



## Deborah Kraft

May 14, 1961 - October 28, 2013

Deborah Joan (Chandler) Kraft

May 14, 1961 – October 28, 2013

Debbie “Sis” (Chandler) Kraft passed away October 28, 2013 in Yakima as a result of a massive coronary suffered on October 24th. Debbie was an amazing mother, wife, daughter, sister, and friend who will be tremendously missed by everybody whose life she touched.

Born at Toppenish Memorial Hospital to Glen “Skip” and Diane (Wamsley) Chandler on May 14, 1961 (Mother’s Day) Debbie attended Toppenish Schools, graduating in 1979. She was active in 4H, AKC dog shows, Arabian horses, and rodeo throughout her formative years, including being Toppenish Pow Wow Rodeo Queen in 1979. She continued to support these activities throughout her life. Following high school, Debbie attended Washington State University, graduating in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science / Animal Production Specialist, with minors in Spanish and Journalism. Immediately following graduation, she returned to the Yakima Valley, working as a private trainer for a local Arabian horse breeder. Shortly after, she began her career at Chandler Enterprises, first as a manager of a convenience store, then working in almost every capacity in the corporation, and eventually as co-owner with her brother Mike.

Debbie married Rick Kraft in Yakima on March 12th, 1988, and they built their

home and ranch in Zillah in 1990. Debbie and Rick were blessed with a daughter, Dallas Dawn, on October 13th, 1998. Deb loved being a mom and adored her Dallas. She was very active in supporting Dallas' activities, traveling to horse shows, volunteering at her school and passing on to her daughter her love of all animals.

Deb was an avid horsewoman and loved anything to do with riding and showing Arabians. She showed her beloved horses in Arabian Horse Association events throughout the Western U.S. and Canada, bringing home many ribbons and plaques for excellence. She took great pride in breeding, raising, training, and showing her own line of Half Arabians, this year winning Regional Top Five placings on the fourth generation of her breeding lineage. A pillar in the Arabian Horse Club of Central Washington, Debbie held most chairs in the organization, including her current position as Vice President. One of her greatest joys was working on youth programs both locally and regionally, coaching the Region 5 Youth Judging team to U.S. Arabian Nationals several years. As an advocate for animals, Deb cared for literally hundreds of dogs, cats, birds, and horses – saving many lives and finding loving homes so that everyone's life was enriched. She never passed a stray! When she had a chance, Debbie loved to bake and cook for a crowd.

Debbie is survived by her husband of 25 years, Rick, their daughter, Dallas, her mother Diane Chandler (Toppenish), her step-mother, Judy Chandler (Zillah), and her brothers and sisters-in-law, Curt & Beth Chandler (Maple Valley) and Mike Chandler & Laura Terrazas (Moxee), as well as numerous aunts and uncles and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, Skip, and her grandparents, George & Gladys Chandler and Ray "Doc" & Louise Wamsley.

Debbie was a strong woman who fiercely loved, protected and supported all members of her family – and you didn't need to be related to be family. Many,

many people benefited from her generous and loving nature, as well as her willingness to help, giving 110% of her efforts. She will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, November 2nd at 11:00 a.m. at the Toppenish United Methodist Church, followed by a potluck reception at the Toppenish Eagles from noon to 4:00 p.m. The family suggests that memorial donations be made to the Dallas Kraft Scholarship Fund held at Central Valley Bank. Deposits can be made at any of the local branches or at any Heritage Bank in the Portland/Seattle area.

Finally, we would like to thank the two wonderful men who stepped forward to perform CPR at the Kittitas Shell Station, as well as the extraordinary professionals at Kittitas Fire & Rescue, Kittitas Valley Hospital, and the Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center for their valiant efforts on Debbie's behalf and their kind and compassionate treatment of her family and friends.

