



# Deborah Anne Zeigler

FEB 11, 1948 - NOV 21, 2022



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FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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# Deborah Anne Zeigler

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**O**n Monday, November 21st, 2022, Deborah Anne Zeigler our beloved matriarch passed away surrounded by loving family members. She was 74 years old. Born to Ray and Netrola (Nicki) Cleveland in Waco, TX, on February 11th, 1948, Deb later moved to Richardson, TX, and graduated from Richardson High School in 1966. As a young girl, Deb spent her summers in Kenefic, OK, on the farm of her maternal Grandmother and Grandfather, Berneice and Votial Troutman. She loved her Grandmother Berneice dearly, and over the years regularly traveled with Berneice, her mother Nicki, aunts Pat and Estelle, and eventually cousin Elizabeth to Branson, MO, to celebrate Berneice's birthdays. The ladies continued their travels after Nicki's death in 2004, and later Berneice's death at age 99 in 2008.

After high school, Deb attended Southwest Texas State University for two years before returning to the Dallas area to work for her Step-father Vince Palmer selling perfume in the Highland Park area. It was there selling perfume that she met Russell Downey Jr., in 1968, who she later married on January 24th, 1970. Deb gave birth to their first son Chris on September 8th, 1972. The couple moved to Longview, TX, in 1974 and Deb gave birth to their second son Chad on December 4th, 1978. Chad was born with several health problems requiring multiple surgeries through the first few years of his life. Chad would eventually be diagnosed with a chromosome disorder, a condition that made him mentally disabled. A gentle soul who never met a stranger, Chad inherited his love and compassion from his Mom, and brought the light to the world until his death in 2018.

Deb and Russell divorced in 1982. Shortly thereafter, she met the love of her life, John Zeigler. After a few years' courtship, John asked Deb's then 12 year old son Chris for his blessing to marry his Mom, and the couple was married in Trinity Episcopal Church in Longview on March 30th, 1985. The couple loved traveling to Mexico and the Texas Hill Country. They even purchased a small plot of land in the Arkansas Ozarks, where they dreamed of one day building a small house in which to retire. However, after combining families and putting 5 sons through college, they



## Obituary

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decided they'd build their love nest right in Longview, and in 1990 built their house on The Ridge. The couple would host countless family gatherings at The Ridge, multiple Ridge Chili Cook-offs and the weddings of Chris and Kim Downey and Tony and Jackie Marter. John and Deb would eventually downsize, moving to Bramlette Place in Longview where they lived at the time of her death. At Bramlette, the couple was much more easily accessible to their community of dear friends who loved coming to see them.

In May of 1996, Deb was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and had a mastectomy less than 2 weeks later. A few months after and still not fully recovered, she and John traveled with Tom and Eleanor Lawrence to Europe in August 1996. Deb was determined to see the Sprutz Waterfall outside of Gimmelwald, Switzerland, where her son Chris had proposed to his high school sweetheart Kim a couple months earlier. The group traveled to the village deep in the Swiss Alps and Deb, arm still in a sling, made the hour and a half hike up the mountain with the others to the waterfall and the site of "the proposal". John proposed to her again under the waterfall and they shared tears of joy celebrating Chris and Kim and Deb's perseverance. In subsequent years, Deb would become active with Reach for Recovery, helping other women, including her daughter-in-law Kim overcome their battles with Breast Cancer.

Even while working in the Oil and Gas industry as an administrator for over 30 years, Deb always found time for her favorite activity, the giving of herself in the service of others. She went on multiple mission trips to Mexico with St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, served meals to the underprivileged weekly at the Newgate Mission, and poured her heart into perhaps the most special charitable endeavor to her, working at Heartisans Marketplace. Spending over 7 years at Heartisans, she helped oversee the Marketplace's move to their new facility, and loved having her Grandson Elliott come work with her there.

