

In Loving Memory

Dr. Denise L. McGaha



January 12, 1968 – October 19, 2025

Sunday November 9, 2025

South Doyle High School Auditorium





Obituary

Dr. Denise LeAnn McGaha, age 57, of Knoxville, TN passed away peacefully on October 19, 2025.

A devoted sister, mother, grandmother, and lifelong educator, Denise dedicated her life to lifting others through learning and leadership. She began her career as a high school English teacher, where her love for literature and her unwavering belief in her students left a lasting impact on countless young lives. Her passion for education led her to become a high school principal, and later she earned her Doctorate in Education — a testament to her determination, service, and relentless pursuit of excellence.

Denise was more than an educator; she was a mentor, advocate, and friend to many. Her warmth, wit, and strength inspired everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

She is survived by her two beloved sons, Jared and Dustin McGaha, Kelsey Wolfe, her cherished grandchildren, Adeline, Raidyn and Benny, her father Dennis Cummings, and her siblings Dana Shipley and husband Brandon, Kelly Cummings and his wife Kate, and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother Karen Buck Cummings, grandparents James and Helen Cummings, grandfather Henry Lawrence Buck and grandmother Bonnie Thaxton.

Her impact will live on in every life she touched. She taught with grace, led with courage, and loved with her whole heart.





Order of Service

Opening Prayer

Song Selection.....SDHS Choir

Scripture Reading

Obituary Reading

Remarks.....SDHS Administration

Tribute Video

Song Selection.....Dustin McGaha

Words of Comfort.....Adam Barnhart

Closing Prayer



*Picture me as I was, full of life and love.
Although not with you now, I'm watching from above.
I know how much you miss me, and I miss you too.
It was my time to leave, as each of us will do.
Although not in your arms, I'm always in your heart.
The precious love we shared, means we're never far apart.*



Acknowledgement

Thank you so much for your outpouring of love and kindness during the loss of our dear loved one. May God bless and continue to be a blessing in your lives.

~The Family of Denise McGaha~

Services Entrusted to:


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