



Rosa Denise Fairfax

June 15, 1964 - July 22, 2025

Rosa "Denise" Fairfax, 61, of Mooresville, NC, passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, July 22, 2025. She was born on June 15, 1964, to the late Gary Fairfax and Pearlina Fairfax.

Denise served her country with honor and dedication, and her pride in being a veteran was evident in every aspect of her life. She cherished the bond she shared with her fellow service members and actively sought out opportunities to stay connected through veteran organizations and events.

Family was everything to Denise. She found her greatest joy in spending time with loved ones, especially children. Even at 61, she was often described as a "big kid at heart" always ready for a game, a silly moment, or an adventure.

Denise shared an unbreakable bond with her cherished dogs: Rosie, Samie, and Mylie. They were more than pets they were family, and their unconditional love brought her immense comfort and joy throughout the years.

She is survived by her beloved wife, Jackie Smith. Their life together was filled with joy, laughter and countless beautiful memories that will live on forever in Jackie's heart.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, is serving the Fairfax family.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Life on this earth is short....*

Last night, I learned of a friend's passing. Short of a miracle, I knew it was coming as she has been battling pancreatic cancer since 11/2024 (at least that's when she shared the news with me). I last spoke with her on 6/30. She said they were putting their house on the market. I looked last night to see if they had done that. When I entered her name to get the address, her obituary came up.

This post isn't about reaching out to her on the internet with messages of RIP or I'll miss you (because we all know WiFi in the afterlife cannot be good). Denise would have laughed at that comment.... It's more to simply reflect. Denise's obituary didn't say much about her and I'm sure she planned it that way.

Anyway, I met Denise at the second or third nest I trained at with Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program. She had a big presence at over 6' tall but a quiet spirit and such a passion for sea turtles. To be honest, she bored me with SO MANY sea turtle facts that I wasn't sure we could be friends (she obsessed about them like I do Operation Christmas Child). But that was Denise. If she had an interest in something, she researched it to the nth degree and shared EVERYTHING about the topic. She shared parts of her life with me when others would leave the nest late at night. She only took breaks chatting when she walked away for a cigarette or to take a call from her spouse asking where she was.

Denise was retired military and had the scars and stories to prove it. I often thanked her for her service and she would brush it off as just being something she did.

Denise loved her dogs...all three of them as well as those that passed. I know they will miss her. There was never a time when we talked on the phone that she wasn't also throwing a ball or laughing at them causing some mischief.

Denise could TALK! Whenever her name popped up on my phone, I would just find a seat and be ready to chat for a while. I'll miss those talks. She ALWAYS asked about my parents. She never met them, but we talked about my Dad's memory issues. Her Mom had had some of the same problems and she was always suggesting different things to try. Denise and I talked about God. In true Denise fashion, she had researched and had her own opinions about the Bible. She knew I hated unnecessary cursing and would always apologize in advance when she was getting ready to let some fly 🦄. When we talked last, she said she and God had had some comical conversations during her treatments. My prayer is that she also had some serious ones. I pray that she is resting in peace because I know she put up her best fight against cancer. She was very matter of fact about it. This is what it is and I'm going to fight it as hard as I can. I believe she did just that.

I didn't hear from her after June 30th. She would often go quiet for extended periods of time. I sent her a card about 3 weeks ago. I'm not sure if she got it. It doesn't really matter though. The last thing I told her was that I was proud of her attitude against this disease and to let me know if she wanted to go sit on the pier before heading back to Mooresville to discuss further treatment. It rained a lot during her stay and I didn't get a call.

I saw (and heard;) Denise. She mattered.

Jackie...let me know if you need anything. Would love to give you a hug.

Kimberly Avery - August 08, 2025 at 06:05 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosa Denise Fairfax.*



July 29, 2025 at 07:04 PM



“ *We always loved when Denise would come down to Grandma’s house. She would always be the one to play with us and was a BIGGER KID than we were. She will be missed. Love you always..*

Candace Sumner - July 25, 2025 at 06:14 PM



I miss you Denise

carla pridgen - July 29, 2025 at 07:07 PM



My thoughts and prayers are with Jackie and the rest of Denise’s family



Sharon Gray - July 31, 2025 at 04:57 PM