



Debra Anne Cooper

October 14, 1953 - April 6, 2023

The remarkable Debra Anne Cooper, RN, MSN, MBA/HCM, CIC, CPHRM, passed peacefully from this world into the next on Thursday, April 6, 2023. She was 69 years old. She was surrounded by her loving family at her home beside the Back Bay in Brimley, Michigan. "Deb" was preceded in death by her parents, Howard T. Maki in September 2017 and Glenna J. Maki (Knapp) in April 2012, and her eldest brother, Thomas Lee (Paige) Maki in March 1988. Deb is survived by her loving husband Carl Cooper and her daughters Jeanette Park (Jeff) of Gloucester, Virginia; Connie (Brian) Peterson of Norton Shores, Michigan, grandchildren Aiden, Declan, and Emiya; and Kate (John) Tomasik of West Bloomfield, Michigan, grandchildren Piper and Ethan; her brother John (Marcy) Maki of Maryville, Tennessee; her brother Matthew (Tammy) Maki of Brimley, Michigan; and her sister Kirsti (Russell) Ritschke of Menasha, Wisconsin; together with numerous nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews, step children, and step grandchildren.

Deb was born on Wednesday, October 14, 1953, in El Paso, Texas. Growing up in a military family with 5 children, Deb was exposed to a life of travel and adventure, moving every 2 years to a new place around the globe, including Germany, or Taiwan, where she attended middle school. Shortly after graduating from high school in Colorado, she served at Dover AFB, Delaware. She quickly distinguished herself by meritorious service and was honorably discharged with a Commendation Medal as an Airman First Class in June, 1973. She began a journey as a wife and mother, and in 1983 achieved a

degree in nursing from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, eventually earning her BSN and MSN later in life.

Deb then spent the next 40 years as a registered nurse dedicating her life to leadership and caring for others. She was Director of Nursing at Tendercare, Sault Ste. Marie until 1988 and then worked at War Memorial Hospital until 2003 as an administrator in Infection Control. She completed EMT training in the late 1990s and helped many in distress. Deb finished her career after working for Coverys for 17 years as a Senior Risk Management Specialist. She married Carl in 2007 and returned "home" to Brimley in 2016 until her end of days.

She was highly respected by her colleagues and was a mentor to many over the years. Deb was a fierce and spunky lady who freely shared her generous loving heart, humor, and infectious smile, creating instant friendships wherever she went. She was a wonderful cook who also loved fishing, gardening, playing slots, and long meaningful conversations with friends and loved ones. Her passing will create a void felt by many, but heaven has gained an amazing angel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the National Brain Tumor Society in Deb's honor, 55 Chapel St. Suite #006 Newton, MA 02458, <https://nbtsevents.braintumor.org/fundraiser/4629389>. The family is being served by Clark Hovie Galer Funeral Home in Sault Ste Marie, MI.

Tribute Wall



“ *Debra Anne Cooper*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Debra Anne Cooper*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Deb's family. I always enjoyed every chance I got to see or speak with Deb. She gave the best hugs and always made me laugh. She will be missed.*

Amanda Diaz - May 12, 2023 at 03:59 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Deb's family and friends. I always enjoyed when I was able to banter with Deb. She was a true professional while maintaining a great sense of humor!! RIP Deb.*

Gregg Hanson - April 30, 2023 at 03:55 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Deb's family. I had the pleasure of working with her on various special projects at Coverys. She was a valuable and loved member of our team. I personally appreciated and benefited from her knowledge, common sense, enthusiasm, and wonderful sense of humor. We all enjoyed seeing her giant dog during Zoom meetings. May she rest in peace.*

Linda Livezey

Linda Livezey - April 28, 2023 at 03:19 PM

CD

“ *Deb gave 150% to whatever she did. A real void is felt at COVERYS.*

Colleen Dumsa - April 28, 2023 at 03:17 PM

EC

“ *We are heartbroken to learn of Deb’s passing. Deb and Carl were our neighbors and friends downstate in Allegan. Deb’s smile and laughter always filled our street with joy. She was a kind, loving, funny woman and we are fortunate to have had her as our friend. Our hearts are with Carl and your family.*

Erin Campbell-Brooks - April 24, 2023 at 12:49 PM

SD

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. I loved working with Deb when she was at War Memorial. She always had a smile on her face and beamed when she talked about her family. Thinking of you all.*
Sandy DePlonty

Sandy DePlonty - April 23, 2023 at 08:59 AM

GC

“ *I am heartbroken. Deb and I worked together at Coverys, attending meetings and conferences and working with our healthcare clients. Deb is one of the smartest, wisest people I've ever met and she will be sorely missed. And she was always the best listener. I'll remember Deb's huge smile as grand-daughter Piper danced in Traverse City to our Sweetwater Blues Band. Such a blessing....*

Glenn Coughenour - April 21, 2023 at 09:06 AM

CC

“ 11 files added to the album *My Love*



Carl Cooper - April 20, 2023 at 03:26 PM

KS

“ *You will be missed at the Back Bay Deb!*

Kim Swailes - April 20, 2023 at 12:09 PM