



## Debra M. Corbett

August 7, 1962 - January 31, 2025

Debra Michelle Corbett

August 7, 1962 – January 31, 2025

### A Life Filled with Love, Family, and Passion

Debra Michelle Corbett was born on August 7, 1962, in Newburgh, New York, to the late Reverend David R. Owens Sr. and Willie Belle Polk Owens. She was raised in a loving home alongside her siblings: David R. Owens Jr., Elista D. Gordon (LeVern), Sonya L. Owens, Lolita R. Owens, and Kristina L. Kennedy. From an early age, family was the heart of Debra's life. She was deeply connected to her siblings, forming bonds that remained strong throughout the years. Her love extended to her extended family, and she cherished the time spent with her nieces, nephews, and cousins, always bringing joy and laughter to their lives.

### Education & Achievements

Debra's early education began at Montgomery Street School and New Windsor School, where she was known as the teacher's pet due to her intelligence and charm. She continued her studies at South Junior High School during her junior year and later attended Newburgh Free Academy, where she was an honor student and graduated early. Her passion for learning continued into adulthood when she pursued higher education at Strayer University-Maryland from 2009 to 2014, further expanding her

knowledge and skills.

### A Life of Passion & Interests

Debra was a woman of many talents and passions that shaped her life and brought joy to those around her.

- Dancing – From a young age, Debra had a natural rhythm and love for movement. Dancing brought her immense joy and was one of her favorite pastimes.
- Fashion – She was always up-to-date with the latest trends and set her own unique style. As a family, they organized annual fashion shows, including siblings, family members, and close friends, turning their love for fashion into a cherished tradition.
- Cooking – Debra's deepest passion was cooking. She spent countless hours in the kitchen, learning from her mother Willie Belle, her grandmother Rozel, and her sister Elista. She loved preparing meals and bringing people together through food she had her own catering company called Rhapsody Catering.
- Sports – She was an active and athletic youth, playing softball and being a member of a softball team. She also played volleyball during her junior high school years, showcasing her versatility and love for sports.
- Event Planning – As she grew older, Debra's natural talent for event planning flourished. She had a way of creating unforgettable celebrations and bringing people together.

### A Dedicated & Accomplished Career

Debra was a hard-working and dedicated professional who built a successful career over the years:

- Her first job was at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital, where she worked as a Unit Secretary for 2 ½ years.
- She then became a Secretary/Admin Assistant at the United States Census Bureau, where she dedicated over 25 years of service.
- Her last place of employment was at Excelsior University, where she worked

as an Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the University. After his departure, she transitioned to the Admissions Department where she then became a Student Navigator for the college continuing her commitment to education and helping others succeed.

Debra was known for her strong work ethic, kindness, and ability to bring people together. She made a lasting impact on her colleagues and those she worked with throughout her career.

### Her Children Were Her World

If there was one thing Debra was most proud of, it was being a mother. Her children were her greatest joy, and she dedicated her life to loving, guiding, and supporting them.

She worked tirelessly to provide them with a happy, fulfilling life, always putting them first. She made sure they knew they were deeply loved, always encouraging them to chase their dreams, face challenges with strength, and embrace life with kindness and grace. Through every milestone—big or small—she was there with open arms, celebrating their successes and comforting them in their struggles. Her love for them was unwavering and unconditional. Debra became a young mother to her eldest, loving son Demarion J. Owens (Ta'Sheena) Later in life, she met Rickey A. Corbett Sr., and they wed on February 20, 1988. Together, they built a beautiful life and had two loving daughters, Marjae T. Corbett and Ristaria M. Corbett. Debra was also a devoted stepmother to her two stepsons, Rickey A. Corbett II and Delante A. Tolson, whom she loved dearly. Her greatest joy in life was also being a grandmother. She adored her grandchildren: Kingston G. Owens-Crowell, Harmony L. Owens, Jeremiah A. Ramos, Nykel T. Everett, Honesty K. Johnson, Kyree D. King, Marley Z. Howard, Zh'Niyah Mims-Corbett, Avery Corbett, Zy'Aire Corbett, Aamir Mims, Yielle Tolson, Zoelle Tolson, Lalah Tolson, Choyce Tolson, and Chyrce Tolson. They brought endless joy to her life, and she treasured every moment she spent with them.

