



Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames

May 24, 1962 - January 16, 2020

Debra Charlene Gatling Reames passed from this life to be with her Lord on January 16, 2020 after a decline in health. She was surrounded and supported by her loving family and friends during the last hours of her life. Debra was born in Murfreesboro, NC in the community of Mapleton on May 24, 1962. She graduated from Murfreesboro High School in 1980. She received her degree in Speech Pathology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She received her Master*s Degree from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC which afforded her the opportunity to teach the Deaf, Blind and Visually Impaired. She was employed for a period of time at Central State Hospital for the Intellectually Disabled in Virginia and the Maryland School for the Blind in Maryland. She was also employed with school systems in South Carolina and Georgia that provided education for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She was employed with the Hanover Public School System until her demise.

Debra became a member of Parker's Grove Baptist Church in her youth where she participated in many activities. She later became a member of Springfield Baptist Church in Henrico, Virginia where she sang on the choir and continued her spiritual growth.

Debra was predeceased by her loving parents, Eley Gatling, Sr. and Nancy Ella Vann Gatling, and a brother, Dennis Gatling. Those who will cherish fond and loving memories are Stepson Akeriam Reames (Morgan); four sisters, Ella Badham (Lynn), Addie Dobie, Angela Jones (Jeffrey), Shelia Smith, three

brothers, Eley Gatling, Jr. Karen), Michael Gatling (Lisa), and Keith Gatling (Geri), a god sister, Cheryl Parker (Charlie); devoted friends, Clarece Taylor, Valantrice Love Malloy; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Debra was loved deeply by so many, but the most important thing is that she loved God with all her heart. She was a powerful witness of God's Love!

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at Parker's Grove Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, North Carolina at 2:00 PM.

Previous Events

Service

JAN 25. 2:00 PM (ET)

Parker's Grove Baptist Church
131 Mapleton Rd,
Murfreesboro, NC 27855
(252) 398-4930

Tribute Wall



“ *Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames*

November 09, 2022 at 12:28 PM



“ *I am devastated to learn of Debra's passing. We were classmates at Gallaudet University. We carpoled to our student teaching assignment in Maryland and were together for our assignment at Perkins School for the Blind. She was a true Christian and was a role model for me on my faith journey. I looked forward to her Joel Osteen emails-last one received was January 1st. God Bless you all I'm so sorry for your loss.*

Kathleen Sarnacki - September 01, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ *Jo Ragland lit a candle in memory of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames*



Jo Ragland - April 02, 2020 at 01:37 PM



“ *Joyce Fleetwood Wiggins lit a candle in memory of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames*



Joyce Fleetwood Wiggins - February 09, 2020 at 06:46 AM

DW

“ Debra's smile and encouraging demeanor always lit up a room! I worked with her for many years, and she was always smiling, always thoughtful, always encouraging and spreading the love and joy of the Lord to everyone. May God be with your family and bring them peace and comfort as they celebrate your life, well live. Blessings.



Denise Walker - January 27, 2020 at 07:12 AM

DW

well lived....

Denise Walker - January 27, 2020 at 07:13 AM

WC

“ Westelle Cherry lit a candle in memory of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames



Westelle Cherry - January 26, 2020 at 12:19 AM

HE

“ RIP Debra. You are missed.

Herbert Eley - January 25, 2020 at 02:23 AM

VM

“ Debra my friend, my sister. I feel your love and smile down here on earth. I am hurting but knowing you are with your Heavenly Father makes me happy.No more heartaches,troubles or woes. I will forever remember your encouragement and I steadfast faith and your last words with many of our conversations."Keep the faith, this too shall pass" and "God's got this".Condolences to your family whom I know you truly loved. You will always be in my heart.Pray to see you again.



Valantrice Malloy - January 25, 2020 at 12:09 AM

CC

“ Debra was such an inspiration to myself and so many others. The peace and joy she always exuded and encouragement she shared, no matter the circumstances, was always to uplifting. I was astounded at how much she GAVE of herself right up to the very end! I count it an honor and privilege to have been her friend and colleague for a time; to say she will be dearly missed is a drastic understatement. Blessings and peace to her family and all who knew and loved her!



