In Loving Memory

Debra Ann Parish

1964-2026



In Loving Memory of

Debra Ann Parish



(September 9th, 1964 - September 9th, 2026)

Debra Ann "Miss Cherry" Parish ; **a mother, writer, artist, home-maker, and healthcare worker, passed away on her birthday - September 9th, 2026, at her home in Dallas, Texas. She was 62 years old**.

Born on September 9th, 1964, in Corsicana, Texas; Debra was the second-to-youngest child of the late Katie Lee Wafer-Parish, and Joe Parish. Debra often remarked that she would live an unconventional life; stating that she was born outdoors, and underneath a tree, with the aid of her older sister, Ruby. Debra did indeed have quite an unconventional life in many exceptional ways.

Debra spent her infancy and early childhood in her birthplace of Corsicana, Texas, before relocating to Waco, Texas; where she would remain for the first half of her life. Debra attended **Jefferson Moore High** School, in Waco - ***Class of 1983***. She enjoyed Writing, The Arts, and Sports. She was quite the athlete in early life, and had a fondness for running, just as much as she enjoyed intellectual pursuits. Debra had a passion for music, and an excellent singing voice as well.

A few days shy of her 20th birthday, Motherhood called; **Debra gave birth to her first child**, a son, ***Quaylon***; in **August 1984**, with the late **Mr. Earl Weeks**, of Waco Texas. Mr. Weeks, and Ms. Parish eventually separated, and she **later married the late Mr. Michael Anthony Spratt**, of Waco Texas; with whom **she bore two children**: ***Michael***, and ***Victoria***, in **1986** and **1988** respectively.

Debra embraced motherhood, and was known for excellent home-cooked meals, Holiday gatherings, House Parties, and Gardening. She spent the 1990s providing a warm and stable environment for her family, while expanding her internal horizons in a way that always gave her an air of the Well-Traveled, in disregard to the breadth of her physical steps.

In her spare time, Ms. Parish enjoyed long road-trips, thrift store runs, fishing holes, lakeside cookouts, and decorating. Ms. Parish had a penchant for using her analytical mind to sharpen both her writing, and artistic skills. She would often practice her songs on Keyboard; giving her children (and anyone around) lively entertainment. Debra constantly cultivated Intellectual, Artistic, and Humanistic development within her children, and was also known for her love of animals. Her early home was often filled with an array of songbirds, tropical fish, and a perpetual Dog / Cat duo - and all were tended to with love.

Debra had a passion for ***Health and Service***, and a bold determination to care for the sick and disparaged. Ms. Parish once opened her home up to a friend who was at the end of their battle with AIDS, during the height of the AIDS Epidemic of the 1990s - providing care, compassion, and nutrition until the end. With that, and many other actions of Goodwill; **Debra marched to the beat of her own drum**, and did what she felt spiritually convicted to do versus yielding to the oppression of societal expectations. Debra began working as a CNA, and Hospice caregiver in the 1990s; work she would continue to do in seasons, for the rest of her life.

Debra enjoyed bold colors, good coffee, great music, and good company. Debra was a gripping storyteller, and had an interest in Anthropological studies, and Paranormal research - which often cycled back to many talks about The Universe, God, and how we all fit into the grand scheme of things.

Debra had many aspirations in life; some of which never became Manifest, due to life circumstances, and socio-economical reasons that often plague The Diaspora, in the aftermath of Colonialism. Ms. Parish, nonetheless, never gave up on The Dream, and did the best she could with what she had. Ms. Parish spent the second half of her

life on self-improvement and higher life goals; a task often proven to be Sisyphean - in response to the aforementioned. Debra, though, managed the cards dealt to her in life with ultimate grace, and in retrospect, oft described past traumas with a sense of gratitude: for what she was able to overcome and survive.

As with many Human lives, Debra had her fair share of Ups and Downs; facing much adversity; including periods of poverty, as well as relational tribulations. She managed to face each of her days, though, head-on, despite it all, and never losing that characteristic drive for Perfection. Nor did she ever lose her Smile. Ms. Parish always believed in the ultimate good, and she was a firm believer in *The Hereafter*. She was sure to instill the knowledge within her children, that "*We All Live Again*". May you *Rest In Peace*, and be *Limitless* -

Ms. Debra Ann Parish; "The Queen of Hearts".

