



## Debra Faith Orlowski-McMahan

July 28, 1954 - November 8, 2020

Debra Faith Orlowski-McMahan of Tulsa, OK passed away on November 8, 2020 at home after a brief illness. Faith was born on July 28, 1954 to Dr. Frank and Donnie Orlowski in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The family moved to Texas where, after graduating from high school, Faith attended the University of Texas at Austin. Faith graduated Phi Beta Kappa receiving her Bachelor of Arts with Highest Honors in 1975 and her Juris Doctor from the University of Texas School of Law in 1978. Upon graduation she became one of the first female attorneys hired by a major law firm in Tulsa when she was employed by Sneed Lang, PC. Most recently she was associated with Moyers, Martin, LLP. Faith was an adjunct professor at the University of Tulsa law school in the Master of Jurisprudence program.

Faith received many awards throughout her extensive and impressive legal career. She was an active member of the Tulsa County Bar Association where she served as President from 2011-2012. She was a frequent national and regional lecturer on oil and gas, real property, Indian land law and estate planning topics. Faith is recognized by her peers as a brilliant lawyer, mentor, leader and dear friend.

Faith's reputation as an animal rights activist was evidenced by her volunteer activities as a board member on the Tulsa SPCA Board and a number of other animal rights and rescue organizations. She founded the Tulsa County Bar Association Animal Law Committee. Faith was active in the community throughout her career. Among others, she served on the board of Emergency Infant Services, was a founding member of Executive Women's Forum and a graduate of class 10 of Leadership Tulsa.

Faith would say that her greatest achievement was that of wife, mom, and Nana. She met William G. McMahan (Bill) soon after moving to Tulsa. Faith and Bill were married on November 21, 1981 and enjoyed 37 wonderful years of marriage. With her marriage came two extraordinary kids. Faith loved that even though she did not have biological children, she was able to enjoy and experience the blessings that come with parenthood and claimed Greg and Melinda as her own.

Faith was preceded in death by her husband Bill McMahan, mother, Donnie Orlowski and father, Frank Orlowski. She is survived by son, Greg McMahan (Carrie) of Tulsa, daughter, Melinda Barker of Oklahoma City, grandchildren, Becca, Kaitlin, Sydney, Will and Ian,

sister, Katy Tuttle (Kevin) Richland Hills, TX, brother, Frank Orłowski of Dallas, TX and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family who will miss her immensely.

Memorial Service to be held November 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Fitzgerald Southwood Colonial Chapel, 3612 E. 91st Street, Tulsa. The Rosary will be prayed prior to the Memorial Service at 9:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Tulsa SPCA.



# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Fitzgerald Southwood Colonial Chapel** - November 19, 2020 at 03:26 PM



“ Greg gave a beautiful and heartfelt eulogy. What a lovely service. My heart is with the family at this difficult time.

**Therese** - November 20, 2020 at 12:52 PM



“ we were longtime clients of Faith's and we loved every minute being with her. Her knowledge of law, her style, her humor. It was always a good visit. We shall always remember.... Dick and Barbara O'Neil

**Barbara** - November 20, 2020 at 05:34 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Faith Orlowski-McMahan.



November 20, 2020 at 11:18 AM

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“ I met Faith through our mutual friend, Barbara Cuite, when Jeff and I moved to Tulsa in 1989, Faith was generous, witty and oh that laugh! She was one of a kind and will be missed by her many friends.



**Cris Cox** - November 19, 2020 at 08:43 PM



“ I have known Faith for years. She was one of the founders with me of a group we started in the late 1970's called Executive Women's Forum. She may have spoken about it. She was a quiet, brilliant and beautiful resource in my life for all these years even though I have not lived in Tulsa for many years.

She and Bill had their first date at Hillcrest Hospital waiting for my daughter Ashley to be born. They supplied a joyful bottle of champagne to be shared with family in the broom closet of the waiting room. She may not have told you about that one.

My heart is breaking for you and her family, and for me as well. Faith mattered to me and so many others. We may not have close contact with people important to us over the years, but they are never forgotten or cease to be dear to us. I know you will miss her terribly and I'm so sad for your loss.

**Gae Mitchell** - November 20, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Faith Orlowski-McMahan.



November 19, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Faith Orlowski-McMahan.



November 19, 2020 at 12:20 PM

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“ 70 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fitzgerald Southwood Colonial Chapel - November 19, 2020 at 11:03 AM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Faith Orlowski-McMahan.



November 19, 2020 at 10:40 AM

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“ My mom worked with Faith for many years at Sneed Lang. Some of my earliest memories were Faith's laugh and sense of humor. She always showed warmth and love for my family. She is missed.

Taylor Burke - November 19, 2020 at 12:32 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Faith Orlofski-McMahan.



November 18, 2020 at 10:17 AM

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“ I've known Faith since we were 12 yrs old. She was my best friend. Even though we were apart physically we kept in touch. She was our daughter Faith's godmother. I will miss her  
She loved big. Her family and friends and her pets were her priorities. We had such fun throughout our years. I recently told her she was to become a great godmother due to our daughter is expecting. She was so excited. We will all miss her

**cyndi glennie** - November 16, 2020 at 11:23 AM

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“ I went to work for Sneed, Lang in 1979 so I met Faith shortly after she began her legal career. And they were proud to have her. I am so glad to have known her, worked with her, and got to hear that wonderful laugh. Rest in peace dear Faith.  
Janie Sloan

**LaNelle Sloan** - November 14, 2020 at 10:20 AM

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“ Faith was a dear friend and colleague. A mutual friend described her “as an event waiting to happen”. One year I was chairman of the OBA Awards committee- Faith was getting award. I borrowed our church children’s ministry puppets, and had a dog puppet present her award. I can still her laughter at that presentation. Loved her dearly; will miss her greatly.

**Rick Woolery** - November 13, 2020 at 10:04 PM



“ Faith served on the Board of Directors of the Arthritis Foundation when I was President of the local chapter. She was an ally, standing beside me during a rough patch and was a source of support and encouragement. We had touched base a bit in the past few years and I am so very sorry that she has died. The world will be a bit sadder and less bright without her in it.

Hope Sutherland

**Hope Sutherland** - November 14, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ Faith will be remembered as a teacher, an adviser, a brilliant jurist, a wonderful soul, and most importantly - a friend. My condolences to her family.

Craig Leonard

**Craig Leonard** - November 14, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ I knew Faith ( Debbie ) from our days at Trinity High School . She and I conspired to cause our share of mischief back in the day . I can't imagine that she ever outgrew her inclination to see the world with a laugh in her eye and joy in her heart . She was a blessing to all of us who were allowed to orbit her special gravity.

Bill Lindsey .

**Bill Lindsey** - November 14, 2020 at 11:05 PM



“ I met Faith through Leadership Tulsa and immediately found a compassionate friend. She was unique in that she had an infectious smile, boundless happiness, unconditional love and a brilliant mind. I always looked forward to seeing her. She made my day brighter. May her Higher Power bless her and her family. Janice Edmiston

**Janice Edmiston** - November 15, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ Faith and I came together with a common goal of doing what was always best for the dogs, cats, kittens and puppies in need of second chances for homes and love. At TSPCA Board meetings, she guided with a smile, infectious laugh and wisdom. Her passing is a sad loss for our community, pets and people. Rest peacefully, Faith. You’ve earned your angel wings. We will miss you.

**Pat Atkinson** - November 15, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ I met Faith while doing an internship at Sneed Lang in 1990. I stayed in contact with her over the years and always appreciated her willingness to provide insight. She was also always ready with advice or a laugh. She served her clients and the community with passion I am so glad that I was able to grab lunch with her earlier in the year and catch up with her. She will be missed.

**Kevin Gore** - November 16, 2020 at 09:44 PM



“ Absolutely one of a kind! Just being near her made you smile. Her effervescence will be missed!

**Patty Melton** - November 19, 2020 at 11:01 AM



“ Faith was both my dear friend and my attorney. I loved her compassion, brilliant mind and caring heart. My condolences to her family--both human and her precious Izzy and Finn, her four-footed children. She made the world a better place for both human beings and animals.

Faith and I often agreed that Heaven was home to our departed pets. When I envision Sweet Faith now, I mentally see her surrounded by Bill and myriads of her feline and canine loved ones. Bless you, Sweet Faith!

Hope Harder

**Hope Harder** - November 21, 2020 at 02:49 PM