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV 2. 11:00 AM (PT)

New Harvest ( Methodist Church)  
201 N. Beech St.  
Toppenish, WA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Deborah Kraft*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *I was shocked and saddened to hear of Deb's passing. We were good friends in high school and roommates in college. Somewhere in between we lost touch. Deb was a fierce friend and was stubborn to boot!! But her heart was gold and she would do anything for you. I admired her strength and her determination. I have many fond and funny memories to cherish. Her passing came much too soon. My condolences go out to the Kraft and Chandler families.##imported-begin##Tammie Oliver-Howard##imported-end##*

November 03, 2013 at 02:48 PM



“ *Rick and Dallas all our love and prayers are with you both may God be with ou##imported-begin##Patty and Don Ross##imported-end##*

November 02, 2013 at 11:15 PM



“ *So sorry, Diane for your loss, it sounds like Debbie was an amazing lady and in many ways a lot like her mom. We will keep you all in our prayers and thoughts...God Bless....Steve and Linda##imported-begin##Steve and Linda Hollenbeck##imported-end##*

November 02, 2013 at 03:26 PM



“ *Debbie was the best "first boss" when she hired me to work at The General Store. I am so thankful that she gave me the opportunity to work for her. Her loving spirit will always be remembered by her family and friends. Thanks for everything Debbie! You will be missed but never forgotten! My prayers for peace and comfort for the family ~ Diane, Rick, Dallas, Mike, and Curt.##imported-begin##Heidi (Brimmer) Riojas##imported-end##*

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November 02, 2013 at 11:24 AM



“ *It seems so unbelievable to me that Debbie was called away from this life so soon. She was such a fun and lively gal. Our lives haven't been very connected these past years but we'd wave at each other as we would pass going our different directions in the busy-ness of life. I'm grateful that she was my friend. My heart goes out to her family and loved ones as I know how deeply she will be missed. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Lucy (Lott) Reynolds##imported-end##*

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November 02, 2013 at 10:40 AM

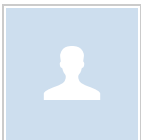


“ What to say about Deb...

*I met Deb when I was 16 yrs old. Little did I know that she would change my life. In fact, there are few people who have had such a widespread and profound influence on my life. As she was for many others, she was an employer, teacher, mother, friend, cheerleader, counselor, and disciplinarian. My own parents aside, her presence during my formative years was the most notable. She nurtured a mischievous introvert into a careful, professional, extrovert. I can't imagine the patience it required to do so, but she did it. As a university professor who moonlights as an adult and parent from time to time, I have developed a reputation as a story teller. Many of my best stories and the ones that my family, friends, and students enjoy the most involve my work at Chandlers. As I have reflected on those stories in the past week, I see Deb in most. I can picture where she was at the time X, Y, and Z happened, I remember her laughter and her counsel. She may be gone for now, but I keep her in my mind and heart. I am thankful to God for her and the memories of her. Rest in peace Deb.##imported-begin##Matt Silvers##imported-end##*

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November 02, 2013 at 09:35 AM



“ Rick & Dallas - You are in our thoughts and prayers. You lost someone very special and dear to you. Cherish the good times and the wonderful memories she helped create. She did so much and helped so many in such a short time. God bless you both##imported-begin##Barry Laws##imported-end##

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November 02, 2013 at 09:14 AM



“ All my love and prayers to the Chandler & Kraft family. I have many wonderful memories of Debbie she was a genuinely amazing person who will be missed dearly by many. Safe passage Debbie, you may be gone but never forgotten.##imported-begin##Peggy Abrams##imported-end##

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November 02, 2013 at 01:27 AM



“ Dear Diane and family. I'm so sorry about your beautiful Daughter. Wished I was there to try to comfort you. Love You take care. Kay Henderson McKail##imported-begin##Kay Henderson McKail##imported-end##

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November 01, 2013 at 03:48 PM



“ All my thoughts and prayers to the Kraft and Chandler family. Deb will be missed by many..but in our hearts forever.##imported-begin##Jody Williams##imported-end##

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November 01, 2013 at 02:05 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with Deb's family and loved ones. She and I worked together on the WSU yearbook (The Chinook) in the early 1980's. Deb was a delightful college buddy and a leader for the Chinook team. She was the cutest WAZZU co-ed ever. Truth be known, I think most of the boys in the Murrow Communications Dept. had a secret crush on her. God bless you Deb!##imported-begin##Alys (Freepons) Means##imported-end##

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November 01, 2013 at 01:42 PM



“Debbie married my brother Rick many years ago and she has been a part of my life and family for 25+ years. I have so many good memories with Deb she was like a sister to me. I had to laugh at someone's post where they say if you ask her how she was doing you better be ready to hear. That is so true. She always had a story to tell and she had the gift to gab but in a really good way. She was there for my son Jeremy and they have become so close over the past few years and I am so thankful that she was there for him and that he got to know her like a mother. Deb taught Jeremy so much about horses and his love for horses has grown because of Deb and Dallas and the knowledge they have instilled in him. That can never be taken away from Jeremy and will live in him forever. Dallas I will always be here for you for anything you ever need and Rick you know too that I am always here for you. We are all going to miss Deb. Our family will not be same without her. We love you Rick and Dallas and Deb we love and miss you too!##imported-begin##Connie Williams##imported-end##

