



## Deborah K. Bates

November 10, 1954 - February 13, 2024

Deborah K. Bates, age 69 years, a resident of rural Vienna, passed away Tuesday evening, February 13, 2024, at 6:02 P.M. at her home.

Deborah was born November 10, 1954 in San Antonio, Texas. She was the daughter of Hugh and Lula Belle (Meredith) Smith.

Deborah was formerly united in marriage to Clarence Caraker.

She is survived by: her children – Beth (John Gray) Caraker and James (Tori) Caraker all of Vienna and Michael Caraker of Olmsted; 6 grandchildren – Kaylee Caraker, Patrick Gray, Zachariah Caraker, Joshua Caraker, Bennett Caraker, and Bryce Hettinger; a great grandson – Edison Zimmerman; a sister – Coleen (Allen) Jones of Rantoul; and 2 nephews.

In addition to her parents, Deborah was preceded in death by a grandson – Craig Lyons, Jr.

Deborah was a graduate of Rantoul High School. She was employed by the U.S. Forest Service as a contracting/purchasing agent. Deborah worked in the office of the Shawnee National Forest, the Golconda Job Corps Center, and the Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie at Wilmington, Illinois.

Deborah was a member of the First Baptist Church in Vienna.

She enjoyed horseback riding and traveling. Deborah cherished her family and particularly enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren. She is fondly remembered for her adventurous and fun-loving spirit.

A celebration of the life of Deborah Bates will be conducted Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 1 P.M. in the fellowship Hall of Vienna First Baptist Church, 301 North 7th Street, Vienna, Illinois 62995. A luncheon will be provided and there will be an informal time for family and friends to share stories of Deborah's life.

# Tribute Wall

RL

“ *Deborah and I first met at the U.S. Forest Service office in Jonesboro, IL (what was a Ranger District) office of the Shawnee National Forest at that time. She was always so professional and kind. When she talked about family and our children, she was so proud of them. You could tell how much she loved them. She was a good friend and I was blessed to have known her. Sending heartfelt prayers to all who loved her.* ”



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**Rebecca Lampert-Williams** - February 23, 2024 at 10:19 AM

WM

“ *I spent most of my adult life looking for my Family. Deb was the first I found. Through her and her kind heart I was reunited with my Meredith cousins and Aunt 9 years ago. We got to spend a few days together and it was wonderful. She was a hoot to be around and I'll never forget her impish humor. I'll miss her, my long lost then found cousin. We all will.* ”

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**Will Adams (Born Meredith)** - February 16, 2024 at 02:35 AM

AW

“ *Aleatha Wright lit a candle in memory of Deborah K. Bates* ”



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**Aleatha Wright** - February 15, 2024 at 07:37 PM

CW

“ Clearon & Jane Ross Wright sent a virtual gift  
in memory of Deborah K. Bates



Clearon & Jane Ross Wright - February 15, 2024 at 12:26 PM

CW

Beth, sorry to hear about your Mother. May God comfort you and your  
family at this time.  
Clearon and Jane Wright

Clearon & Jane Ross Wright - February 15, 2024 at 12:29 PM

BC

“ Bob And Kim Collins lit a candle in memory of  
Deborah K. Bates



Bob and Kim Collins - February 15, 2024 at 10:25 AM

DB

“ So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Denise Bates - February 15, 2024 at 08:18 AM

TR

“ Teresa Richerson lit a candle in memory of  
Deborah K. Bates



Teresa Richerson - February 15, 2024 at 07:19 AM

FH

“ *Frederick & Betty Heaton lit a candle in  
memory of Deborah K. Bates*



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**Frederick & Betty Heaton** - February 14, 2024 at 05:04 PM