

Celebrating THE *Life* OF
Deborah Wahl



Memorial Service

Friday, August 8, 2025 - 1:00 PM

Hartquist Funeral Home - Pipestone, Minnesota

Clergy - Rev. Evan Schiller

Scripture Readings

Psalm 23 II Corinthians 4:16-18

John 6:37-40

Homily - Genesis 12:1-8

"God Called Her to a New Home"

Pianist - Bonnie Folkerts

Congregational Hymns

"It Is Well With My Soul" "How Great Thou Art"

Inurnment

New Woodlawn Cemetery - Pipestone, Minnesota

Arrangements Entrusted To
HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME



Deborah Wahl

August 9, 1954 - June 12, 2025



I am the taker of the photos. I am the receiver of the groans, the eye-rolls and the hurry ups. I am the one who disrupts the 'moments', to capture them. And sometimes it's hard to be that person. But I am also the holder of the memories... I am the one who keeps the precious proof. I am the bearer of the stories, the maker of the photo books that bring tears, laughter and love rushing into the room each time they are opened. And if you are too, please know you are capturing this life, as it happens. You are capturing stages, ages, twists, turns and last moments no one could have foreseen. And generations to come will thank you for it, even if no one does right now. The eye-rolls will be replaced one day with absolute all-consuming gratitude, for the image of a smiling face so missed and a memory returned home to stay. Keep disrupting life to capture it my friends, when it's all that is left, someone somewhere will be so very glad you did.

- Donna Ashworth

Deborah Cay Paulsen Wahl, a woman whose life was defined by optimism, quiet strength, and an unwavering love for her family, passed away peacefully on June 12, 2025, at the age of 70.



Deb was born on August 9, 1954 to Robert and Rita (Wathen) Paulsen in Pipestone, MN, Deborah was raised on the family farm north of town. Deborah discovered a natural poise and confidence in front of an audience while collecting purple ribbons in 4-H dress review and demonstration. In high school, she competed at the state level in original oratory and enjoyed a number of leading roles in school plays. Of all her many lifetime accomplishments she often joked that her PHS Best Actress award was her most coveted accolade. After graduating from Pipestone High School in 1972, she attended Mankato State University and received her bachelor's degree in business management.

A chance meeting at a Minneapolis bus stop brought her the love of her life, Richard. For the past 40 years they spent time contemplating life side by side while each reading the newspaper and drinking their morning coffee. Not only did they enjoy their time at home, they also explored the world together. Favorite travels included Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, New Zealand and sailing the Caribbean. They visited many of our great United States including their most recent trip on an Alaskan cruise.

Deborah's distinguished professional career gained her recognition as a highly effective human resources and executive management leader for corporations in the fields of Software, Banking and Financial Services and Legal firms. Deborah served as the national President of the Legal Assistant Management Association (LAMA) and the President of the Valley of the Sun HR Association (VSHRA). As the Arizona Legislative Director of the Society for HR Management (SHRM), Deborah chaired efforts to draft workplace violence legislation that was enacted into Arizona law. Her strong commitment to developing each employee's full potential gave Deborah the reputation by her peers as a true builder of people.



Deborah was the "taker of photos," the gatherer of family history, and a relentless cheerleader. She refused to entertain negative thoughts, offering a maddeningly positive nature instead. Deborah left a mark that will not fade. For that she will be dearly missed.

Deborah is lovingly remembered by her husband, Richard; mother Rita Paulsen of Pipestone; three siblings, Susan Manke of Ft. Collins, CO, Kevin (Barb) Paulsen of Pipestone, and Dana (Dan) Melcher of Chandler, AZ, and so many close nieces and nephews and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Paulsen; her brother, Gary Paulsen; and three nephews, Jason and Tyler Manke and Jeffrey Paulsen.