



Deborah Zartman Smith

January 20, 2025

Deborah Zartman (Shoffstall) Smith, 73, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania died at home on Monday, January 20, 2025. A lifelong resident of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Deborah was born at Lancaster General Hospital to the late Pauline (Zartman) and Elvin Haupt Shoffstall in 1951.

A graduate of Manheim Township High School, Deborah went on to attend Marshall University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She worked for 25 years at various jobs throughout Intermediate Unit 13, pausing for 10 years to devote herself to her children – she was often Homeroom Mom and never missed a game or special event.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Conestoga Country Club, and the Lancaster Junior League. The First Presbyterian Church played an important role in her life. Her children were baptized there, and she and Andy's wedding was the first wedding ever to take place in the church garden. Throughout her devotion to her faith, Deb took on many roles within the church – a member of the Cradle Roll, Sunday School Teacher, and Deacon.

She lived her faith and loved her family and friends. They were the most important part of her life. Everyone who met her considered her a friend and she had a way about her that made everyone feel like the most important person in the world.

A modern-day Snow White, all animals loved her as much as she loved them. Whether feeding her birds, chipmunks, and squirrels or always having treats for passing by dogs, her favorites remained her granddogs, Chase and Cooper.

Above all, Deb was known for her kindness, generosity, and her ability to brighten up anyone's day. She was a devoted wife, an extraordinary mother, and the ultimate Grandma/Mom-Mom. Her sunny disposition matched her love of the beach, spending many summers at Dewey Beach creating lifelong memories. An avid and thoughtful shopper, Deb was the queen of deals and had a knack for knowing what to buy for those she loved. A self-proclaimed Domestic Goddess, Deb's home was always a warm and welcoming place for family and friends alike. Her grandkids will cherish their memories of holidays spent decorating gingerbread houses and gumdrop trees, having cousin sleepovers, and laughter-filled family games of Blitz.

Deb was survived by her loving husband of 44 years, B. Andrew Smith; her children: Blakely Minton and husband Michael of Wallingford, PA, Jessica McCullion and husband Patrick of Springfield, PA, and Ryan Smith of Lancaster, PA; her grandchildren: Harper, Emrey, Madeline, and Finley; her brother, David Shoffstall; and her nieces and nephews: Paul Joseph Sladeczek, Cindy Flanagan, Kelly Martin, Joshua Shoffstall, and Jilli Shoffstall.

Family and friends are invited to attend a service at First Presbyterian Church, 140 E. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Center or St. Jude's Children's Research Center.

Previous Events

Service

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
140 East Orange Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ Prayers to Andy and the Family..... Decades of knowing you all...
No words can express this loss... Peace, Dusty & Linnie Loeffler

February 06, 2025 at 05:48 PM



“ Deals purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the
family of Deborah Zartman Smith.



Deals - February 06, 2025 at 12:04 PM



“ Debbie was truly an angel in many ways. We first met when the girls
attended daycare...,she offered to watch her when the babysitter
could not Her daughter,Jessica, and Brittany grew up like sisters.
THAT. I MISSED THEM MOST.
DEBRA AND ROBERT SHAUB

debshaub - February 06, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ I always looked forward to seeing Debbie, whether I ran into her
during the day, or at Grandview gatherings. She was a bright light
and you were drawn to talk to her. She made me laugh on many
occasions with her humor and wit, and was always willing to share a
caring moment. My deepest sympathies to Andy and family. She will
certainly be missed.

Mary Beth McDonnell

Mary Beth McDonnell - February 05, 2025 at 07:59 AM

PH

“ *Debbie was a deeply cherished friend throughout my teenage years and beyond; she was my best female friend across my life and thought of as my 2nd sister. I cannot overestimate her friendship's importance. It was so simple to be Debbie's friend-- no drama, no agenda, no judgement; she was the embodiment of goodness, caring, understanding, sincerity, fun, and LOVE.*

I have only 2 numbers committed to memory for over 60 years-- my SS# and Deb's landline#. The Shoffstall house was the hub (loved the couch) for just hanging out or the departure point for movies, dances, parties, or the Roseville Dairy Bar etc. So many fond memories of that house to include Mrs. Shoffstall (never got comfortable with the 1st name basis).

Later in life I saw Debbie less frequently (my regret) but, when we did get together (usually with Arlene) time apart washed away and boom-- there was the same smile, infectious laugh and connection for which I am eternally grateful.

Debbie will always occupy a special place in my heart, provided a multitude of memories that will not be forgotten, and made a truly meaningful / significant contribution to my life experience. Is there a better complement?

Love you Deb; what was not to love?

Peter Haldy

Peter Haldy - February 04, 2025 at 10:43 AM

HS

“ HUP EDOU Staff purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Deborah Zartman Smith.



HUP EDOU Staff - February 03, 2025 at 11:35 AM

BS

“ Andy, Dave and Family,

I was saddened to read of the passing of Debbie. One of the original Grandview Heights gang. She was always a great dance partner and had a smile on her face. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Barry Solodky

Barry Solodky - February 03, 2025 at 10:22 AM

PH

“ What a lovely obituary honoring a wonderful person. My sister Marty (Longenecker) Selby, from Ohio and Debbie were MTHS'68 classmates. Marty mentioned how loved Debbie made her feel. A wonderful tribute to a beautiful soul. We grieve your loss deeply.
Priscilla (Longenecker) Hodecker

Priscilla Hodecker - February 02, 2025 at 06:58 PM

JM

“ Andy and family. Debbie's obituary is lovely. You captured her perfectly. Every word brought the fondest memories of my friend.
Jan Masland

Jan Masland - February 02, 2025 at 05:47 PM

GW

“ I really never got to know Deb very well. But -- I remember her smiling face and vivacious personality. Andy and Deb were a cute couple and I am certain he will be lost without her. Hang in there Andy -- she will be making heaven into a better place to re-unite with you!

Gary D. Wickman - February 02, 2025 at 05:23 PM

CS

“ Life brings us gifts along the way...a most lovely one was being Deb's sister-in-law
She was a beam of beauty, class and grace...
What a blessing! 💕💕 Cyndi

Cyndi Shoffstall - January 31, 2025 at 08:41 AM

JN

Debbie was truly a beautiful person in so many ways! Sam and I were so blessed to have known her as we enjoyed many memorable moments with her and Andy!

Joyce & Sam Nolt - February 08, 2025 at 09:07 PM