



## Debbie Briman Latta

March 26, 1956 - June 20, 2020

Debbie Briman Latta, 64, passed away unexpectedly on June 20, 2020, at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka.

She was born on March 26, 1956, in Topeka, Kansas, daughter of Bernard (Bernie) Briman and Suzanne Hutson Briman. Her parents preceded her in death.

Debbie graduated from Topeka High School in 1974, as well as from the University of Kansas in 1978, earning a Bachelor of Social Work Degree. While attending KU, Debbie was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority.

Debbie married Dan Latta on November 8, 1980, in Topeka. Dan predeceased her on June 26, 2015. Debbie's surviving immediate family includes son, James (Jasmine) Latta, and grandchildren, Olivia and Hudson of Lawrence; son, Brian (Misty) Latta and grandchildren, Leighton and Brooks of Topeka; and sister, Gail Briman (Dennis) Binaco of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Extended family includes brothers- and sisters-in-law, Joel and Susan Latta of Lincoln, Nebraska, Brad and Peggy Latta of Downs, Kansas, and Jan and Stuart Prophet of Topeka; beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and dear friends.

Following her graduation from KU, Debbie went to work at Briman's Jewelers. Debbie Briman Latta and her cousin, Rob Briman, are the third generation of the Briman family to own and operate Briman's Leading Jewelers.

Debbie has served on multiple committees over the years. She was a member of the Business Improvement District Board, past Financial Secretary and Board Member of Temple Beth Sholom, and a member of the Topeka High Booster Club. Debbie believed in service, but did not serve to receive accolades, she served because she felt it was important.

Debbie's goal was always to help others. She gave her time and financial gifts to benefit the welfare of children, the elderly, and the homeless. She had a place in her heart for the plight of homeless animals as well. Debbie was selfless in all that she did.

If you are family or friend of Debbie's, you know first hand of her generosity. Her timing was impeccable, she knew when and where to be helpful. Debbie's kindness included her friends' extended families. A card sent, a call made, or a visit to a friend's parent or sibling was Debbie's common practice. Debbie loved her own family with a love that knew no limits. Her sons grew up surrounded by that love. Debbie and her sister, Gail, shared a special bond. Their relationship flourished despite the miles that geographically separated them.

When Debbie became a grandmother, her focus was to love, nurture, and spoil her grandchildren. Her four grandchildren filled Debbie with the utmost joy and pride.

Per Debbie's wishes, cremation will take place. A celebration of her life will be announced at a later date, yet to be determined.

Donations may be made to Topeka's Helping Hands Humane Shelter, 5720 SW 21st St., Topeka, 66604, or a charity of the donor's choice.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Debbie Briman Latta*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Brian, I just learned of your mom's passing. I am so sorry. She was always kind and generous. She was a blessing in this world and will be so missed.*

**Cecilia L. Salvatore** - July 16, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ *My condolences to her family. I went to school with Debbie at Jardine jr hs. My oldest sister worked briefly at the jewelry store.*

**Sandy Miles** - July 14, 2020 at 06:25 AM



“ *Each life is touched by others. Debbie touched our lives during her school years when she & my sister Ann were friends. She will be missed.*

*The Eaton family,*

*Jerry, Julie, Sue & Curt Shaw*

**Sue Eaton** - July 03, 2020 at 03:00 PM

LS

“ Our thoughts are with the whole family during this difficult time. Debbie was a special person. She was dedicated to her sister, kids and grandkids. I had the opportunity to know her briefly through her sister Gail but heard many things about her and her kind heart.

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**Laura Smith** - July 03, 2020 at 01:09 PM

KS

“ To all the Latta & Briman family  
Debbie was always such a familiar face whenever we walked in the jewelry store. Our deepest sympathy. She will be missed.  
Bob & Kerry Onstott Storey

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**Kerry Storey** - July 02, 2020 at 01:50 PM

BW

“ My condolences to all the family as you mourn her untimely passing.. My thoughts and prayers are with you.. I worked with Debbid at the jewelry store for 32 years. She was such a good friend as well as coworker. The obituary said it best--she always thought and did for others, never thinking of herself. I miss her so very much. Love to all the family. Barbara Walden

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**Barbara Walden** - June 29, 2020 at 01:15 PM

 Carol Kaufman

“ Dean and I are sorry for your loss. As you know your mom was so much fun to be around.  
I have a memory of her at the soccer games and she always had the younger siblings all around her. She will be missed. Our thoughts are with you. Dean and Carol Kaufman

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**Carol Kaufman** - June 29, 2020 at 10:04 AM



“ Our connection with Deb was through an (almost) yearly family reunion. She was always a joy to visit with, making you feel as if you hadn't missed a minute. She would send cards and phone calls to my 94 year old father, Jones Harmon, on a regular basis. Her loving attention to him was much appreciated. I could see in his face and hear in his voice how uplifting it was. Thoughts of, and prayers to, family and friends with much deeper connections than I. I can only imagine your sense of loss and heartbreak.