Cierra Coyner - January 24, 2020 at 10:21 AM

EG

“ Edrina Grant lit a candle in memory of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames



Edrina grant - January 24, 2020 at 10:08 AM

SJ

“ Susan Monger Jordan lit a candle in memory of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames



Susan Monger Jordan - January 23, 2020 at 06:34 PM

ED

“ MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF DEBRA, I ONLY KNEW FOR A SHORT TIME I WAS VERY DEEPLY IMPRESS WITH HER. GOD ABOVE WILL COMFORT YOU WITH HIS GREAT LOVE, AND MAY THE STRENGTH OF YOUR BELIEF HELP GUIDE YOU THROUGH THIS TIME OF GRIEF. COUSIN EFFIE DAVIS



EFFIE DAVIS - January 23, 2020 at 08:51 AM

LC

“ Debra worked with one of my kindergarten students who is now is in high school. She had such a gentle, loving way about her and I enjoyed our time working together. I was blessed to see her last summer and was reminded of her beautiful smile. I'm so sorry to her loved ones but know she is with the Lord.

Lori Childers - January 22, 2020 at 09:25 PM

JJ

“ Jacqueline Vann Jones lit a candle in memory of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames



Jacqueline Vann Jones - January 22, 2020 at 07:43 PM

JJ

*Condolences to the Gatling- Reames family. May God keep you in his stead in your time of grief.
The Rochelle Vann Family*

Jacqueline Vann Jones - January 22, 2020 at 07:46 PM

JS

“ JOY. I am sure that is Debra's real middle name!!! Debra has spread so many seeds of JOY to us!!! Debra was such a gift in my life and I feel so blessed and so loved!! I pray I can honor her memory by trying to live by the example she gave!!
"I Can Only Imagine" how ecstatic she is in His Light!!!
Judy Saunders (Battlefield Park Elementary)

Judy Saunders - January 22, 2020 at 10:09 AM

HB

“ I will miss her beautiful smile that greeted me in the mornings. She inspired me to keep a positive attitude.



Heather Beltran - January 22, 2020 at 08:05 AM

SB

“ Debra has such a sweet soul dedicated to serving others in God's name. Rest in peace, Debra. Prayers of comfort for her family and friends.



Susan Barcus - January 22, 2020 at 08:05 AM

BW

“ Debra will be missed by many, but I truly am going to miss my friend I saw early every morning as we Blessed God everyday. She was a remarkable person. God Is Good Debra. Rest in Peace my friend! You were an inspiration to us all! "Praise Be To God"

**knock and he shall open the door"*

Brenda Wood

brenda wood - January 22, 2020 at 07:57 AM



SC

“ God blessed us all when he brought His angel Debra to this Earth. She shined light and love wherever she went. It was a privilege to know her and a true honor to have been a professional associate of hers. Will always and forever remember her smile and caring for the children she served. May our Lord bring her family peace and understanding that she IS home, and in no pain.

Susan Cobb - January 21, 2020 at 10:33 PM

JB

“ Debra was a beautiful colleague.. She will certainly be missed for smile and joyful personality. I was truly blessed to have worked with her in Hanover. I know she is in Heaven smiling down on all her students, friends, and family. Prayers to the family. Joseph Broscius

Joseph Broscius - January 21, 2020 at 09:17 PM



KF

“*Heaven gained the sweetest angel. I'm forever grateful for my sweet friend, Debra, and the role she played in what was by far my most challenging year in the classroom. From the Pencil Parable to my Daily Bread she always took time to encourage and uplift me when I needed it most, even when she was facing her own challenges. My heart aches for her family and all those that have been touched by her grace and love. I pray for comfort and peace in the days to come.*

Kayla French - January 21, 2020 at 09:11 PM

MS

“*Debra was such a light. Always smiling, always positive and upbeat, even when she was ill. Her faith grounded her and her students' welfare was her top priority. She will be greatly missed. May her loved ones be comforted knowing she is resting in the arms of Jesus and they will one day be reunited.* Meg Switzer

Meg Switzer - January 21, 2020 at 08:46 PM

AD

“*I feel so fortunate to have been blessed by Debra's presence. She was always so inspirational, so uplifting, even through all of her health struggles. Her positivity and faith were so prominent and she shared this with everyone. My prayers are with her family during this difficult time. Thank you, Debra, for making a mark on my life.*

Allison Drago - January 21, 2020 at 08:29 PM

MT

“*What a bright shining light you were Debra. Anyone who spent time with you was touched by your grace. Sending prayers to your family.* Margaret Tomasik

Margaret Tomasik - January 21, 2020 at 08:11 PM

MB

“ I feel blessed to have worked with Debra on our SOL committees over the years. She was dedicated to her profession and students. She will be greatly missed.

