



## Debra Jean Larson

October 8, 1954 - June 28, 2023

DEBRA JEAN VUKICH LARSON age 68 of Bend, Oregon passed away at home on June 28, 2023 after a four year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Debra was born in Pasadena, California to Marvel and George Vukich, and came to Sams Valley, Oregon in the Medford area, as a young child with her parents in 1958. Her sister Naujean Robertson followed them with her own family to Sams Valley the following year. She attended Sams Valley schools and later Crater High School in Central Point Oregon with her nieces and nephew, where she lettered in gymnastics and tennis, graduating in 1972. After graduating from high school, she worked as a singer, musician and dancer in the Medford area before going on to Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls, Oregon. After graduating from OTI, she moved to Bend, Oregon to enjoy the ski slopes and outdoor activities. She started at Oregon Bank as teller and decided to use her knowledge of cars and began working at Robberson's Ford on the parts counter in the service department for over 30 years before an early retirement due to her health. She was memorable for her infectious smile and sense of humor, diplomatic manner and problem solving skills. She was a devoted daughter, wife and friend.

Debra is survived by her husband John O'Leary of Bend, sister Naujean Barrett of Grants Pass, nieces Valerie Jump of Fallbrook, California, Diane Webb of Grants Pass, Oregon, Janeen Nolte of Eagle Point, Oregon, and

Rebecca Bayless of Frisco, Texas, nephew Rob Robertson of Vancouver, Washington and grand nephews Robbie Robertson of Vancouver, Washington, Max Houser of Abilene, Texas, Christian Bayless of Hillsboro, Oregon and William Andrew Bayless of Frisco, Texas; grand nieces Tiffany Swift of Medford, Oregon, Danielle Standley of Eagle Point, Oregon, Brittany Smith of Fallbrook, California, Randi Nolte of Medford, Oregon, Lyssa Houser of Grants Pass, Oregon. She is preceded in death by her parents and brother, Richard Cuadra.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary will be held Monday, July 17, 2023 at 5:00 pm in the Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will follow Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 10:00 am in the Holy Communion Catholic Church 1245 SE 3rd St Ste C10, Bend, OR 97702.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Debra Larson O'Leary Research Fund in Pharmacy to support pancreatic cancer research taking place in the College of Pharmacy. Checks can be made payable to the OSU Foundation at 4238 SW Research Way; Corvallis, OR 97333.

# Cemetery Details

## Pilot Butte Cemetery

NE 12th St  
Bend, OR 97701

# Previous Events

## Rosary

JUL 17. 5:00 PM (PT)

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home  
105 NW Irving Ave.  
Bend, OR 97703  
(541) 382-2471  
<http://www.Niswonger-Reynolds.com>

## Funeral Service

JUL 18. 10:00 AM (PT)

Holy Communion Catholic Church  
1245 SE 3rd St  
Suite C10  
Bend, OR 97702

# Tribute Wall

JR

“Debra became my Aunt Debbie when she met and married my Uncle John (my mother’s younger brother) and we could not ask for such a great addition to the family. Debbie was such a friendly aunt with such an inspiring perspective on life. My wife Beth and I loved visiting with her on our trips to Bend. She always had the best recommendations of places to see and go to around town. One good example is that every time we visit Newport Avenue Market, we always remember Debbie recommending the market and the funny bumper sticker they were selling that stated, “Bend Sucks Don’t Move Here.”

*Every Valentine’s Day, St Patrick’s Day, 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day, I will think of Aunt Debbie because we always exchanged text messages wishing each other a happy holiday. By doing so, we learned that not only are we big fans of A Christmas Story, but we both proudly display the infamous leg lamp for all of our neighbors to see. “It’s a major award!”*

*I will especially remember Aunt Debbie for her big heart and love for life. She fought pancreatic cancer to the very end and always kept such a remarkably positive outlook. She shared this tremendous perspective on life with all those around her. As a result, she will always be a survivor. I will never forget this perspective and I will try my best carry forward this positive outlook and never take a day for granted.*

*We will always love and remember Aunt Debbie. She will be greatly missed, until we meet again.*

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**John Rosswog** - July 29, 2023 at 04:11 PM