*Konnie (Harmon) Dispenza and Roger Dispenza*

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**Konnie Dispenza** - June 27, 2020 at 05:39 PM

MM

*So very sorry for your loss*

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**Marilyn Mccourt** - June 28, 2020 at 12:01 PM

SR

“ Debbie was always a delight — a loving, caring person that was by your side whenever you needed a friend. I met Debbie in the seventh grade and Bill met her in the second grade. No matter the years or distance between us she was always a true friend. I am grateful for the times we met for dinner in recent years and will always hold her friendship close. Our hearts go out to the Briman and Latta families for she has gone to soon. May you find strength and comfort in the many wonderful memories you shared.

*Bill and Susan Rowell*

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**Susan Rowell** - June 27, 2020 at 04:13 PM

DE

“ Please accept our deepest condolences. May precious memories sustain you and may God provide blessings of peace and comfort. Sincerely, Ping and Diana Dougan Enriquez.

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**Diana Dougan Enriquez** - June 27, 2020 at 10:11 AM

BI

“ Through my 40 year friendship with her sister, Gail, I am so so heartbroken for Debbie’s unexpected passing. Losing your only sibling is impossible to accept. Debbie’s legacy of helping others and of Briman’s Jewelry has been her gift to the Topeka community. At Briman’s, she made a difference helping everyone during happy times find that special treasure. Debbie impacted my Topeka family as Dan used to work for my Uncle Louis Smith at his gas station. My heart aches for Gail, cousins and her family.

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**Barb Y. Innes** - June 27, 2020 at 08:42 AM

WF

“ Debbie will truly be so missed! We loved spending time with her over the years & her laugh was unlike any other! She always brought so much happiness to our family & went above and beyond in more ways than we can count!

*Hope you're enjoying a nice drink with my Dad! Until we meet again Debbie!!*

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**Whitney (Drane) Freiburg** - June 26, 2020 at 04:07 PM

LS

“ Debbie is going to be missed by all !I know that when I saw her she always had a smile as all the Brimans do Lee Schwartz

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**Lee A Schwartz** - June 26, 2020 at 01:07 AM

AG

“ *OMG!! Think I am still in shock. Debbie was a good, kind, caring neighbor. I will miss her!!!  
Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May you have many wonderful memories to help you through this difficult time  
Prayers for all!!!  
Aaron and Janice Grattidge*

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**Aaron, Janice Grattidge** - June 25, 2020 at 01:05 PM

TG

“ *Debbie's Family;  
  
We had the pleasure of knowing Debbie through Brimans Jewelers. She was kind and usually brought her dog into work with her.  
  
May perpetual light shine upon her, May she rest in peace.  
  
Michael & Tracy Gamino*

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**Tracy J Gamino** - June 25, 2020 at 08:56 AM

KH

“ *Debbie, A special person, one of the best!  
She made a positive difference in this world.  
Love and strength to Debbie's entire family.*  
Kyle Hicks

•My Friend•

*"To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts."  
-Henry David Thoreau*



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**Kyle Hicks** - June 24, 2020 at 11:51 PM

MS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Mary Ellen (Kalich) Savage** - June 24, 2020 at 10:25 PM

KM

“ *Rob, so sorry to hear about Debbie, you and your family are in our  
thoughts and prayers.*  
Kevin and Annie McDowell

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**Kevin McDowell** - June 24, 2020 at 09:54 PM

MB

“ My condolences to the Briman and Latta families.  
James - I was in Briman's less than 2 weeks ago catching up on your career, talking with your Mom about grandchildren and recalling your adventures with my son while the two of you "worked" summers moving books at Topeka High. My thoughts are with you and your family.  
Mark Braun

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**Mark S Braun** - June 24, 2020 at 07:06 PM

KH

“ Rob and Family.... I am so sad to hear about Debbie's passing. Hugs and love to you. If there is anything I can do, please let me know. Karen Hiller

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**Karen Hiller** - June 24, 2020 at 06:32 PM

MS

“ Today, I learned from a Theta "sister" the heartbreaking news that "Buzz" had passed. I wonder how many knew her nickname was "Buzz" in college. One day, Debbie told us she wanted a nickname. We picked "Buzz". It was not the nickname she had in mind, but it stuck - Buzz Briman. Debbie was so much fun. I can still hear her giggling.  
Gail, I am so sorry for your loss.  
Mary Ellen Kalich Savage  
Dallas, TX

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**Mary Ellen (Kalich) Savage** - June 24, 2020 at 06:17 PM

TC

“ Ty and I are so sorry for your loss. Debbie was a beautiful woman. She seemed to have a smile on her face all the time. And her laugh was infectious. Prayers for all.

