



Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury

November 21, 1954 - March 25, 2026

Deborah Kay Smith Friedl Salsbury, 71, Topeka, Kansas, loving mother, grandmother, sister and cherished friend, left us peacefully Wednesday, March 25, 2026, surrounded by her loved ones, at the House at Midland Care.

Debbie, a lifelong Topekan, was born November 21, 1954, the daughter of Louis and Lenore Young Smith. She attended Most Pure Heart of Mary Grade School and graduated from Hayden High School in 1972. She and John Friedl were married and though later divorced remained friends.

Debbie earned her LPN degree and enjoyed her work in the pediatric department of Stormont Vail and her position at the Capper Foundation. In her final two years of life Debbie lived at Cedarhurst Senior Living Center. Despite the challenges of Debbie's health conditions, she found great comfort and joy there, calling it home. She cherished gardening, especially tending to her flowers, completing her paint by numbers projects and watching the birds, with a special fondness for a killdeer named Shirley.

Left to cherish her memory is her beloved daughter, Rachel Friedl Teal (Brandon); grandchildren, Aliah Taggart, Nick Padilla and Jacob Padilla; great-grandchildren, Liam and Ryder Singer; step-grandchildren, Jackson, Madison and Makinley Teal; siblings, Brenda Smith, Andrew Smith (Rick), Ronald Smith (Daniel) and Brent Smith.

Debbie's family will greet friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 31, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Her graveside service will be 10 a.m. Wednesday in Mount Calvary Cemetery,

Memorial contributions may be made to the YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment or to the Capper Foundation, sent in care of the funeral home.

Debbie's family thanks the staff at Cedarhurst and Midland Care Hospice for their compassionate care.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 31. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Graveside Service

APR 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mount Calvary Cemetery
801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - March 30 at 01:53 PM

DS

“ Dear Rachel,
So sorry to see your Mom's passing.
Love & Prayers,
Diana Sutphen



Diana R Sutphen - April 01 at 09:24 PM

LR

“ Love always, Bernice, Amber and Rachel purchased the Beloved Mother Butterfly Windchime for the family of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.



Love always, Bernice, Amber and Rachel - April 01 at 12:41 PM

LR

“ Love always, Bernice, Amber and Rachel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.

Love always, Bernice, Amber and Rachel - April 01 at 12:41 PM

PR

“ To Rachel and all the Smith Family: Our deepest condolences for the loss of your dear Mother, Sister and Grandmother, Debbie. I will always remember Debbie's lovely smile and she was of course my favorite nurse during my stay at Stormont. Take good care of each other and stay close. Our prayers are with you. - Paul, Mary Anne, Andrew, Kat and Alex Reed

Paul Reed - March 31 at 05:10 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.



March 31 at 12:54 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.

March 31 at 12:54 PM

JJ

“ MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN YOUR LOSS. JIM JENKINS

JAMES JENKINS - March 31 at 03:50 AM

LL

“ Love, Dad and Lila purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.



Love, Dad and Lila - March 30 at 09:10 PM

CM

“ We are sending all our love, thoughts and prayers to Rachel, Ronnie, Brenda, Andy and Brent. Cousin Debbie was a beautiful soul, and there was a light in her smile. She is so deeply missed, but I know she is with our Father and uncle Bud and aunt Lenore. She is surrounded by love and there is no more pain only Peace. Praying that the Angels surround her loving family and that she checks in on us all from time to time. We love you.

Christie Magnusson - March 30 at 08:24 AM

CM

“ Christine M. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.

Christine M. - March 30 at 08:14 AM

CF

“ Christie Magnusson and Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.



Christie Magnusson and Family - March 30 at 08:12 AM

CF

“ *Christie Magnusson and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.*

Christie Magnusson and Family - March 30 at 08:12 AM

PS

“ *I would like to send my condolences to Rachel and her family and to Brenda, Andrew, Ronald and Brent and to all of Debbie's extended family. Debbie always had such a sincere and warming smile and she always made you feel welcome into her world. I had so many great conversations with her when we were young and it was always a joy to see her at any gathering of friends. Even though I hadn't seen Debbie in years I will miss her presence in this world.*

Pat Simons - March 29 at 10:12 AM

LT

Linda Tinsley, I am so sorry to hear of Debbie's passing, Brenda, Andy, Ron and Brett and Rachel. You are all such a Loving Beautiful family. The video of Debbie and her family made me smile.

Linda S Tinsley - April 24 at 04:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.*



March 29 at 01:10 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.

March 29 at 01:10 AM



“ Dear Rachael, So very sorry for your loss. Your mother was a wonderful, wonderful lady.

Patricia Brennan Bowes - March 28 at 10:28 PM



“ Brenda, Andy, Ron and Brent and the rest of the family, I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Debbie. I remember the bus rides to mph. I always thought Debbie had such pretty long blonde hair. What great memories of the Smith family. With deepest sympathy.
Tammy Wiltz (Ingenthron)

Tammy Wiltz - March 28 at 10:14 PM



“ Glenn and Shari & Larry and Nancy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Deborah Smith Friedl Salsbury.



Glenn and Shari & Larry and Nancy - March 28 at 08:26 PM



“ Forever in our hearts. 💔

Ron Smith - March 28 at 02:06 PM