



## Deborah Marie Pederson

August 19, 1961 - August 5, 2024

The world lost a free spirit, good soul, and fighter on 8/5/24. Deborah Marie Pederson lived life to the fullest and on her own terms. She ran away from home at only 15, lied her way into a job, opened her own businesses, and dedicated her life to others and especially, to her family both blood and chosen.

Deborah “Debbie” was born in Baltimore, Maryland on 8/19/61. Growing up in Long Beach California with her 3 siblings, she loved the ocean and was a good swimmer. After she ran away from home, she made it to Denver, Colorado when she ran out of money so she lied about her age and got a job working at a car detailing shop. The owner saw that Debbie was a hard worker and let her stay at the shop. It was here she taught herself to drive a stick shift when the boss told her to run an errand in his car. The errand took a long time... When she left Denver her car broke down in Casper Wyoming where she got a job with a small landscaping company. The old man took her in as family and they spent most of their working days drinking coffee at cafes. Debbie fell in love with Wyoming and made it her home. She married Joe Bertrand and had two kids, Kimberly and Christopher. After they divorced, she opened an in-home daycare. She was reunited with her younger sister, Diane, who moved in and soon had kids of her own too! Debbie “Scooter” and Diane “BooBoo” played together on a softball team. Debbie remarried and moved to Torrington with her two kids and worked in group homes caring for the mentally disabled. She took college classes for Appliance Repair and was one

math class away from her Childhood Education associates degree. After 12 years of marriage, Debbie and Don Arnold separated and he died tragically shortly after. Debbie bought a house and worked two jobs while her kids were in high school. She bought a white 2 door Camaro that she loved but was rear ended and the car was totaled in 2002, causing neck and back pain ever after. She never talked about that pain though, which was a testament and foreshadow to her strength. Debbie married Maynard Pederson in 2004 and moved to Lingle Wy. There she had an in-home daycare, My Lil'Munchkins. Debbie raised the daycare kids from babies to school age when she decided to close. Debbie was widowed in 2017 when Maynard died of a brain tumor. Debbie then went on to work in environmental services at Regional West in Scottsbluff, Nebraska where she earned many achievements, including multiple stars of the quarter and star of the year. She quit to work closer to home, working in environmental services at the care center in Torrington before becoming manager of EVS, but her passion was tending to the Alzheimer's floor, interacting with patients and staff. In February 2023, she was told she had stage four pancreatic cancer and would only live for three months. In March, she found out she was going to be a grandma. She fought for 1.5 years doing chemo treatments to meet her 1st grandbaby. There were many ups and downs, but she never complained. She was able to go on trips with loved ones and spend time with the people she cared about most. She loved showing off her daughter's pregnant belly to all the nurses at the treatment facilities and telling them about her future grandbaby. Debbie was a favorite patient wherever she went. Winning people over with her humor and good attitude. In December, she got to meet her granddaughter Lainey and spent the next 7 months watching her grow. Deborah Marie Pederson: widow to Maynard. Mother to Kim and Chris, Grandma to Lainey. Mother-in-law to Emma and Tommy, Sister to David. Aunt to Anna, Roni, Ky and Kenny. Extended family includes Brenda, Jordin, Jeadin, and Jazlynn; Justin, Cindy and Tiffany; Lori, Tom, and Tracey. She was given 3 months to live and fought for 1.5 years. She was a fighter until the end, living on her own the entire time.

Independent, hard working, and stubborn. She spent most of her life caring for others, whether at her daycare or in group homes. Her children were her number 1 priority. She enjoyed embarrassing her kids and being goofy. Debbie was a private person, a shit-giver, and when she was mad she would go for a long drive. She was a prankster, avid reader, and gardener. Her yard was always immaculate. Thanksgiving was her favorite holiday, she would host, and everyone was welcome. She loved giving gifts, watching Disney movies, Animal Planet, roses, puzzles, cooking, baking, computer games, diamond art, books, and her pets. She cared deeply for her family, blood and chosen. She will be missed. A celebration of life will be held on September 7th, 2024 between 12-5pm at the Lingle Community Center. Please come share happy memories. Food will be provided. BYOB though Debbie's favorite Bermuda drink, a rum swizzle, will be provided. Any donations will be put towards a memorial bench to be placed at the Alzheimer's care center in Torrington.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP 7. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Lingle Community Center  
233 Main Street  
Lingle, WY 82223

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ *Clint and Danalynne Showalter purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Deborah Marie Pederson.* ”



Clint and Danalynne Showalter - September 05, 2024 at 07:46 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Deborah Marie Pederson.* ”



September 04, 2024 at 10:49 AM

LT

“ *Love Tom, Diane, Tommy, Katie and Tyler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Marie Pederson.* ”

Love Tom, Diane, Tommy, Katie and Tyler - September 04, 2024 at 10:49 AM

MP

“ *She was a hoot! She truly cared for those she loved. She will be forever remmbered.* ”

Mindy Petersen - August 17, 2024 at 10:16 AM

TD

“ *Deb was a close friend we worked with the disabled in Torrington, that is how I met her. She and I would sneak out for smoke breaks. We had a lot of good times together. Then I moved back to Colorado and we kept in contact with computer games. Then my mom passed away and she met my dad and that was the best thing for my dad. At first I wasn't sure my dad should get back into a relationship so soon but it turned out to be the best thing for my dad they were so happy together. She was the best stepmom ever. Deb and I would sneak out to the garage and smoke and just talk. She always treated us like her own kids. She was the best friend I could have ever had and she will be forever missed. I will hold her in my heart for ever. Deb you are with my dad now and may you rest in peace. Love you always Tracy*

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**Tracy Ozechowski/ daughter** - August 15, 2024 at 08:00 AM