Mary Kay Brown - January 21, 2020 at 07:23 PM

WJ

“ Wendy R Johnson lit a candle in memory of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames



Wendy R Johnson - January 21, 2020 at 03:50 PM

WJ

“ Debra was such a bright star in the Class of 80 at Murfreesboro High School. Her warm smile and kind heart will always be remembered. RIP Debra!

Wendy R Johnson - January 21, 2020 at 03:47 PM

EG

“ I feel so lucky to have known Debra. She was such a bright spirit and a wonderful person. Her kindness was unmatched, and she is going to be missed greatly by so many, especially her Lee-Davis family. Sending prayers to her family and friends during this difficult time.

Emily Garcia - January 21, 2020 at 03:12 PM

WH

“ Debra was such an inspiration, to all that knew her. She was always quick to share motivating and inspirational quotes. I will miss getting *Our Daily Bread* delivered to me with a smile and a praise to God. Even during the times that her health was failing, she would remind me that God is good and he was carrying her during her journey. I know she is in heaven celebrating her homecoming. Rest in Peace, Debra. I'll see you later.

Wendy Hobbs - January 21, 2020 at 01:37 PM

PE

“ Ms Reames was such a kind and caring person. Despite her failing health she continued to lift me up during the difficult times after the passing of my mother. Her faith and desire to share her love of the lord carried me.

Patrick Echard - January 21, 2020 at 10:27 AM

BR

“ A beautiful woman inside and out who let everyone know that she was a child of God. I am forever blessed because of the time I spent in her presence.

Bonita Reynolds, Lee-Davis High School

Bonita Reynolds - January 21, 2020 at 09:56 AM

KM

“ Debra ALWAYS had a smile on her face and a kind word and hug to share. Her faith and love of God was so inspirational! An incredibly sweet lady who will be very missed by all of us who had to the opportunity to work with her and get to know her.

Kristen Martin, Lee-Davis High School

Kristen Martin - January 21, 2020 at 09:50 AM

CS

“ Debra was such a sweet and caring person. She loved her job/students. She was very devoted and hard working. Debra will be missed by many as she had a positive impact on all she encountered.

Chris Steinbacher LDHS

Chris Steinbacher - January 21, 2020 at 09:49 AM

SB

“ Such a wonderful, caring person. I am so glad I had the opportunity to work with her and call her friend! She will be gravely missed!

Stuart Bernstein, Lee-Davis High School

Stuart Bernstein - January 21, 2020 at 09:25 AM

JB

“ Judy Newsome Boone lit a candle in memory of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames



Judy Newsome Boone - January 20, 2020 at 07:35 PM

JB

Rest in Peace Debra, my classmate (class of 1980). Gatling family you have my deepest condolences

Judy Newsome Boone - January 20, 2020 at 07:38 PM

WC

Thank You Debra, I feel so blessed to have known someone so wonderful that it makes saying goodbye so hard! Words fall short of expressing my sorry to hear you will no longer be with us. But there is Peace in knowing that you are now at rest.

Wilnette Carter - January 21, 2020 at 12:05 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames.



January 20, 2020 at 02:39 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames.



January 20, 2020 at 02:37 PM

GS

“ Gwen Holloman Smallwood lit a candle in memory of Debra Charlene Gatling-Reames



Gwen Holloman Smallwood - January 20, 2020 at 02:19 PM

GS

“ *My fondest memory of Debra was going to church on Sunday morning, making plans to go to each other's house after service. Those were the good ole days. RIP my friend, my classmate. Condolences to the Gatling, Reames family.*

Gwen Holloman Smallwood - January 20, 2020 at 01:35 PM

CS

“ *Condolences to the Gatling-Reames family on the loss of your love one.*

Gilbert and Charmont Hall-Stephen

Charmont Hall Stephen - January 20, 2020 at 11:40 AM