*Ty and Teri Christian*

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**Teri Christian** - June 24, 2020 at 05:13 PM

DE

*Rob, my condolences to you & your family....may memories of your lives together carry you thru the days ahead. Stefana Esquivel-Dome*

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**D. Stefana Esquivel-Dome** - June 25, 2020 at 08:41 PM

PB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Patti Blackwood** - June 24, 2020 at 03:36 PM

PW

“ My condolences to Debbie's family. Debbie was a wonderful woman and so sweet. We knew each other for many years and I am so glad.

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**Paulette Williamson** - June 24, 2020 at 03:29 PM

PC

“Debbie and I went through school together, from grade school through high school. She was always beautiful, inside and out, as well as kind, caring and thoughtful. My heart goes out to her family, including my other Briman friend, Rob. Debbie will always be remembered fondly by all who met her.

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**Patrick Culley** - June 24, 2020 at 12:26 PM

SM

“James and Brian, I am at such a loss for words. I know there are no words for your loss. She was such a wonderful person! You were so lucky to have her! I always looked up (or down!) to her and wanted to be so much the mother she was! Alas, I had a different path, but she never made me feel less for my struggles. Please know you are in my thoughts, and if you need anything, please let me know.

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**Sue (Jared/Brady/Kira's mom)** - June 24, 2020 at 12:10 PM

JJ

“My condolences to Debbie's family and to Gail. Suzanne and Bernie and Debbie and Gail were a constant in my younger years. My parents, Jack and Shirley Koffman were great friends of the Brimans. Debbie sounds like she grew up to be just as giving and great as her mom and dad.

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**Janet Fritts Jackson** - June 24, 2020 at 10:51 AM

KS

“This is such sad news, Debbie was one of the nicest people on the planet. She was such fun with a great laugh, just like her Dad, Bernie and the sweet heart of her mom, Suzanne. She will be missed by many

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**Kelli and George Schuler** - June 24, 2020 at 09:56 AM

ML

“ All of our family always went to Briman's because of how kind they were. What a wonderful friend Debbie was to those so close to her! She will be sorely missed.

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**Mary Beth Lemoine** - June 24, 2020 at 08:34 AM

KF

“ I remember Debbie as one of my first "real" friends back when we both sported pixie haircuts and lived in the Stout School district. Since then, our paths and friends would cross from time to time. All who knew Debbie spoke of her friendship and kindness. It was a blessing to have known her. My condolences to the family.  
- Karen (Kline) Ford

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**Karen Ford** - June 24, 2020 at 08:33 AM

TF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and all of us friends of Debbie during this time of healing.

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**Tim & Connie Wing Bradenton Florida** - June 24, 2020 at 08:23 AM

KB

“ Our deepest condolences to all of Debbie's family. She will be missed.

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**Kevin and Nancy Burton** - June 24, 2020 at 07:31 AM

BP

“ I knew Debbie Briman from school. She was always very, very nice and caring. I remember my mom being so proud that she was able to get a special diamond from Briman's. But more importantly, as my mom said, the people there really cared. I know both the Briman and Latta families are missing someone very special, but just know that so many people really liked her so much.

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**Beverly Bernardi Post** - June 24, 2020 at 04:54 AM

KD

“ I knew Debbie as a wonderful neighbor & fellow grade school mom at Avondale West elementary school. She was a steady, kind, loving & uplifting person. I always knew she wanted the best for her boys & for mine. She lived unconditionally & I know that love will live on in Brian, James & their kids. So very sorry she's gone too soon.

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**Kathy Damron** - June 23, 2020 at 10:42 PM

BR

“ I was fortunate to teacher her wonderful sons while they attended Jardine Middle School in Topeka. Debbie was always supportive of her children and shared a wonderful attitude with all their teachers. Her caring and happy attitude towards her children and staff made her a parent everyone loved to interact with. I feel so lucky to have known her.

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**Bridget Remer** - June 23, 2020 at 03:54 PM

SH

“ *Debbie and I met in high school. A group of our friends would get together on Friday nights in one of our homes to talk, listen to music, eat junk food and just have fun. She had a great laugh. I remember her cute little red car that she drove. I remember double dating with our then boyfriends and now husbands (Dan and Bill). I am so very sorry for your loss, Latta and Briman families. The last message she and I shared was about our grandchildren. She told me how grateful she was that they lived close and that she loved them to pieces. God bless you all.*

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**Sara Fink Houston** - June 23, 2020 at 03:25 PM