gift.

Michelle, living with the loss of your mom has no closure on pain but, thankfully, it also has no closure on love. Transcending your mom's loss is the process of learning to live with love and loss side by side in a way that brings your life greater meaning and purpose. Your mom loved you so much, Michelle. You were her everything and she was and is so proud of you. Although you will carry the remnants of her loss with you every day, let yourself grieve and feel your pain, riding the waves of feeling. The pain you feel now will change over time, but its impact will endure. Allow gentle acceptance of this to integrate loss into your life, and know that we will always be here for you.

Love is eternal — You are still in a relationship with your mom and always will be. Her love is an integral part of who you are. We will talk about her, remember her, look at pictures, laugh, cry, and tell stories and stay connected to her and remember her for being someone who made such an enduring impact on you. Steve and I are burning sage and lighting candles in her honor today, as you always will on special days. She will always be a part of your life. You are changed, my dear friend. You are living into a new self. This Michelle has new attitudes toward life, toward death, toward spirituality and toward your own life's meaning and purpose. Allow yourself to be changed and you will find that growth is possible. We have all lost a wonderful woman. Love and loss go hand-in-hand. I'm here to hold your hand, my dear friend. I love you.

Jennifer Baird - Santa Rosa, CA - Friend - October 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I had the pleasure of spending time with Debbie and her family in Springfield. I did not know her too well, but the time I did spend with her made me quickly realize what a lively, loving, and caring person she was. Anyone who ever met Debbie knew how much she cared for her family, and she was blessed with one of the best families I have ever known. I know Debbie's sister Sandy and the Hurtubise family in Springfield, and was blessed to be able to witness such a loving family relationship. I will forever remember the memories I have with the Hurtubise/Person family, and wanted to extend my condolences to her family. I know that these are hard times, but God has blessed you all with the love and support of each other. I love you all and you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Katie Andres - Springfield , IL - Family Friend - October 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ My dearest Debbie. I can't believe that I am signing your Memory Book and preparing for your funeral services this afternoon. I knew you were sick Sweetie but I thought we had more time. Time to say Good-Bye. Time to say just one more "I love you". I wasn't prepared. But now I believe that I would never have been prepared no matter what. You were so scared and yet so very brave. I take solace in the knowledge that God will let you now rest in peace until we can be together once again. Sleep well my Darling Debbie = = = save me a seat. Love you like a sister. Kathy

Kathy Meyers - Iron Mountain, MI - Cousin - October 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. Michelle and Cookie take care. I hope her memories will always shine on through all of us who knew her.

Christopher J. Menza - DeLand, FL - friend - October 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ We are so sad to hear of Debbie's passing. Even though we didn't get to see her often, we enjoyed the time spent with her during our visits. So sorry we can't be there for the funeral but we are sending our love and prayers across the miles.

Randy, Sandy and family

Randy and Sandy Larson - Centennial, CO - Cousin - October 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Sandy~
I was so sorry to hear the news. My heart breaks for you. I cannot even imagine losing any of my sisters. But she was more than that to you. I will cry with you and send you strength and love. Hold on to each other and keep her memory alive.....everyday.

*Love,
Sissy*

Mary Ellen Pollard - Hoffman Estates, IL - friend of family - October 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ To the family of Debbie I offer my condolences. I am a classmate of Ray and friend of Alice and acquaintance of Debbie. I can only imagine what you are experiencing at this time. My prayers and thoughts are with you. I only hope time helps heal your great loss.

Maddie Meyers Holcomb

Maddie Meyers Holcomb - Congress, AZ - Friend - October 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM