



## Denise Bowden

July 8, 1955 - April 5, 2013

BOWDEN, Denise S., 57, of Nashville, TN, passed away April 5, 2013 after a courageous battle with ALS. Beloved Teacher and Coach for 30 years in Virginia. She was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Martinsville, VA. Preceded in death by her father, Russell B. Bowden & niece, Holly James. Survived by her mother, Tommye (Dominic) Carini; brothers, Rusty (Martha) & Tom (Becky) Bowden; sisters, Diane (Allen) Lawrence & Danita Selikoff; nieces & nephews, Paul, Patrick Justin, Thomas, Ryan, Mary Catherine, Madie & Joe; 3 great nieces & 2 great nephews. Visitation will be Sunday from 2 to 6pm & Monday from 3 to 7pm at Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home on Gallatin Rd. Service will be 10am Tuesday at St. Stephen Catholic Community, Old Hickory, TN. Interment to follow at Calvary Cemetery. PHILLIPS-ROBINSON FUNERAL HOME, [www.phillipsrobinson.com](http://www.phillipsrobinson.com), 615-262-3312

# Tribute Wall



“ *Denise Bowden*

---

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *Aunt Neese,*

*You are my angel. I'm never going to forget your constant smile and bright eyes, or your goofy sense of humor that you and your siblings have all passed on to me. I'll especially cherish the times I got to spend with you as you experienced a journey that I'm sure you never expected to take so soon. You're an unending inspiration to me as you are to all that knew you; of course, that goes without saying. I'll be thinking of you and talking to you often, and I know you'll be listening and sending me your warm embrace whenever I need it. I can only hope that I am as brave as you in the face of any adversity that comes along. I know now more than ever to live selflessly and to love with all of my heart. I'll see your effortless beauty again soon enough, and you'll have to introduce me to the one that gave me you. We can play soccer, watch every Harry Potter movie and eat all the pretzel m&m's we possibly can! I love you so so much Aunt Denise.*

*-your Little Friend, Madie*

---

**Madeline Bowden** - April 10, 2013 at 03:14 AM

JH

“Denise was a very special teacher and coach for my children as they attended Martinsville City Schools. She showed such courage in her life. She truly "fought the good fight". May God bless your family with wonderful memories of the person she was and assurance that she suffers no more!

---

**Joan C Haynes** - April 09, 2013 at 01:21 PM

RM

“We loved Ms. Bowden - she was wonderful and always positive. Our children were fortune to have had Denise for class. She will be missed and thought of often.

---

**Rick, Mary, Jonathan and Emily Martin** - April 09, 2013 at 12:21 PM

BG

“I am so sorry about Denise passing. I did not know until I read it in today's Martinsville Bulletin. She was a nice and fun person and we had many good times together in years past. God bless.

---

**Bonnie Gardner** - April 09, 2013 at 10:29 AM

MP

“Denise has surely touched many children and adults throughout her years in MCPS. Many students today were heartbroken to learn of her passing, as they shared great memories of her as their PE teacher or coach! Thanks Denise for being such a great role model and a caring friend! May you rest in peace with our Lord and Savior!!

---

**Marla Perry** - April 09, 2013 at 01:36 AM

CH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We enjoyed all the times we spent with Denise. She was always smiling and enjoying life. The angels are always near to those who are grieving, to whisper to them that their loved ones are safe in the hands of God. We know your heart is aching and we are truly sorry for your loss. Condolences to your family from Virginia

---

**Charles&Carolyn Hughes** - April 09, 2013 at 12:43 AM

MS

“ I know Padre Pio waited at the gates of heaven for you with a big hug....I love and miss you...

---

**Marie Barb Spece** - April 08, 2013 at 10:26 PM

PW

“ Denise taught my children and she was always so kind to them. I know the ordeal you have been through as I had a sister with ALS. It is a cruel disease. I will continue to wish blessings to the family as you try to cope with such a loss.  
Pat Walmsley

---

**Pat Walmsley** - April 08, 2013 at 09:42 PM

BP

“ Over the years we have many good memories of being with Denise in Virginia..great times with Denise at the home of Bill and Jackie Lester.  
Friends, Barbara and Gene Parker

---

**Barbara and Gene Parker** - April 08, 2013 at 07:19 PM

MB

“ Dearest Denise, God blessed me with you, my sister-in-law, so long ago, and you accepted me into your family with open arms. In the past several months, little did you know that you used your amazing teaching skills on me. You taught me bravery in the face of tragedy, grace in the face of pain, and dignity in the face of despair. May God grant me the ability to use these lessons wisely. Most importantly, you showed that your love and trust for Christ is unshakable. You saved your very best dance until the end of your mortal life, and you never missed a beat. Thank you for teaching me how to courageously prepare for that heavenly journey home. You are an impossible act to follow. Please hold out your loving hand for me and hold on tightly when my journey approaches. Your coveted place in heaven is where I want to be, the place reserved for God's holiest angels. Until then, I'll hold you closely in my heart, lean on you from time to time, and miss you so very much. I love you! Your sis, Boo

---

**Martha Bowden** - April 08, 2013 at 04:55 PM

VF

“ To all of Denise's family, I am very sorry to learn of Denise's passing. I am sure all of you will miss her greatly. I am a friend of her dear friends, Bill and Jackie Lester and have kept up with her through them. My prayers and thoughts are with you. God Bless

---

**Virginia Finley** - April 08, 2013 at 03:34 PM

AR

“ I will miss her laughter most of all

---

**Angie Robertson** - April 08, 2013 at 03:23 PM

SL

“ Neece fought a hard battle with ALS & I want family to know she was courageous, graceful & ready for heaven. Neece enlightened all our lives here in Va. Neece came & left to early for any of us, My heart says Let her go in peace. Bowden Family remember how brave & graceful she was during this awful illness. Neece taught me to look for the best in situations & do the best with what you're dealt. Love & Prayer to entire family from Virginia. Sandra

---

**sandra lawson** - April 08, 2013 at 03:04 PM

AL

“ Rusty, Boo, Tom, and Becky: So sorry for your loss. Just learned of Denise's passing, and I am truly saddened. Alex

---

**Alex Leithner** - April 08, 2013 at 02:49 PM

BH

“ I taught with Denise at MMS in MARTinsville, Va Grest respect for her and her values. We both retired last year together. I shall miss her very much.

---

**Betty Allen Hall** - April 08, 2013 at 02:15 PM

SK

“ Denise,

*It was a great pleasure working with you in the Martinsville City Schools. You served your school system and students with a positive attitude and a great smile. You will be greatly missed, but remembered forever! "May the Peace of the Lord be with You"*

---

**Steve Keyser** - April 08, 2013 at 12:44 PM

BL

“ *Denise you were always a special person in our life. We always enjoyed our time with you. Just spending time talking about school, having breakfast with the pickers, riding the boat or a few days at Myrtle Beach. Always fun to be with. Always smiling even after you knew you had ALS. You were always a believer in the lord. We will miss you but we know you are in a better place. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE FAMILY. Your Virginia Dad and Mom  
Bill and Jackie Lester*

---

**Bill & Jackie Lester** - April 08, 2013 at 01:04 AM

DS

“ *Dearest Neesie,*

*You are an inspiration and a testament of human strength. I draw my reserves from your never ending supply of courage. You stared down this horrible thief that is ALS and fought with all you had and on your terms. Be free now like the purest white dove; spread your wings and soar.....somewhere over the rainbow is where I will find you. All my love,*

---

**Danita (Bowden) Selikoff** - April 08, 2013 at 12:57 AM

RB

“ *Neese, You have truly been an inspiration to me. I have learned so much more about life from you. I'm so honored to be your brother. I will always remember your contagious smile, remarkable courage, and the positive attitude that you exhibited everyday. I will cherish the times we've spent together and think about you always. Love you Sis! God blessed you and now has redeemed you!*

---

**Rusty Bowden** - April 08, 2013 at 12:22 AM

JS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Denise was my very good friend. We were in prayer group together and prayed many time. I know that she is with the Lord and rejoicing. I will always remember her smile and her faith. My dad died of ALS and I am happy that she is not suffering any more. Love and Prayers Judy

---

**Judy Szulecki** - April 07, 2013 at 11:24 PM

DP

“ Denise was a beautiful soul. I was one of her care partners at Alive Hospice and it was an honor to care for her and spend time with her!! She always had a smile and loved to walk around outside and see the fish. Such a wonderful person with a big heart! She will always hold a special place in my heart. My prayers are with you all.

---

**Dana Pate** - April 07, 2013 at 08:59 PM

KM

“ Denise, you fought a good fight. Suffer no more perfect angel. You will be missed terribly. Love, hugs & kisses.

---

**Kim Bowden Morrison** - April 07, 2013 at 06:12 PM

BB

“ Denise, I Love you like a sister. We go way back. I met Tom when I was 15 and some our most special memories is when we would visit you. We had so much fun! Even our most recent visits to Virginia, hanging at the pool are priceless to me! Your positive attitude and appreciation for the simplest things will have a lasting effect on me daily. I hold my head high when the sun shines on my face to feel the warmth. I promise to live everyday to the fullest spreading love and joy, You taught me these things. Thank you for loving me!  
Becky

---

**Becky Bowden** - April 07, 2013 at 05:29 PM

TJ

“ If there was ever a person who didn't believe that giving is the road to happiness, their best bet was to spend some time with you. Your selflessness and love were impossible to miss, and inspirational at the very least. You're amazing. Thank you, and god bless you.

---

**Thomas Bowden Jr.** - April 07, 2013 at 05:06 PM

RB

“ Thank you for showing me how to be truly courageous and how to be a truly good person. I will never forget how positive and bright you were. Whenever I see a shooting star I will know its you checking up on me. Love you Denise!

---

**Ryan Bowden** - April 07, 2013 at 04:40 PM

TB

“ Sis ! I am so Grateful and Honored to have spent the time we had together during your journey home ! I cherish all our time we spent together throughout the years, and you taught me so much ! You made me a better person!! THANK YOU, and GOD BLESS YOU !!

---

**Tom Bowden** - April 07, 2013 at 04:12 PM

GE

“ I was so sorry to hear about Denise. I have many fond memories of grade school and high school with Denise. I am happy she is not suffering anymore, and will keep you all in my prayers.....

---

**Gina Golden Epperson** - April 07, 2013 at 01:44 PM

CA

“ We are praying for your family.

---

**Carla** - April 07, 2013 at 12:44 PM

ST

“ We have lifted up many prayers for Denise throughout this journey and our prayers continue to be with your family. May God be your comfort and peace.

---

**Sam and Jamie Tilsley** - April 07, 2013 at 12:15 PM

BR

“ Tommye, I am so sorry to hear of your loss and I will certainly keep you and your family in my Prayers.  
Pat Hogan and I tried looking you up for several years through the Internet. She has left us also.  
My thoughts and Prayers are with you.  
Bobbie Jo

---

**Bobbie Jo Mottley Rennie** - April 07, 2013 at 12:07 PM

DA

“ She fought the brave fight. And glory to God she knew her Savior. I love you and will miss you Neece.

---

**Debbie Austin** - April 07, 2013 at 03:12 AM

MS

“ I love you sweet girl. Give them all my love. I will miss you. peace

---

**Mickey Bowden Simmons** - April 06, 2013 at 10:04 PM