



Dewana Eckstein

January 2, 1951 - January 13, 2019

Dewana Eckstein, 68, of Kankakee, passed away on Sunday, January 13, 2019 at her home. She was born on January 2, 1951 in Watseka, the daughter of Bernard and Dorothy Stimpson Eckstein. She married Dawn Tutt on September 23, 1995 in Wilmington.

Following her graduation from Watseka High School, Dewana pursued her bachelor's degree at Eureka College. Upon graduating with a BA in Social Sciences, Dewana shared her many skills with several Kankakee area agencies, including the Iroquois Sheriff Department, Shapiro Developmental Center, United Development Services, and CETA as an OTJ coordinator. Dewana was the executive director of Duane Dean Behavioral Health Center followed by a time as the executive director of the Kankakee chapter of the Red Cross. She worked for the Regional Office of Education as Program Developer for Safe-To-Learn Regional Program. It was during her work at ROE that she developed SCAT—School Crisis Assistance Team. Also at that time, she was a volunteer trainer for NOVA—National Organization for Victim Assistance. NOVA called upon Dewana's gifts as site intake manager at Ground Zero, September, 2001 for the state of New Jersey where she provided crisis intervention support for the EMS responders, workers, victims, and victims' families. After the Regional Office of Education, Dewana worked for FEMA responding to natural disasters in Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Florida. Dewana was also a co-founder of 3D Wildlife Rescue

and Rehab in Kankakee. She was a member of St. John United Church of Christ in Kankakee where she served as Deacon and sang in the choir. Dewana was an avid Green Bay Packers fan—and that is an understatement! She enjoyed fishing, archery, golfing, skiing, softball, and reading. She loved all animals, domestic and wild. She enjoyed music and played multiple instruments.

Dewana is survived by her wife, Dawn Tutt, of Kankakee; and one brother, Roger Eckstein, of Seymour, IN.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and one brother and sister-in-law, Billy and Ruth Eckstein.

Visitation will be held from 9:00 am until the 12:00 pm funeral service on Monday, January 21, 2019 at St. John United Church of Christ in Kankakee. Pastor Barbara Lohrbach will officiate. Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the wishes of the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John United Church Of Christ
1045 W. River
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-3336
<http://www.stjohnucc-kan-il.org/>

Funeral Service

JAN 21. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John United Church Of Christ
1045 W. River
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-3336
<http://www.stjohnucc-kan-il.org/>

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Send thoughts, hugs, and prayers from Susan Hillman and family. I am so sorry I am unable to attend



Susan Hillman - January 21, 2019 at 11:27 AM



“ 108 files added to the album LifeTributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - January 21, 2019 at 08:07 AM

JS

“ Dewana was one of the most giving, compassionate individuals I've known. She was the best supervisor/friend anyone could have as we worked together at the ROE in the Safe to Learn program. It was one of the greatest experiences ever that was shared. My prayers and condolences to you Dawn and her brother. Phenomenal memories! RIP my friend.

Joyce Shoemaker - January 19, 2019 at 03:49 PM

CB

“ Sending you my thoughts and sympathy at your loss.
Chris Buhr

Chris Buhr - January 19, 2019 at 12:35 PM

LD

“ Sorry to hear this you are in our prayer Dawn your friend Larry

Larry Dionne - January 18, 2019 at 07:03 PM



“ My prayers, sympathy and heartfelt condolences go out to Dawn & the family. Dewana loved wildlife & nature. Rest in peace Dawn.



Marci Gearhart - January 17, 2019 at 04:45 PM

BL

“ She loved her peanut butter Danish!

Barbara Lefeave - January 15, 2019 at 08:36 PM

MH

“ Dewana was a worthy volunteer in her lifetime who contributed her many gifts to help others. What a legacy she leaves! Prayers go out to her brother, Roger, and to Dawn and her family of friends. May she rest in peace.
Marsha Turner Hill

Marsha Hill - January 15, 2019 at 07:42 PM

VD

“ *Dawn and Dewana's family. My sympathy, thought and prayers are with all of you. Dewana my friend R.I.P.* ”



Virginia R Dominick - January 15, 2019 at 10:35 AM