Debra leaves behind a Son, **Michael Parish**, and a Daughter, **Victoria Parish**. Debra is survived by siblings **Ruby Parish**, **Charles Parish**, and **Richard Parish**. Ms. Parish is also survived by **9 grandchildren, and an extensive family of, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends**.

Debra Ann Parish was preceded in death by;

Parents: **Katie Lee Wafer-Parish**, and **Joe Parish**. Firstborn Son: **Quaylon Darnell Parish.** Siblings including: **Jeanetta Marie *"Sweet Lady Leo"* Thomas**, **Doris Jean Parish**, **Noris Parish**, **Freeman Parish**, **Elmore Parish**, **Joseph Parish**, and **Robert Parish** of Texas. Nephew: **Tomothy *"Jack"* Parrish**, of Waco, and a cousin; **Loretta Austin** of Corsicana. Ex Husbands: **Michael Anthony Spratt**, and **Clyde Kelly Jr**. (Ms. Parish was also predeceased by 5 siblings who passed away in childhood due to a house-fire prior to her birth, in Corsicana, TX - December of 1951: twins **Linda and Lindon Parish**, **Pearly B Parish**, **Joseph Parish Jr**, and **Vera Lee Parish**).

A Memorial Ceremony will be held:

Sunday, October 18th, 2026 from **2-4PM** at

Heritage Park (*Building-Room*), Irving Texas

217 S. Main St., Irving, TX 75060.

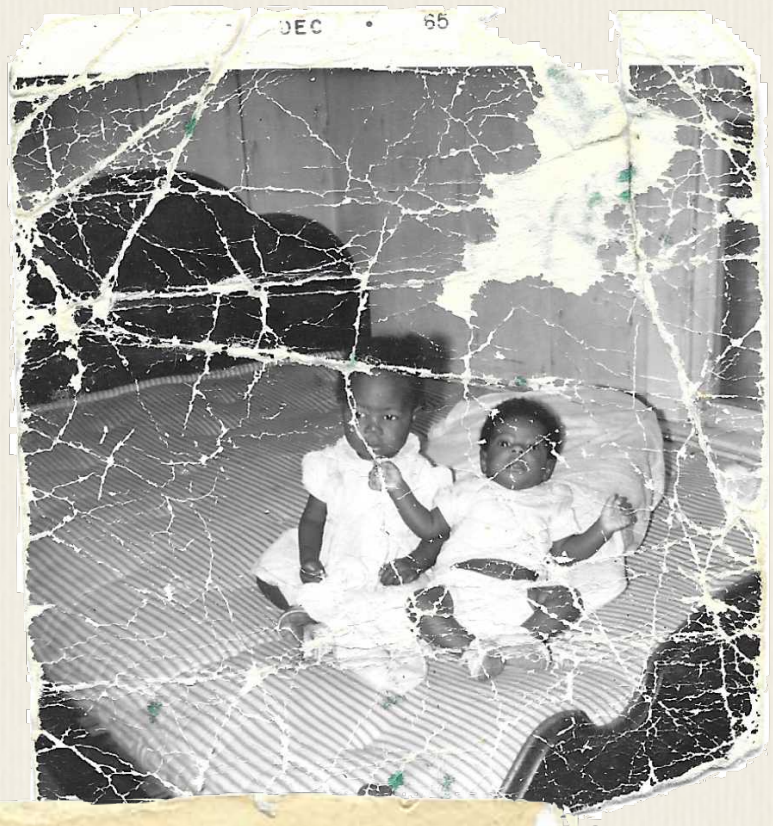
For any queries, additional information, comments, or condolences, etc. Please contact son, Michael Parish at parish.michael.i@gmail.com or IG: @Luvparish



Memories

Moments from the life of Debra Ann Parish

















From: Parish
Debra ~~Parish~~
With all the Love
in the World.

To: Aunt Minnie
Lee and Family
Class of "83"

P.S. (Write Back)








Ruavlon PARIS
SCHOOL
BUS
4 mon+







Your Mama's Good Cooking 1992



Marcus, Kendra, Ms.B Sherrell, Jack





Gone, but Never Forgotten



Rest in Peace, Miss Debra

(1964-2026)



written by Michael Parish , 2026