



## Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby

October 12, 1950 - October 11, 2025

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Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby was born in Atlanta on October 12, 1950, to Douglas and Willie Durrett and grew up in East Point, Georgia. She graduated from Russell High School and was a career long employee of PPG Industries in SW Atlanta. Debbie was preceded in death by her parents, brother Doug Jr, and husband David O. Hamby III.

Debbie and David made Tyrone, Georgia, their home in 1987 where they became active, contributing members of the community and Hopewell Methodist Church. Like her mother, Debbie's focus was always on making the lives of others better. Many a rosemary chicken was delivered, an extended family and friends holiday meal prepared, platters and flowers arranged, church dinners cooked, shut-ins visited, breakfasts shared, prayers offered, Mitch-Easter egg hunts hosted (for generations of children), Goat Girl and Recycled Kids adventures enjoyed, birthdays celebrated, elderly widows and widowers cared for, and many other lives enriched beyond measure by Debbie. She was a joy to all who knew her. Most recently she helped establish, curate, and host the Tyrone Museum where her circle of close friends widened even further.

Debbie graduated peacefully into the arms of Jesus on October 11 and celebrated her 75th birthday the next morning in Heaven. She is survived by Keith Barber, daughters Deborah Hamby Heard (Jeff) and Melissa Hamby Tatum, cousin-sisters Judy Moon Boyce (Mike) and Jean Harrison Lieffers (Rex), grandchildren Jack Goins, Mitch Goins, Lauren McGee (Branden), Jacob Heard (Trish), Brook Heard-Smith (Matt), Justin Heard (Blaine) and honorary ones Chris (Michelle) and Abby Lee as well as several great grandchildren. To an extended number of those in later generations, related or not, she was affectionately known as Grand Debbie.

A Celebration of Debbie's Life will be held Saturday, October 25 at 11:00 am at Hopewell United Methodist Church in Tyrone, GA. Reception to follow. Interment will follow at 1:30 at Sharon Memorial Gardens on Senoia Road. The family will receive family and friends on Friday, October 24, 2025 from 5 o'clock until 7 o'clock at Parrott Funeral Home and Crematory.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to the Tyrone Museum, 881 Senoia Rd, Tyrone, GA 30290.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **24.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Parrott Funeral Home & Crematory  
8355 Senoia Road  
Fairburn, GA 30213  
(770) 964-4800  
info@parrottfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.parrottfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

OCT **25.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Hopewell United Methodist Church  
351 Jenkins Road  
Tyrone, GA 30290

# Tribute Wall



“ *Parrott Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby*



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**Parrott Funeral Home** - October 24, 2025 at 04:31 PM

SA

“ I was trying to remember when I met you, I guess maybe I was 8 or 10 years old.

Because you were the second wife of my mother's boss lady Sally, young and pretty you were not initially taken with complete acceptance back in those 70's days.

Yet, that quickly changed you become a fixture around our home parties, Holidays celebrations always wearing that beautiful smile and always positive upbeat and happy.

You married my father's best friend Dave O Hamby as daddy used to say. Daddy always had to go and look up y'all's number up in the white pages or the small Tyrone one.

I always love looking at your Christmas village, you had a spectacular set up.

And you were never one of them folks who worried about kids spilling stuff in your house, so your house was always clean and wonderful and so well decorated

Later, you would become my favorite patient, and I guess I was your favorite therapist.

You always gave me so much more credit than I ever deserved and unfortunately you were recipient of one of the bad days for one of the most famous Braves surgeons in Atlanta he really screwed balled your right shoulder Pardon the pun.

In a mor fun note there was much to be had in between you Sharon the Sonshine Girl the GOATS the Museum with Amy, Debbi Doug many high jinks breakfast lunches and dinners and all kinds of locations from Tyrone here to LaGrange GA to 30 A Florida, Christmas's birthdays, Footballs games, Concerts or just for Monday Taco Mac extra point Brew University club.

As most people know I've had three serious fires in my home and the very first one may have been a dire warning but I can only look back on that after you and I had gotten into the margaritas and started cooking one of the tasty is prime ribs I've ever put in my mouth to find the mantle on fire and 25 year old Christmas wreath gifted from my first and only mother in-law, engulfed in flames after lighting and leaving a few pine scented candles.

