



## Deb Whitesell

February 14, 1957 - June 19, 2025

Debra Joan (Shaffer) Whitesell was born February 14, 1957, in Audubon, IA and died peacefully in her home on June 19, 2025. The family moved from Coon Rapids, IA in 1965 to Cedar Falls where she attended Cedar Falls schools. She graduated from UNI with a B.A in Health Sciences, then continued her education by getting a B.S. in Elementary Education from Upper Iowa; then later attending UNI again to receive her Special Education Teaching endorsement. She taught at the North Iowa Juvenile Detention Center beginning in 1990 and retiring in 2018.

Her first marriage was to David Bass in 1978 and later divorced. Her second marriage was to Bob Anderson in 1990 and later divorced. She then married the love of her life in 2004 to Ted Whitesell.

Deb was preceded in death by her mom and dad Bob and Jan Shaffer.

She is survived by her husband Ted, her brother Doug (Peggy) Shaffer of Jesup, her sister Diane (Jim) Jeffrey of Cedar Falls, her son Sam Bass of Cedar Falls, and her stepchildren Kristy Conkity of Cedar Falls, Jill Brumley of Cedar Falls, Mary Whitesell of Cedar Falls, Stephen (Kelly) Whitesell of Cedar Falls, Ben (Ashley) Whitesell of Waterloo, and Christian Whitesell of Cedar Falls.

Deb was considered a most caring and giving person. She loved the Lord and was grateful for everything she had and the people in her life. The things that brought her the most joy in life were her close family. She was known by all to be the most clean and organized person on the planet! She enjoyed going to the beach, traveling to California, living on the lake in Florida, scrapbooking, watching Hallmark movies and The Price is Right (as well as being in the audience some 16 times). She will be forever loved and missed.

Memorial services will be 1:30 p.m. Saturday, July 19, 2025, at Prairie Lakes Church in Cedar Falls. Family will gather at the church at 1:00 p.m. Burial will take place at a later date.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery

the end of College St, north of First Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 273-8628

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL 19. 1:30 PM (CT)

Prairie Lakes Church  
1907 Viking Road  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-2655  
<http://www.prairielakeschurch.org>

*No visitation before the service. Family will gather at 1:00 p.m. and services will begin at 1:30 p.m.*

# Tribute Wall



“ *"On Angel's Wings" Sympathy Gift Wind Chime to Send for Funeral Or Memorial was purchased for the family of Deb Whitesell.*



August 11, 2025 at 10:19 AM



“ *With love, the girls at SPRY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deb Whitesell.*

**With love, the girls at SPRY** - July 18, 2025 at 06:25 PM



“ *With love, the girls at SPRY purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Deb Whitesell.*



**With love, the girls at SPRY** - July 18, 2025 at 06:25 PM



“ *Vicki & Terry Garnes & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Deb Whitesell.*



**Vicki & Terry Garnes & Family** - July 16, 2025 at 12:26 PM

TF

“ *The Wherry Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Deb Whitesell.*



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**The Wherry Family** - July 15, 2025 at 11:59 AM



“ *"Arms of an Angel" Picture Perfect 27" Chime was purchased for the family of Deb Whitesell.*



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July 13, 2025 at 08:13 AM

SA

“ *so sorry to hear of Deb's passing. It was a honor and a privilege to watch your family share your fun outings and togetherness on Facebook whether you were together in Iowa or Florida. She is lucky to have such a great family. Rest in peace Deb.*

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**sam** - July 11, 2025 at 02:41 PM

SZ

“ *Sam Zubak planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deb Whitesell.*

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**Sam Zubak** - July 11, 2025 at 02:34 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Deb Whitesell.*

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July 11, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Deb Whitesell.*



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July 11, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ *Julie Robinson and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deb Whitesell.*

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**Julie Robinson and family** - July 08, 2025 at 09:29 PM



“ *Julie Robinson and family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Deb Whitesell.*



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**Julie Robinson and family** - July 08, 2025 at 09:29 PM



“ *Ted and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I didn't get the chance to meet Deb but from what I've heard, she was a wonderful person who will be greatly missed.*

*My condolences, Debbie Chapman*

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**Debbie Chapman** - June 27, 2025 at 12:37 AM

KW

“ I am so saddened to learn of Deb’s passing. I so enjoyed our visits at the AEA. Our deepest sympathies to Sam and Ted and Deb’s family. May memories bring you comfort and may God grant you peace in the coming days. Keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers. Rick and Kerri Wilson

Kerri Wilson - June 24, 2025 at 02:31 PM



“ Deb, I’m so so sorry! I will look back at our get togethers with love and a smile. Rest in Peace sweet lady 🙏

RoxAnne Grannon - June 24, 2025 at 12:40 PM

LS

“ So sorry for your loss  
I remember all the times I can to Waterloo and called Deb and she would come where I was to visit.  
She will be dearly missed

Linda (Bass) Stimson - June 23, 2025 at 12:50 PM

CS

“ Ted and Sam, we are so very sorry. May Deb now be at peace.  
Sincerely, Jim and Carol



Carol Wandrey Squires - June 23, 2025 at 09:48 AM

DH

All my Love and Sympathy to Ted, Sam and the family. Deb fought the good fight, and received her ultimate healing with Jesus. Friends for 54 years, I will miss our times together ❤️ ☐

Denise Herron - June 25, 2025 at 09:14 AM