



Debra May Otto

September 5, 1952 - August 30, 2020

With great sadness, we lay to rest, Debbie. Also loved as:

Wally, Mom, Sis, Tutu, Sam, Hawley, Daughter, Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Dear Friend, Good Neighbor, Pet Momma, Volunteer, and Caregiver.

No matter what you called her, she was indeed a one of a kind, uniquely talented, sweet lady who will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

With heavy hearts, we learn to say GOODBYE.

Kurt, Debbie's husband of nearly 35 years, invites you to celebrate her remarkable life with memories of joy, happiness, and laughter, just as she envisioned.

Born September 5, 1952, Debra May Hawley Otto passed peacefully in her sleep in the early morning hours of August 30, 2020. Her passing leaves her husband, Kurt, and her brother Michael, to grieve her, with her children, Leslie and Allen.

Her parents, Michael Hawley, and Mary Rosas, along with her sister, Michelle, precede her in the afterlife.

Debbie led a colorful and passionate life here in Southern California.

She grew up in Simi Valley. She also spent a great deal of time in Big Bear and Santa Monica. In her first marriage (Raymond Kwiatkowski, 07.20.1947-06.23.2013), she was relatively young. She spent her time as a U.S. Navy Wife, along the California coast from San Francisco to San Diego. During this period, she became a mother to Leslie Renée, fifty-one, and Allen-Mathew, forty seven.

Soon after, she began her independent life. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Chapman University.

She held positions in the Aerospace Industry that required high levels of the U.S.A. Security Clearance.

On April 19, 1986, she married the love of her life - Kurt James Otto. Debbie lived the rest of her life as Mrs. Kurt J. Otto. She was happy and spent her wedding and anniversaries of the past thirty-five years at the beautiful Hotel Del Coronado.

Together Kurt and Debbie built a happy home in Laguna Beach.

They became grandparents to Matthew, twenty-nine, Christina, twenty-seven, Scott, twenty, Ivan, seventeen, Zeke, sixteen, and Atlas, one-year-old. Their GREAT

grandchildren were born in 2019, William, twenty months, and Jeremy, ten months. Tutu instinctively knew she was also expecting her third great grand-baby, due February 2021.

Debbie had an excellent knowledge of antiquity products, a master appraiser of fine collectibles and antiques with an impressive sight for attention to detail, with an exquisite eye for beauty, quality, and unique collectible items. She rented several shops over the years, selling her collected products for profit. Debbie spent the rest of her professional career working as an Estate Liquidator. Debbie was also an expert seamstress, taught by her Grandmother Viola. She enjoyed sewing Hollywood inspired costumes, practical modern fashions, home decor, and anything else that would prove a challenge. Debbie spent a brief time as a wedding dress and formal wear consultant, inspired by her love of the elaborate dress. She taught herself to knit, and she was a self-taught artist who loved to work in all media. Debbie was a passionate collector of unique paper and amassed an extensive collection of antique paper & ephemera, beautiful and worthy. Her collection includes many books, stationery, postcards, handmade paper. She had extensive knowledge of the subject. Her extensive old book selections may have been her way of connecting to her Great Great Uncle, Samuel Langhorne Clemens. It was her unique contribution to American literature.

Debbie led an adventurous life, which would include thrilling activities. From hiking and camping to riding motorcycles and shooting. She loved to swim in the oceans and rivers. She water-skied, sailed, and swam competitively in Olympic pools. She went on wild white water rafting trips and enjoyed snow fun, like skiing and sledding. She loved ballet, softball, and travel. Shopping was another of her favorite activities. Some years ago, Debbie decided to attend "Beauty School" and has maintained her status as a California State Board Licensed Esthetician.

She was a Master Recycler, Queen of the Dumpster Dives, always knowing where real treasure existed. Debbie could not refuse an abandoned structure of any degree of danger. She held no fear of getting 'caught.'

Debbie loved the world-famous Pageant of the Masters. She was an actor for several years, as well as a makeup artist. She even planted that seed in her granddaughter and daughter, who performed alongside Tutu, making it a family event.

Debbie's recent years proved to be the most challenging. She had a multitude of world-renowned, groundbreaking spinal reconstructions from her head to "tail." Making her a real Bionic Woman.

Debbie's presence will be greatly missed by many. If nothing else, keep in mind just how precious life and family are. It can be gone unexpectedly at any moment. Hug and kiss your loved ones as she would want. Thank you.

R.I.P. 2020

Below are some links to charities. They are worthy causes, and a donation made would be appreciated by all concerned.

<https://www.nationalforests.org/donate/plant-trees>

<https://www.refugeassociation.org/>

Comments



“ I am so sorry to learn of Debbie's passing today. She was always Aunt Debbie to me and her and Curt were big supporters of mine through a lot of different times. It's been a few years since I've spoken to the family, but just know that you all are in my thoughts and I am so sorry to learn of her passing.



Airyn Simpson - September 14, 2020 at 11:34 PM



“ Sue Edwards is following this tribute.

Sue Edwards - September 12, 2020 at 01:04 AM



“ Lord only knows how much I'll miss this wonderful woman! We might not have seen each other very often, but she was truly my "sister"

Suzi Otto Edwards - September 12, 2020 at 12:56 AM



“ It was truly an exceptional God Wink when we met Debbie and Kurt in 2005. Living in Texas, the Lord knew Jimmy and I needed special new friends along with their unbelievable help with my Godmother’s Estate in Laguna Niguel. Debbie and I had instant connections with our September birthdays and both being called “Tutu” by our grandchildren, who we talked about for hours. We are so very fortunate to have shared Debbie’s sincere friendship. Jimmy and I feel thankful to have Debbie in our hearts with our wonderful memories. Our Love and Prayers,
Jimmy and Cheryl



Cheryl Gray - September 11, 2020 at 12:10 AM



“ Beverly Simpson lit a candle in memory of Debra May Otto



Beverly Simpson - September 10, 2020 at 03:18 PM



“ Debbie....she came into my life in 1970 as a Friend, however she became like a Mother, a Sister, and then settled into my Heart and Soul.

We had over 18,000 days together. We raised our children together. We experienced River adventures, desert campouts, motorcycling, knitting, sewing, baking, painting, wallpapering, gardening, Christmas, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, owning a treasure restoing business.

She is the Godmother of my daughters.

My life without her will never be the same.

To the Family I say " How lucky you are to have her as a Wife.....Mother.....GrandMother.....GreatGrandmother.....Sister.....Aunt.. or....Cousin."

Keep LOVE in your HEARTS , and HUGS in you SOULS.

REST. IN. PEACE. NOW.. Debbie.....I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN MY FRIEND.



Beverly Simpson - September 10, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



kurt otto - September 09, 2020 at 01:24 PM



“ So beautiful!!! I love this picture.

Christina Alvarez - September 10, 2020 at 02:51 PM



“ Finding you ...what a beautiful time of her life..look how happy she was. Bless you Kurt.

Beverly Simpson - September 10, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ Beautiful inside and out !!

Cheryl Gray - September 11, 2020 at 12:18 AM