*But as many sad tough days as we had we sure ended up laughing and smiling about it and that was due to you...*

*Ms. Lynn Has coined a phrase about you she called you DO BEE. I would also add you could spell it Debbie DUE BBE Because due to you I've had so much support comfort and peace in my life when I needed it the most.*

*In 2011 I lost my dear mother to a courageous battle with cancer she was selling real estate and sweeping my floor the last week of her life. Three months later I lost my father who likely died of a broken heart.*

*There are no words to express how much gratitude that I hold in my heart due to all your kindness and there's no one on earth that will probably understand that besides my Bubba and possibly my son Joseph who you always affectionately called "lump".*

*And yet there's even more for that you brought me back to church, a place that I had not frequented for many years and not consistently.*

*To your credit you never once guilted me into coming to church about, you just lived your life reflecting the love and acceptance of Jesus Christ that I really wanted to mirror. So, due to you I proud member of Hopewell United Methodist Church*

*Due to you Debbie and Dave I was able to get back to living again there's no words to express the gratitude of having someone on my side when I found snake in my backyard or had a leak in my ceiling or just needed some advice I can't even explain to someone who did not know you just how wonderful you were to everybody but the folks that know they know.*

*You had suffered the loss of your brother very young and dealt with the excruciating illness and passing of the ONE David.*

*Yet out of blessing you were able to love again and were very I was we were all very happy that you had found Keith and Pete, you don't seem to have started something very beautiful we were all hoping for more happy days for you and your new stepdaughter Stephanie and her family.*

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**Shannon Alexander** - October 24, 2025 at 04:05 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby.



October 24, 2025 at 12:24 PM



“ Daniel Clay CoWealth Advisors purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby.



Daniel Clay CoWealth Advisors - October 24, 2025 at 09:30 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby.



October 23, 2025 at 09:53 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby.



October 22, 2025 at 02:43 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby.*



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October 22, 2025 at 02:05 PM



“ *Ms. Debbie came into my life three years ago after my mom lost her battle with cancer. She and my mom, Cindy Barber, were great friends as teenagers at Russell High School, and though they stayed in touch only occasionally, when Debbie heard that my mom was sick, she came by her side bringing food, comfort and companionship. After mom passed, Debbie continued to care for my dad, lifting his spirits and helping him heal. , Their relationship quickly blossomed into a loving partnership - It seemed soon, but it was perfect. Ms. Debbie helped fill a hole in my family's heart and It was such a blessing that we could all share memories about my mom and hear stories about her beloved David. Our time with Debbie was short, but deeply meaningful. Her faithful love and compassion for others will continue to inspire me and I am truly richer for having known her. Rest in peace Debbie Sue. ~Stephanie Watkins, daughter of Keith Barber*

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**Stephanie Watkins** - October 22, 2025 at 09:52 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Debbie's family. We became friends after working on gardening together at Portside. She was a very kind and thoughtful neighbor.*

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**Meg Beitler** - October 22, 2025 at 09:24 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby.



October 21, 2025 at 01:30 PM



“ I met Debbie thru Judy Boyce and became friends. Debbie was a joy to be around and I know that she will be missed.

**Elzine Crews** - October 19, 2025 at 02:23 PM



“ I hadn't seen Debbie since high school but thought of her often as one of the few I remembered from Russell. She was always friendly to me and a very nice person.

**Cheryl Osborne Davis Woodham** - October 17, 2025 at 07:55 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with Kieth and family. Debbie was a blessing to anyone who knew her. She was beautiful inside and out. May God's comfort and peace be with you Kieth.

**Sherry Soard Whitener** - October 16, 2025 at 07:22 PM



*Go Dawgs! Those were the days. Loved every minute of those games.*  
*Brenda Collier*

**Brenda Collier** - October 19, 2025 at 05:02 PM

MC

“ I did not know Debbie personally but I know Keith from high school. I am sending prayers of peace and comfort to her family, Keith and family and all of her friends. I am friends with Debbie and Don Hindman who kept me posted on Debbie. I heard nothing but wonderful things about her and so happy for Keith and her finding love. May she rest in peace with our Lord and Savior❤️🙏 Marsha Cooper

Marsha Cooper - October 16, 2025 at 12:53 AM

CB

“ I met Mrs. Debbie at Hopewell while serving an internship as part of my seminary field education at Candler. She was the first person to introduce me to someone as her “ministry intern.” Somehow it was so special to hear a church member claim me as we were out serving together at the Real Life Center. She was a beautiful, faithful, bright and caring woman who loved people so genuinely. My prayers are with her family, loved ones, and Hopewell family.

Cassie Boehringer - October 14, 2025 at 10:09 PM

CC

“ Chip, Sharon and Marion Cooper purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Deborah Sue Durrett Hamby.



Chip, Sharon and Marion Cooper - October 14, 2025 at 07:50 PM

WC

“ The Council Family is sorry for your loss. She will be missed by so many.

Wyndee Council - October 14, 2025 at 09:39 AM

RB

*Keith and I met while working as contract workers at Delta. We became friends, and laughing buddies, as he took me to raise on computers. I feel like extended family as I've known the family first by conversation, then through times of grieving at the loss first of Andy, then Cindy. I was so glad when he told me how he and Debbie filled voids in each other's lives.*

*I am truly saddened to hear of her passing and pray for the "peace that passes understanding" for each of those, both family and friends, who are impacted by her absence.*

*Ron Brown*

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**Ron Brown** - October 24, 2025 at 03:56 PM