



## Debra G Shropshire

May 17, 2024

Debra Garibaldi Shropshire departed this life peacefully at home surrounded by her close family on Friday, May 17, 2024, at the age of 69. She was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 2, 1954. She and her family were active members of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, where Debra was baptized, made her First Holy Communion, received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and was married. She also attended St. Joan of Arc Elementary School and St. Joseph High School.

Debra graduated with honors from Xavier University of Louisiana in 1976 where she was a member of the Epsilon Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and reigned as Miss Xavier (1975-1976). After college, Debra worked for Chesebrough-Ponds, Inc. and Garibaldi's Boutique in Minneapolis, Minnesota before returning to New Orleans to work for the Louisiana State Unemployment Office. At Andrew J. Bell Junior High, she was a Spanish teacher and coached volleyball and cheerleading. She also taught at Livingston Middle School and Abramson High School. After being displaced by Hurricane Katrina, she relocated to Woodbury, Minnesota where she lived for 18 years and taught at Higher Ground Academy and for the St. Paul Public School System.

Debra is the beloved wife of Alphonse Shropshire for the past 40 years. They had two children, Kelly and Steven. They were a remarkably close family surrounded by an extremely large and close extended family who were always celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, or simple family gatherings.

Debra was a devout Catholic who prayed the rosary often. She is survived by her loving husband, Alphonse; her son Steven; brothers: Arnold Garibaldi (Lynne), Antoine Garibaldi (Carol), and Christopher Garibaldi; sisters-in-law, Betty Garibaldi, Leslie Garibaldi, Dr. Julane Shropshire, and Vanessa Shropshire, brothers-in-law, Robert Leonetti and Lonnie Shropshire, Jr., and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family and friends. Debra was preceded in death by her parents, Augustin and Marie Brulé Garibaldi, her daughter Kelly Marie Shropshire, five siblings: Augustin B. Garibaldi, Amadee Garibaldi, Sr., Alfreda Garibaldi Leonetti, Agnes Garibaldi, Alvin Garibaldi, her mothers-in-law Katie Junius and Dorothy Mae Shropshire, and her beloved Aunt Theresa Porter Burrell.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 8321 Burthe St. NOLA. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m., and the service will take place at 11:00 a.m. The repast will follow at St. Joan of Arc Catholic School. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to St. Joan of Arc Church. To view the service virtually, go to [Facebook.com/BlessedSacramentSaintJoanOfArc](https://www.facebook.com/BlessedSacramentSaintJoanOfArc) or via YouTube on the Blessed Sacrament St Joan of Arc Parish New Orleans page at <https://youtube.com/@blessedsacramentstjoanofar8788?si=QuBFa89aIKJBnNEH> Arrangement by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue. Please visit [www.rhodesfuneral.com](http://www.rhodesfuneral.com) to sign the guestbook.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

MAY **25**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church  
8321 Burthe St.  
New Orleans, LA, LA 70118

### Funeral Mass

MAY **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church  
8321 Burthe St.  
New Orleans, LA, LA 70118

# Tribute Wall

GR

“ Debra taught Spanish across the hall from my classroom. She was not only a supportive colleague, but a friend. I'm praying for the family. Geri Rigers

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**Geri Rogers** - May 29, 2024 at 11:46 PM

MD

“ Mable Phillips-Mitchell, Ph. D. lit a candle in memory of Debra Shropshire



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**Mable Phillips-Mitchell, Ph. D.** - May 25, 2024 at 08:02 PM



“ May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding rest in you (Alphonse and Steven). Love from your family, Ebony, Precious (Jade), and Cynthia.

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**Cynthia Shropshire** - May 25, 2024 at 12:57 PM

MM

“ Maria Moreno lit a candle in memory of Debra Shropshire



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**Maria Moreno** - May 25, 2024 at 12:42 PM

AA

“ My daughters and I will miss you so much especially Esther whom you never forgot to send a birthday wish. You really loved us like your own. I will forever cherish our time together at Hazel Park and the last time I saw you before you moved back to New Orleans. Even though you are gone, I can still see your smile and hear your calm voice. Adios! Adefunke (Ms. A)

Adefunke Adekinle - May 25, 2024 at 03:53 AM

WL

“ I would like to extend my condolences to the family of Debra Garibaldi Shropshire.  
Wanda Garibaldi Liggins

Wanda Garibaldi Liggins - May 24, 2024 at 10:57 PM

DH

“ Debra will always be remembered for being pleasant, smart and a dedicated teacher, as she and I both taught Spanish in our early teaching careers. I was devastated to learn that Debara had passed away. My deepest sympathy and love to Alphonse and the entire family. RIP Debra 🙏  
Dr. Brenda Garibaldi Hatfield, Gonzales, LA

Dr. Brenda Hatfield - May 24, 2024 at 02:57 PM

LM

“ Debra was one of the sweetest and kindest people I have known. I remember praying the Rosary with her during our lunch period. I still have 2 pairs of earrings that she made for me over almost 30 years ago. The Shropshire and Garibaldi have my deepest condolences.  
Lisa McLendon Brown

Lisa McLendon - May 24, 2024 at 01:30 PM

MI

“ *St Aug & St Joseph High Classes'72-73 Condolences 🙏 And RIP 🌸*

*See The Attached St Aug/Keith Pete 50th ReUnion Digital Archives' Homecoming Referenced In 1971 The Knight Edition; Page 4 Dec-Nov 1971.*

*Reported By Class'72 Editors (Griffin Rogers & Donald Butler) & Reporters (eg: VerdunPW-GreggAD-ArnoldWD...).*

*c/o Merrill Lewis-Jiles SJH'73 & Israel J Jiles III SA'72*



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**Merrill Lewis-Jiles & Israel J Jiles III - May 24, 2024 at 07:07 AM**