



Gerken Debra

July 1, 2012

Debra F. Gerken, 55, of Napoleon, Ohio died peacefully on Sunday, July 1, 2012 at her residence after a two-year battle with cancer. She was born December 27, 1956 in Napoleon, Ohio to Henry & Lorna (Meyer) Fuhrhop. She was a 1975 graduate of Patrick Henry High School, and obtained her BS Degree from Defiance College. On August 1, 1987, she married Edward C. Gerken at Hope Lutheran Church, Hamler, Ohio. As a child Debby loved horses, and excelled at training and showing them, including representing Henry County 4-H at the state fair. She continued her involvement with 4-H assisting with her children's various projects, as well as utilizing her artistic talents as she chaired their 4-H club's fair booth committee for several years. Debby also loved sports, and was her children's biggest fan, never missing football, volleyball, and basketball games, nor cross country or track meets. Through her children's sports, she also became involved in the NHS Athletic Boosters, Football Mom's & Pop's Co-Chair, as well as painting the football field for game nights. Debby also placed a high priority on academics as she strived for her children to succeed in the classroom even more than succeed on the field. She also wished this for other students as well, becoming a member of the NHS Academic Boosters Club and helping tutor students at St. Paul Lutheran School. Debby's first and foremost priority, though, was always her faith and the Christian upbringing of her children through active membership of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. She was a devoted mother and an inspiration to her family and the community. She is survived by

her husband, Ed; mother, Lorna Fuhrhop of Malinta; children, Chelsea, Drew, and Derek; sisters, Diane (Jon) Gerken of Carroll, Ohio and Darla (John) Huddle of Napoleon, Ohio, and 5 special nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, Henry Fuhrhop. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 5, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon. Interment will follow at Forest Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 4 from noon until 6 p.m. at Rodenberger Funeral Home, Napoleon and Thursday July 5, from 10-11 a.m. at the church. The family suggests memorial contributions to be given to assist her children who are all enrolled at the University of Cincinnati or to a charity of the donor's choice. Online condolences may be made to www.rodenbergerfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Ed, I was shocked to hear of Deb's illness about a year and a half ago from one of the Campbell guys. I remember the time you invited Martin Nezick and me to your house in Paris and we spent the evening with Deb, you and the kids.##imported-begin##Al Jankowski##imported-end##

January 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Lori and I are sorry to hear of Deb's passing. May God provide guidance to your family through this difficult time.##imported-begin##Jay Seppanen##imported-end##

July 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed,Barrie and I are sorry to hear of Deb's passing. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.Bob##imported-begin##Bob Howell##imported-end##

July 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed, please know that we continue to keep your family in our thoughts and prayers.Brian T. Tobey and Family##imported-begin##Brian Tobey##imported-end##

July 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Deb's passing. My prayers go out for The Fuhrhop Family members as well as her immediate family. I was immediately taken back to riding our bikes together to go to Bible School and Catechism classes at Hope (and eating wild strawberries along the ditch). She was a great person who I picture riding horses wild and free in Heaven now.##imported-begin##Robin (russell) Carrig##imported-end##

July 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Diane, I am so sorry for your loss. Your sister Debra sounded like a fantastic person and I know how hard it is to go through that fight. My prayers go out to her husband Ed and their kids as well as your whole family during this difficult time. Your friend at Battelle, Kevin Carrico##imported-begin##Kevin Carrico##imported-end##

July 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed, I am sorry to hear about your wife's passing and hope you recall the good times to get you and the children through.##imported-begin##Tim Michalski##imported-end##

July 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed, Please accept our heart felt condolences.##imported-begin##Roger And Carol Degood##imported-end##

July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Gerken and Family, I'm so sorry to hear for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers. Dani Guy###imported-begin##Dani Guy###imported-end##

July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed, I am sorry to hear of your wife's passing. You are in my prayers.###imported-begin##Angela Roether###imported-end##

July 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Debby's passing. She was a wonderful woman but she is in a much better place now.###imported-begin##Roger Von Deylen###imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed, I am very sorry to hear about Deb's passing but I know you have all been preparing for a long time and she has been fighting hard. May God bless Deb on her journey and you and the kids on yours.###imported-begin##John Stauffer###imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Rich and I would like to extend sincere sympathy to Ed and his family. Deb was a sweet person who was a true inspiration to all who knew in her fight against her illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all!###imported-begin##Bev Elling###imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed, My deepest sympathy goes out to you and the kids. My prayers and thoughts are will all of you. Dottie##imported-begin##Dottie Dibartolmeo##imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed and family, Rest in God's grace and lean on the support your friends and family offer. May your happy memories sustain you through the hard times and bring comfort. My thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Betsy Hurner##imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed, I am so sorry to hear of your wife's passing. I will keep you and your children in my thoughts and prayers and may God give you all the strength to get through this difficult time.##imported-begin##Jenni Roder##imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To Lorna & Family my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of sorrow From Iona Burdue##imported-begin##Iona Burdue##imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ed, Chelsea, Drew and Derek, We send our thoughts and prayers. Debby was an Amazing woman, who thought all of you were amazing! May God bless you and may Jesus be in your heart forever!##imported-begin##Tony And Kc Phillips##imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed-I'd like to extend my deepest sympathy to you and the kids. May God bless you all and keep you strong through these difficult times.- Terry###imported-begin###Terry Small###imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts & prayers go out to all of Deb's family. Deb was a friend, neighbor while we were growing up & a classmate. She was a special person & will be missed.###imported-begin###Peggy Willford Follett###imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ed, You and your family are in my prayers. May your wife rest peacefully as she deserves.###imported-begin###Karen Eischen###imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ed I cannot begin to know what you and your family are going through. I can only offer my prayers and let you know that your family at SSOE is here for all of you. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you. Sincerely MJ###imported-begin###Mary Jo Gilliland###imported-end##

July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM