



## Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates

March 13, 1972 - July 16, 2024

Debbie was born March 13, 1972, in Natchez, the daughter of Ruby Felton Smith and Roosevelt Smith, Sr. She was a graduate of Natchez High School and received an Associate's Degree in Applied Science from Copiah-Lincoln Community College. She was employed with Walmart in Austell, GA, where she was a garden center associate. In her spare time, she enjoyed shopping, cooking, and couponing.

Debbie is preceded in death by her father, and sisters, Barbara Smith and Lucille Smith.

She leaves to cherish her loving memory: mother, Ruby Felton Smith; brothers, Roosevelt Smith Jr., Curtis Edward Smith, Darryl Smith, Robert Jackson, Larry (Josie) Jackson, and Brian (Barbara) Hall; sisters, Jessie (Preston) Smith Jones, Ellen Smith, Zellen Smith, Juanita (Ronnie) Watts, Grace (Arthur) Richardson, Dorothy (George) Collins and Shirley Ann Ramsey; and a host of special uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, coworkers, and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Baptist Church Cemetery

5730 Highway 33  
Fayette, MS 39096

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUL 31.** 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (CT)

West Gate Funeral Home (Natchez)  
409 N Martin Luther King Jr Street  
Natchez, MS 39120  
(601) 445-2008  
james@westgatefh.com  
<https://westgatefuneralhome.com>

## Funeral

**AUG 1.** 11:00 AM (CT)

West Gate Funeral Home (Natchez)  
409 N Martin Luther King Jr Street  
Natchez, MS 39120  
(601) 445-2008  
james@westgatefh.com  
<https://westgatefuneralhome.com>

## Burial

AUG 1 (CT)

Rose Hill Baptist Church Cemetery  
5730 Highway 33  
Fayette, MS 39096

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ Hello To The Family Of Our Friend Debbie Wow I just recently found out that we had lost Ms Debbie she was a real friend and we work together oh my God for years and she knew no strangers everyone loved her and I pray that she truly rest in peace and a lot of us are truly heartbroken to hear that but I pray that the family remember all the good memories that Debbie left so may God truly bless This family and give you This family strength from Cherlyn Cooper I work with her and we go way back love you Debbie may you truly rest in peace Amen 🙏🙏🙏 Marietta Georgia

cherlyn cooper - August 07, 2024 at 07:59 PM

ZE



Zellen - August 08, 2024 at 10:44 PM

BR

“ I didn't know her personally, but from time to time, while shopping in Walmart I would always hold a conversation with her about life and etc. She always gave me encouraging words and definitely was the light of my days. She'll be missed, I'm so deeply sadden by this 😞 sending my love and comfort to her family and friends 🌸❤❤



Britt - August 06, 2024 at 07:07 PM

ZE



Zellen - August 08, 2024 at 10:44 PM

CB

“ Cindi Bender lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates



cindi Bender - August 03, 2024 at 07:10 PM

VJ

“ Veronica Kay Joseph lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates



Veronica Kay Joseph - August 03, 2024 at 08:40 AM

VJ

I come to Walmart all the time and I see Debbie, she will always be smiling and happy, I was so hurt when I heard you pass away, you will be miss RIP

Veronica Kay Joseph - August 03, 2024 at 08:46 AM

MK

“ Michelle Key sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates



Michelle Key - August 02, 2024 at 09:52 PM

MK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michelle Key - August 02, 2024 at 09:52 PM

CJ

“ Carsetha Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates



Carsetha Johnson - July 31, 2024 at 10:44 PM

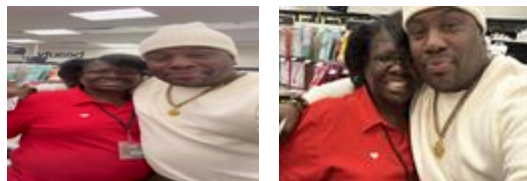
ZS

Thank you

Zellen “Lucy” Smith - August 01, 2024 at 12:35 AM

Davien Harlis

“ My dear friend Debbie I am going to miss you. I’ve been trying to find the words to say but they haven’t all formed yet. You were one of the most kind, generous, loving, funny people I have ever come in contact with. I will cherish our memories and friendship forever. Thank you for being an amazing friend. I love you dearly and will miss you terribly ❤️.- Davien Harlis



Davien Harlis - July 31, 2024 at 07:47 PM

TW

“ *Customer of Walmart , Always went there 2 or 3 times a week always found Debbie and talked to her she was so sweet and will always be truly missed . God needed another angel . Prayers for the family . Rest in peace Debbie . Teresa w.*



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**Teresa w** - July 31, 2024 at 06:11 PM

MR

“ *Maxine Railey lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates*



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**maxine railey** - July 31, 2024 at 05:39 PM

C1

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Debbie for a many years at 1586 Walmart & even when I transferred I would still pass over by 1586 from time to time & would make it my business to go to the garden center to see Debbie , she had the funniest laugh & was always smiling. Debbie will definitely be missed @ 1586 & to her family & friends I will definitely keep you all in prayer Get your Rest Ms Debbie*

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**Coworker Danielle at 1586** - July 31, 2024 at 05:39 PM

MS

“ *Mr.&Mrs Charles Sims lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates*



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**Mr.&Mrs Charles sims** - July 31, 2024 at 02:03 PM

AK

“ *I had the amazing privilege of working with Debbie at Walmart Austell, as GM Support Manager, Garden Center Department Manager and Front End Sr. Team Lead. I can think of no one else that was happier to be at work and more pleasant to work with. This is a sad day for us but a great day for the Lord. He has truly called an angel unto him and one that will be greatly missed. I'm definitely praying for the family of Debbie. She will truly be missed.*

*Bishop Antwon B Kitchen  
Senior Pastor  
AWAKE Community Church*

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**Antwon Kitchen** - July 30, 2024 at 10:09 PM

CS

“ *I want to thank everyone for your sympathy and support on Behalf of our family*

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**Curtis Edward Smith** - July 30, 2024 at 09:31 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates.*



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July 30, 2024 at 09:27 PM



“ *My dear sister made sure we (younger siblings) were taken care of growing up. She took us places, made sure we got an education, and made sure we were respectful. When she moved we still did what she asked of us until we were grown. She was one in a million. Thank you for everything. I love you ❤️*

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**Zellen “Lucy” Smith** - July 30, 2024 at 09:04 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Michelle Key** - July 30, 2024 at 07:08 PM

MK

“ I was deeply saddened to hear my former Garden Center Associate Ms. Debbie had passed. Ms. Debbie was one of those people I've met in my life that left a mark. Although we bumped heads in the beginning as she was set in her ways, in the end we made a connection. That connection carried over after I took leave from Walmart Austell due to my oldest sons motorcycle accident. Everytime I saw Ms. Debbie while picking up prescriptions for my son, or on many occassions around town Ms. Debbie always greeted me with a hug, asked about my sons recovery, and when I was coming back to Walmart. Her tragic death is heartbreaking. It is one that has shook me to my core and will have a long lasting effect. My deepest sympathy and condolences to her Family, Friends, and fellow Colleagues. May you rest in peace Ms. Debbie. You were loved, appreciated, and will be missed. I hope there's a Garden where you are now! I know you'll be tending to it and helping anyone who needs it! I know the customers will miss you as well! They were always asking for you! Rest in peace my friend!



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**Michelle Key** - July 30, 2024 at 07:06 PM

ZE

Thank you

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**Zellen** - July 31, 2024 at 09:09 PM

AN

“ Debbie was always kind and helpful anytime I visited the garden center at Walmart. She always had a smile on her face and would greet you with a friendly hello. Debbie will be missed. My deepest sympathy to her family.



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**Anita** - July 30, 2024 at 12:32 PM

ZE

*Thank you*

Zellen - July 31, 2024 at 09:09 PM

KC

“ *Debbie was always kind and always had a smile. She was a firecracker who always made me laugh. It was always a joy to see her at 1586 and I knew that if I opened with her that she would run the garden center and I never had to worry. My heart goes out to her family because to me she was a part of my Walmart family.* ”



Kim Carvotta - July 30, 2024 at 09:34 AM

ZE

*Thank you*

Zellen - July 31, 2024 at 09:10 PM

TR

“ *Tierney Reeves lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates* ”



Tierney Reeves - July 29, 2024 at 05:48 PM

TR

*Prayers to family* ❤️

Tierney Reeves - July 29, 2024 at 05:50 PM

ZE

*Thank you and Bert so much*

Zellen - July 31, 2024 at 09:10 PM

SH

“ *Samantha Pernell Hayes lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates*



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**Samantha Pernell Hayes** - July 26, 2024 at 10:33 AM

SF

“ *To the family: Be encouraged and lean upon God during these uneasy times, know that there will be many dark days ahead of you, but joy will return one day. God will continue to bless you with everything that you will need to move forward. May your strength, peace, and understanding grow stronger with each passing day. We love you all.*



*To my cousin Debbie (Patty): No matter how many miles away you were or how many years passed by since I last saw you, please know that you are truly loved! You have made the ultimate leap of faith and crossed over to be with our Lord God and his angels. I have no doubt that you are lighting up heaven with that one-of-a-kind smile of yours, I will remember that most. Get your rest now, you have finished your course, and your reward is now up to be offered. Enjoy your new life on the other side; I hope to see you again someday. Tell my mom, dad, and son hello for me!*

*Love always,*

*Samantha aka Dolly*

*07/26/2024*

*9:30am*

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**Samantha Pernell Hayes & Family** - July 26, 2024 at 10:32 AM



CL

“ *Cyla Lewis lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Lynell Smith Bates*



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**Cyla Lewis** - July 25, 2024 at 07:09 PM

CL

“ *I'm going to try to squeeze 3 years into this and not keep anyone reading too long. The last 3 years Miss Debbie has been my family. We worked together as long as I have lived here in Georgia. There were 2 any of us could run too and she was 1 of them. Her absence at work has affected us that truly loved her. CVS will never be the same without her smile her hard work and her dedication to our team and store. I would laugh and cry with Miss Debbie and tell her how much me and my daughter appreciate her and love her. To Miss Ruby Zellen and the family, we send our love comfort and prayers of strength to you all. Miss Debbie, get your rest beautiful. Job well done Queen. Thank u for being a friend. To the family, thank you for sharing what was the most beautiful soul I have met in this life with me and my family and our 2086 CVS family. With all my love, until we meet again,  
Cyla and Keiarra Lewis*

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**Cyla Lewis** - July 25, 2024 at 07:07 PM