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November 01, 2013 at 11:09 AM



“My heart goes out to the family in the loss of Deb. What an amazing lady. I've shown horses with Deb for many years. I always looked forward to going to any show that Deb, Dallas and Rick would be at. Deb made you feel special and was at the rail for all her friends. Her dedication to Dallas and her horses was the best. As the song says, “Only the GOOD die young”, Deb was one of the good ones. I feel very privileged to have had Deb in my life. Her loss is immeasurable##imported-begin##Maryann Boseth##imported-end##

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November 01, 2013 at 10:25 AM



“ I first met Deb and Dallas at Hilton Elementary when I would take my boys to school. Dallas was one year older than Morgen our oldest son. Anyway...she ALWAYS had a "story" to tell. If I learned one thing..it was if you asked Deb how she was doing...you better mean it because you were going to hear it. LOL. Oh her stories were incredible weren't they. The one thing that I really admired about her was the love she has for Dallas. We use to tease her at ZIS because she would walk her into school every day. I think some Teachers were ready to put a desk in there for her. Dallas....your mom was an incredibly strong woman. She always had the greatest strength stories for me when I was going through cancer treatments and she always made me laugh. I see her strength in you. May the Lord give you peace, strength and guidance.##imported-begin##Tina Bass "Mrs. Bass"##imported-end##

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November 01, 2013 at 09:22 AM



“ I was very sad to hear of Debbie's passing. It sounds like she had a full life and was loved by all. Praying for all of her family and friends.##imported-begin##Jeff Bowman##imported-end##

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November 01, 2013 at 12:31 AM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. On behalf of myself, Chief Brent Nierman, Mayor Tony Helland and the city of Kittitas please accept our condolences.

Officer David E. Anderson KPD #402##imported-begin##Dave Anderson##imported-end##

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October 31, 2013 at 10:38 PM



“ I was so sad to hear of Debbie's passing—too soon. We hadn't stayed in touch since high school, but I remember and admire her competent and competitive spirit. My sincere condolences go out to those she leaves behind. My best wishes to the Chandler and Kraft families.##imported-begin##Cathy Tollefson##imported-end##

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October 31, 2013 at 07:04 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the Chandler and Kraft family. Deb was such a wonderful person, and will be so missed by all. She was such a valued member of our community, her work will be remembered and appreciated by many. God bless you, and may you be comforted by each other and the great memories of Deb. Christina (Johnson) Tucker##imported-begin##Christina (Johnson) Tucker##imported-end##

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October 31, 2013 at 06:47 PM



“ We met Deborah when Dallas and Claire went to the co-op preschool together when it was in Toppenish. Deborah was very friendly and active in preschool, and since then every time there has been a school activity for Dallas and Claire's class she was involved. I remember how well she organized the buffet line for the 8th grade graduation party at the park in Zillah, and I always admired her ability to get things done. She was a very nice person, and her passing is a great loss.##imported-begin##Sandy, Stu, Claire and Lily Simmons##imported-end##

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October 31, 2013 at 06:10 PM



“ I have wonderful memories of Deb as my Region 5 Youth Judging Team coach on several trips to compete at Nationals. She and Rick were so much fun to be with and she was a very knowledgeable horsewoman. Deb will be missed by many!##imported-begin##Kelly Adamson##imported-end##

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October 31, 2013 at 04:20 PM



“ To the Chandler and Kraft Families, my sincerest condolences. What a beautiful obituary, Deb was a beautiful person.##imported-begin##Debbie Rhode##imported-end##

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October 31, 2013 at 03:04 PM



“ I am so sorry for your los my prayers are with you##imported-begin##Sherri Mabry##imported-end##

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October 31, 2013 at 02:15 PM



“ Our thoughts are with Debra's family and especially her mother, Diane, our good friend.##imported-begin##Kris Knight & Pat Smith##imported-end##

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October 31, 2013 at 01:13 PM



“ *My love and prayers go to the family left behind, I went to school with Debbie in Toppenish she was very nice & friendly, god bless all of you in time of sorrow.*

*Bernice Owens##imported-begin##Bernice Owens##imported-end##*

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October 30, 2013 at 07:38 PM