Deb was preceded in death by her father Ray, mother Nicki, and son Chad Downey. She is survived by her husband John Zeigler, son Chris Downey and wife Kim of Austin, step-son David Zeigler and wife Liz of Plano, step-son Jeff Zeigler and wife Barbara of San Marcos, step-son Mark Zeigler of Dallas, step-son Michael Zeigler and wife Lauren of Brock, grandchildren Abigail, Nathaniel, Peyton, Carter and Elliott, great-grandchildren Johan, Daniel and Dakota, brother Jeff Palmer and wife Elizabeth of Lewisville, brother John Palmer and wife Susan of Waco, brother James Palmer and wife Katy of Seattle, WA, and nieces/nephews Serina, Blake, Meredith and Nicholas.



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In lieu of flowers, the family asks memorials be sent to First Presbyterian Church Longview, or Heartisans Marketplace of Longview. A memorial service will be held at 2pm on Saturday, December 3rd, at First Presbyterian Church in Longview, with reception to follow.

"John and I live on the east side of the mountain. It's the sunrise side, not the sunset. It is the side to see the day that is coming, not the day that is gone. The best of the two is the day that is coming, and with it work to do. Done with eyes wide open on the benefit of our past and our grateful hearts." -Deb Zeigler



# Events


**Deborah Anne Zeigler**

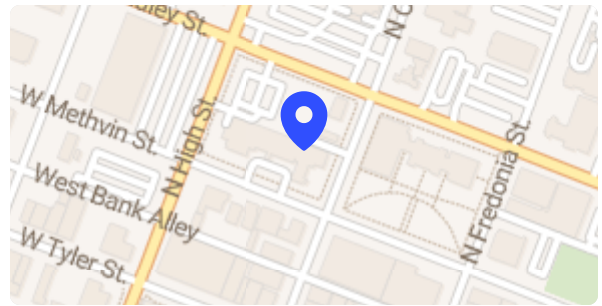
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## Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, December 3, 2022

 2:00 PM CT

 **First Presbyterian Church**  
301 N. Center St., Longview TX





## Tribute Wall

**Deborah Anne Zeigler**

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**KW**

**Kenneth And Cynthia Warren** posted:

Deb had such a beautiful heart and soul. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Kenneth and Cynthia Warren

December 3 at 2:12 PM

**KB**

**Kelé Blalock** posted:

Deb was the most sweet, kind, caring soul. I was heart broken to hear of her passing. She always had a smile on her face and a kind word said to all. Her outlook on life is one I hope I can achieve. I know she will be dearly missed by all who knew her and mostly by her family. Love you Deb, Kele' Blalock

December 2 at 4:34 PM

**CB**

**Cindy Berentsen** lit a candle in honor of Deborah.



November 29 at 6:06 AM

**NR**

**Natalie Rabicoff** posted:

I am heart broken to hear of the passing of this sweet friend, wonderful wife and Mother. A busy bee always volunteering.... helping others. We go back decades and I always heard that sweet voice greeting me if i was volunteering where she was or out in the community. We both went through breast cancer about the same time and i would sometimes cross her path at the Cancer Center. Our kids grew up together and had lots of fun at parties and simplyly crossing each others path. Rest in Peace Deb. You will be missed dearly by a multitude of friends and family. I will keep John and family in my prayers. With Love, Natalie ❤️👤❤️🌻❤️👤

November 27 at 1:17 PM

**MM**

**Molly March** posted:

Deb was a beautiful friend and person I was blessed to have known her. Hugs and love to you John and the boys David, Mark, Michael and Jeff. Love you all Molly March

November 24 at 11:36 AM



## Tribute Wall

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HS

**Helen Dale Simons** posted:

The entire Simons family send their love to the Downey-Zeigler family! Deb loved our Elizabeth and truly won our hearts! Being with Deb and John was like being with a warm loving family that we will cherish always! Her legacy will remain in our hearts forever! Special prayers for you John!

November 23 at 9:08 PM

JU

**Judy** posted:

Much love to John and the boys. Deb was a lovely person and good friend. My thoughts and prayers to all. Judy aka Mack

November 23 at 4:22 PM

BB

**Becky Birdsong** posted:

Deb was one of the most beautiful women I knew inside and out. We spent 10 years walking together at 5:30 am every morning and have shared our souls to each other. We also spent 7 years with our Bible study girls sharing our love for God. She helped me make the flowers for one of my daughter's wedding. Deb touched my life in ways that no one else has that I will cherish forever. There will be a big hole left behind that no one else can fill. Loving, caring, thoughtful, unselfish, classy, free spirit, fun, loved bread, creative, great at writing notes and cards to those she cared for...those are just a few descriptions that come to my mind to describe her. I loved her with all of my heart and will miss her terribly. I was so honored when she asked me to make her quilt with Chad's t-shirts that she loved so much. I would have done anything in the world for her. I know that she and Chad are having a ball together now that they are both whole with Jesus:heart: Until we meet again, my dear friend:sparkling\_heart:

November 23 at 11:22 AM

LC

**Laura Comstock** posted:

I met Deb when Chris and Kim moved next door to us. She was incredibly sweet, kind and very welcoming. We got to visit with her when she was in Austin and loved every minute. Our hearts go out to John, Chris, Kim and the family. She left the world a better place with her presence.

November 23 at 10:53 AM



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JB

**Jeff, Marilyn, Austin & Justin Baker** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Zeigler family.



November 23 at 5:46 AM

JB

**Jeff Baker** posted:

Our heartfelt condolences to John, Chris and the Brothers Zeigler. Deb was truly a special lady who brought so much light and joy to the world. She and John were so welcoming each time we traveled to The Ridge. So many great memories made on that hill. Rest in peace Deb, you have fought the good fight! Jeff & Marilyn Baker.

November 23 at 5:41 AM

RH

**Rader Funeral Home** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



November 23 at 5:14 AM

RB

**Ronnie Boorman** November 28 at 9:46 AM

She was a wonderful person who was always willing to help. I will never forget her.

MM

**Margaret Mallory** November 26 at 12:09 PM

To know Deb was to love her. She touched so many with her beautiful smile, warm hug, sweet soft voice, and always, eager to join in with any efforts to make life better for someone else. Truly a loving, giving person. She blended these boys with skill and love. although her time was limited, her efforts made deep impressions. We will surely miss her. Peggy Mallory

LT

**Linda Thomas** November 26 at 5:57 AM

Our prayers are with John And Deb's famiy. Linda&Charles Thomas



## Media

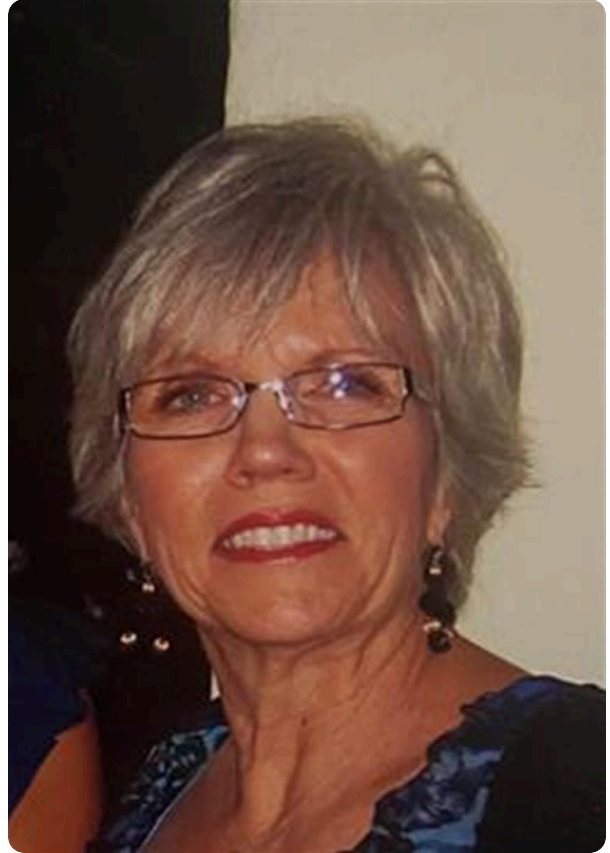
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**Rader Funeral Home** shared 2 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

November 23 at 5:14 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Deborah by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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