### Faith, Family, & Legacy

Debra was a woman of faith, strength, and kindness. She was raised in a home built on love and strong values, which she carried with her throughout her life. She was a pillar of support to her family and friends, always offering guidance, laughter, and encouragement. She had a special way of making everyone feel loved and valued, whether through her cooking, fashion advice, or heartfelt conversations. She was the glue that held her family together, ensuring that traditions, love, and laughter were passed down through generations.

### A Life to be Celebrated

On January 31, 2025, Debra Michelle Corbett transitioned from this life, leaving behind a beautiful legacy of love, resilience, and devotion. Though she is no longer physically present, her spirit, love, and wisdom will continue to shine through her family and loved ones.

She will be forever missed, deeply loved, and always remembered.

# Cemetery Details

## Washington National Cemetery

4101 Suitland Road  
Suitland, MD 20746

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Southern Friendship Missionary Baptist Church  
4444 Old Branch Ave  
Temple hills, MD 20748

## Funeral Service

FEB 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Southern Friendship Missionary Baptist Church  
4444 Old Branch Ave  
Temple hills, MD 20748

# Tribute Wall

MP

“ Debra was my first roommate. We shared lots of fun and I have great memories from working together, living together and putting on Fashion Shows. She is an awesome lady. I will miss my sister-friend. She has a place in my heart.

Mable Pierce - February 19, 2025 at 11:37 AM

MP

“ Mable Pierce purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Debra M. Corbett.



Mable Pierce - February 19, 2025 at 11:26 AM

MT

“ Mr. George Timmons purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Debra M. Corbett.



Mr. George Timmons - February 19, 2025 at 10:40 AM

RL

“ Richard, Dornece, Sonya, Lolita purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Debra M. Corbett.



Richard, Dornece, Sonya, Lolita - February 17, 2025 at 06:53 PM

LB

“ Leah and Shahara Banks purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Debra M. Corbett.



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**Leah and Shahara Banks** - February 16, 2025 at 01:42 PM

LB

“ Leah and Shahara Banks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Debra M. Corbett.

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**Leah and Shahara Banks** - February 16, 2025 at 01:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Debra M. Corbett.



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February 13, 2025 at 08:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Debra M. Corbett.

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February 13, 2025 at 08:03 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Debra M. Corbett.



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February 12, 2025 at 02:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Debra M. Corbett.

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February 12, 2025 at 02:53 PM



“ I worked directly with Debra for a couple of years at Excelsior University. She was such a kind, considerate, and warm person. We talked often and shared stories of our lives between us. I considered her a wonderful friend and I will miss her beautiful smile whenever we'd see each other. God speed to you Debra! I will miss you forever.

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**Tim Pafundi** - February 11, 2025 at 04:20 PM



“ Debra: A bright, beautiful & kind Soul. Grateful to have worked with Debra. Sending All Family and Friends Peace and Comfort.

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**Gretchen Nortz** - February 11, 2025 at 09:38 AM



“ In the quiet moments, may you hear your mother's laughter and feel her love; extending my heartfelt sympathy for your loss. Debra was an incredible person who impacted the lives of everyone she touched. May you find comfort in the memories you shared together. Thinking of you!

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**Kandi Heins (Excelsior University)** - February 10, 2025 at 11:13 AM

 EF

“ *Sharing your sadness as you pre to say goodbye to your loved one. Continue to rely on God as hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Thinking of you all.*

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**Evans family** - February 06, 2025 at 05:39 PM



“ *We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

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**Marshall-March Funeral Homes** - February 05, 2025 at 10:13 AM