



Theresa Lynn DeLay

OCT 3, 1953 - NOV 6, 2024



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Bixby-South
Tulsa Funeral Service
& Crematory

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Theresa Lynn DeLay

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Theresa Lynn DeLay, 71, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully at her residence on Wednesday evening, November 6, 2024. Born October 3, 1953, in Joplin, Missouri, she was the daughter of Richard Ernest and Betty Jean (Wood) Wirthman.

As the youngest daughter among ten children (four girls and six boys), Theresa learned the value of family and caregiving from an early age. Her family relocated to St. Louis during her high school years, where she continued to nurture her natural caring instincts.

Theresa's professional journey was marked by dedication and continuous growth. She began her career as a hairstylist in Broken Arrow, where she owned and operated "Scissors" salon throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1994, she graduated from Tulsa Community College's nursing program and began working at St. John's Hospital in orthopedics. She later earned her BSN from Oklahoma Wesleyan University and advanced to become a manager of the cardiac floor. Her pursuit of excellence led her to complete a Master's in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma. She concluded her medical career at Blue Cross and Blue Shield as a utilization management nurse, retiring in 2018.

In January 2001, Theresa married Darrell DeLay in Tulsa, beginning a beautiful chapter of shared love for travel, outdoor adventures, and classic rock concerts. They particularly cherished their numerous trips to the Grand Canyon. Together, they found their spiritual home at Bethany Freewill Baptist Church.

Theresa lived life fully and joyfully. She could often be found taking walks, tending to her beloved flower garden, enjoying day hikes, or spending precious time with her grandchildren, attending their games and events regularly. Those who knew her best described her as loving, beautiful inside and out, radiating kindness and joy, strong, and generous. Her special bond with her sister Martha, who was her best friend throughout life, was a testament to her dedication to family relationships.



Obituary

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She is survived by her children: Randi Wilson and husband Tim, Autumn Carrisalez, and Graig DeLay and wife Hailey; grandchildren: Natalie, Elizabeth, Anderson, and Addison; siblings: Muriel, Martha, Richard, Eric, and Joe; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Theresa was preceded in death by her beloved husband Darrell, her parents Richard and Betty Wirthman, and siblings Elizabeth, James, Robert, and Brian.

A Celebration of Theresa's Life will be held 11 AM Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at Bethany Church in Broken Arrow. Theresa and Darrell will be laid to rest together at Calvary Cemetery.




Events


Theresa Lynn DeLay

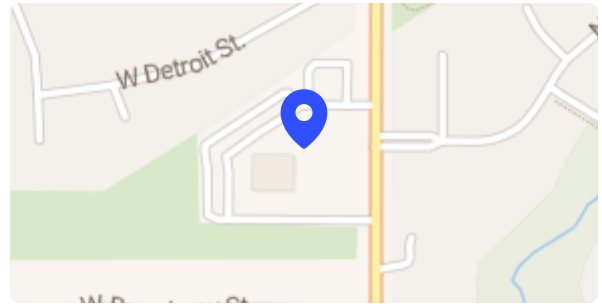
OCT 3, 1953 - NOV 6, 2024

Celebration of Life

 **Tuesday**, November 12, 2024

 11:00 AM CT

 **Bethany Church**
100 N. Olive, Broken Arrow OK 74012





Tribute Wall

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Laura Cole Posch, Rn posted:

Theresa was my manager on the cardiac floor of SJMC. She was always very compassionate. She helped me through difficult times when I lost my dad to cancer and when my mother was gravely ill. I always respected her and liked her. I'm so sorry to hear she has passed. My condolences to her family. She had a sweet and caring soul and I'll always remember her fondly!

November 25 at 4:22 PM



Autumn Carrisalez December 14 at 8:43 AM

Thank you for sharing your kindness and the memories.. sending you blessings .. ❤️-
Autumn



Bixby-South Tulsa Funeral Service shared a video to the **Theresa DeLay Video Tribute** album.



November 15 at 9:15 AM



Autumn November 19 at 11:45 AM

Where to start ? You had many people who called you their best friend, including me . You were and always will be loved by so many . I couldn't have asked for a better mother . I'm so fortunate to have known such tremendous and beautiful love; the love that you've shown me . Anyone who had the privilege of knowing you and loving you; being loved by you, is blessed indeed . I'm so proud of the amazing person that you were, Mom . I'm immensely honored and proud to have you as the person who I call my mother. I'll cherish you FOREVER. You'll be with me always and in so many ways. Until we meet again, my sweet, beautiful Mom



Tribute Wall

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GP

G. Phillips posted:

Theresa gave me my first job as a hair stylist. I was in awe of her work ethic and how hard she worked. We would work a long hard Saturday and I would be wiped out and she would go home and clean or do some project. She was very smart and talented. She treated everyone kind. I learned a lot from her. We lost touch the last few years. Thinking of Randi and Autumn. Gretchen

November 12 at 2:59 PM

AC

Autumn Carrisalez November 16 at 7:59 PM

Thank you so much, Gretchen. Sending you love. -Autumn

RA

Randi November 15 at 1:39 PM

Thank you, Gretchen. She really loved working with you and was sorry to have lost touch, too. I loved working with you, too, and appreciate your kindness.

JW

Joe Wirthman posted:

Where do I begin with so many loving memories of my sister Theresa growing up. I'm heartbroken and will hold onto every moment we have shared together. One early memory involved both Theresa and Martha. I believe I was six at the time. I came home from school one day in the pouring rain. I was soaked and my new Hush Puppy shoes were as well. New shoes were a rarity when you have nine brothers and sisters. In an effort to get them dried out before mom came home Theresa and Martha thought they would dry them out using the oven. Well let's just say that idea backfired. My shoes came out of the oven in the shape of a banana. Needless to say mom came home and was not happy to say the least. I love you Theresa and you will occupy my thoughts every day. I pray that you are embraced by mom, dad, Darrell, Liz, Jim, Bob and Brian embracing each other in heaven.

November 11 at 12:00 PM

MM

Martha Menner posted:

Theresa was a loving and caring younger Sister. We shared a room most of our lives. We shared clothes, shoes and so many common interests! She was so very special to her Family, children and grandchildren. Her loving care for our mother, her late husband and others throughout her life. I will love you ALWAYS and carry our memories with me FOREVER. I pray you smile as you view the heavenly beauty!

November 11 at 4:58 AM



Media

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Bixby-South Tulsa Funeral Service shared a video to the **Theresa DeLay Video Tribute** album.

November 15 at 9:15 AM



Theresa DeLay Video Tribute



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Theresa by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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