



## Debra Sue Kelley

October 21, 1952 - September 22, 2023

Dateline: Godfrey

Debra Sue (Sanders) Kelley, 70, died at 11:32 a.m. Friday, September 22, 2023 at OSF St. Anthony's Healthcare Center in Alton. Born October 21, 1952 in Alton, she was the daughter of Thomas Virgil and Florence Mary Ella (Williams) Sanders. She married William Howard Kelley on November 21, 1971 in Dallas, TX. They have been together for over 57 years. She worked for Robert "Bob" Sanders Waste System until her retirement in 2011. She loved spending time with family and crocheting blankets for friends and family. Along with her husband, William, she is survived by two daughters and a son and their families: daughter; Starla Kelley (Abasa Brown) her children and grandchildren; Ciara (Anton) and children, Anton III and Draphy; Tiara (Joey) and children, Ryon, Don'Tay, Nevaeha, Jeremyah, Joey, and Jaymeson; Tony Jr. (Rozlyn) and their child, Alayah; Aaron (Ashleigh) and children, Jazlynn, Aaron Jr., Xzavier, and Jayceon; Akia (Brandon) and children, Mayonna, Tim, and Bryson. Daughter; Tommie Kelley and her children and grandchildren; Shemeika (Todd) and their children, Jayden and Bella; Isaac and his children, Serenity, Harmony, Ellie and Tomi; Alexis. Son; Jeremy Kelley (Julie) and their children, Haley and Jayme as well as many other loved ones and friends. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Charles Thomas Kelley, sisters, Brenda Watkins and Vicki Kelley, brothers, Charles Sanders and James Sanders and a niece, Rebecca Sanders. Visitation will be from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at Gent Funeral Home in

Alton where funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 28, 2023. Burial will be at Upper Alton Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Upper Alton Cemetery

Oakwood Avenue  
Alton, IL 62002

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 27. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral

SEP 28. 10:00 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra Sue Kelley.*



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September 27, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Debra Sue Kelley.*



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September 27, 2023 at 10:14 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Debra Sue Kelley.

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September 27, 2023 at 10:14 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra Sue Kelley.*



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September 25, 2023 at 09:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Debra Sue Kelley.

September 25, 2023 at 09:19 AM



“ Oh dear,  
There are simply not enough words to say what we are feeling with your passing. You were the one who held the family together, always looked past ones wrong doing, always believed the good in people. You never met a stranger. After grandma passed you took on that role for me. And it was a big role to fill, you didn't bat an eye and accepted that title. Over the years i enjoyed bringing my kiddos to see you and visit. We will forever cherish all the memories we had with you. I knew everytime i was pregnant my most favorite gift would be your crotchet items. There was nothing quite like them. They were the most thoughtful gift i have ever received. Thank you for all of words of encouragement throughout school, your “love you hon” and your comments and snapchats. Thank you for always believing in me and always checking on me! Please give grandma a HUGE hug for me! I can only imagine the reunion you had. Until we meet again Grandma Deb, i hope you know just how loved you are, and how much you will be missed ❤️❤️ Love and miss you so much! Fly high, you have earned those beautiful angel wings 🙏 -  
Shell

Michelle Eslinger - September 24, 2023 at 08:43 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Debra Sue Kelley.



September 24, 2023 at 08:08 PM

JE

“ No one spread more love in one lifetime. We're gonna miss you, thank you for loving us kids. May the winds of heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear  
How much we love and miss you and wish that you were here. Give my mom a hug for me.

Jerry - September 23, 2023 at 01:50 PM

CH

She was a warrior and the strong house of many I will miss her alot may my prayers go out to you all love you all

Christine - September 23, 2023 at 02:23 PM

FS

Sending Prayers 🙏🙏🙏🙏 to Bill, snd Jeremy and His Family , Tommi and Her Family and Starla and Her Family My Heart is 💔 I will miss Debra she was loved by many she had a Biiig Heart ❤️ And always Loved by her Family and Friends There will not will be a day that goes by that She won't be Missed Love you Debra with all my Heart ❤️ I hope you are Flying High And Enjoying all Your Love One's Give Hugs From All of Us ☐ I Will See You Again That Will Be A Good Day For Me I Will Find You When I Come I Love 🥰🥹 You So Much

Flo Dugger - Sanders - September 23, 2023 at 02:47 PM

RR

Sending love and prayers to the family. Debra was a wonderful person and never knew a stranger. Honored to have called her a friend.

Ramona Rhine - September 24, 2023 at 03:33 AM

CH

*Life will not be the same with out you Auntie.. You were always there for everyone you knew.. You made my childhood amazing.. The holidays at your house.. piling up in living room on pallets with several other cousins who were spending the night .. You cld always count on you to have the best snack cake stash for all us kids in your closet.. Going to church with you as a little girl was always a blessing. You always treated each and everyone of us as your own . As everyone got older and families grew bigger I still kept contact you had a listening ear with no judgement anytime .. You wld give your honest opinion on any situation. I will miss our calls all the time and texting pics to you as well to keep you updated on my lil family. This is hitting me like a ton of bricks and I will miss you live crazy.. This world will not be the same without you. FLY HIGH and Rest easy Autie I know you have gained your wings in heaven as you were always a angel on earth as well.. Prayers to Uncle Billy Starla Tommi Jeremy and their families .. Love you all  
Love Christy ❤️*

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**Christy Hartmann** - September 24, 2023 at 08:49 AM

TL

*Dear sis,  
I know you fought the long hard fight for as long as you couldn't, and you became tired and was ready and you had no fight left in you. That's ok we understand that your time here on earth was ending but we find comfort in knowing that your pain and suffering here is done and your enjoying your heavenly body now filled with nothing but peace at last!! I'll miss you for as long as I live and I can't thank you enough for being my second momma and shaping me into the woman I am today. You was an angel on earth with a heart as big as the universe ! You gave and gave to so many people throughout your life , you were there for all your huge family and friends and you were a light on a dark day . I know it's a rejoicing moment for you now !! You are with our lord Jesus now and all our loved ones and I'm sure they are all so happy to have you join them . Please give them love and hugs from all of us down here. I am thankful and blessed that you were my big sister and that I have so many great memories of you to cherish and get me through the bad days . Till we gather again sister. My love for you will always be I'm my heart.your sister, Tomella*

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**Tomella Loveless** - September 24, 2023 at 12:53 PM



*Although I don't remember having any classes with Debbie, I remember her gentle spirit, and it was a blessing being in her presence.*

*Moreland Gaddis*

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**Moreland Gaddis** - October 11, 2023 at 03:10 PM