



## Rebecca Mari Rothfuss

July 8, 1964 - April 20, 2023

Rebecca (Becci) Mari Rothfuss, age 58, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, passed away on April 20, 2023 at the Circle of Life Hospice in Springdale, Arkansas, after a short battle with cancer. Becci was born to Donald & Ruth (Sandoz) Rothfuss on July 8, 1964 in Phillipsburg, Kansas. She grew up in the Kansas towns of Ottawa, Topeka, and Manhattan, where she graduated with honors from high school. She also graduated with honors with her bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Wesleyan University, obtained her Master's degree from Oklahoma State University, and her PhD from Dallas Baptist University in Dallas, Texas. Becci served as Resident Director/coordinator of Student Development at her alma mater, Oklahoma Wesleyan University for 6 years. She then accepted a position at John Brown University as Associate Dean of students/director of leadership and student activities, and later joined the faculty at JBU as associate professor of leadership studies. While at JBU, she designed and developed the Leadership Scholar Institute program. She led that program for 14 years, mentoring and teaching hundreds of students in key leadership skills. For many years she also served at JBU's international studies program in Ireland. Growing up in a pastor's home, she was introduced to her Savior, Jesus Christ, at a young age and continued to minister Christ's love in a multiple of roles throughout her lifetime.

Becci was well-known for her great gourmet cooking and hospitality, as well as artistic decorating shown in her lovely home. Hardly a week went by but what

she hosted guests for a meal. Her pies were legendary. She loved to work with flowers and owned a florist shop for a few years after college. She prepared the floral arrangements for dozens of weddings, including most of her ten nieces and many friends. Becci never married and had no biological children, but in the greater sense, she served as mother to hundreds of students on the campuses she served and was a mentor to many. She also became like a second mother to all her nieces & nephews.

She is survived by her sisters, Marcia DePriest and husband David of Ottawa, Kansas; Linda Radaker and husband Greg of Dewey, Oklahoma; Patty Leach of Dewey, OK; and one brother Eugene Rothfuss and wife Joy of Independence, Missouri. Becci's nieces & nephews include Dr. Kirk (Kate) DePriest, Lara (Paul Douglas) DePriest, Katie (Robert) Wright, Kristen (Luke) Sheaffer, Kyla (Christopher) Radaker-James, Karissa (Channing) Marvin, Wende (Tyler) Cassabaum, Cyndi (Andrew) Myers, Mysti (Garret) Mayse, Joey (Jen) Leach, J'llyssa Baker, and Jade Leach.

Memorial funds will be established to support scholarships for family & friends through the Sandoz legacy scholarship fund and a general leadership scholarship fund to be established in Becci's memory. Donations may be given through Marcia DePriest, executor of the estate, at 703 S Cedar, Ottawa, Kansas 66067; [marciadepriest1@gmail.com](mailto:marciadepriest1@gmail.com).

Celebration of Life services for Rebecca Rothfuss will be held at 10:30 am Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the John Brown University Cathedral in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Here's the link to the Celebration of Becci's Life event to be shared. <https://fb.me/e/4gs6N5U0n>

# Cemetery Details

## Dewey Cemetery

Dewey, OK 74029

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

APR **24**. 2:30 PM (CT)

Dewey Cemetery  
Dewey, OK 74029

## Celebration of Life Service

APR **29**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Cathedral of the Ozarks  
2000 W. University  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

# Tribute Wall

GS

“ It is a sad thing to learn of such an amazing life only at it's end. Becky and I were childhood friends for many years. Starting with tea parties at her house while our parents visited and lasting through Miltonvale Wesleyan Church camp. She was so much fun. Her laugh was irresistible. I am not surprised that she went on to accomplish remarkable things. She certainly left a mark that will remain. It sounds like she was able to touch so many lives throughout her career. I am sure she went about her work accomplishing goals with no fanfare whatsoever, just for the joy of doing good. My sympathies go out to her family and the wide circle of friends and coworkers who will have an empty place that follows them throughout the day. She was a rare light.

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**Gay Rumbaugh Strong** - April 27, 2023 at 09:08 PM

JM

“ James and Karen McGraw purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Rebecca Mari Rothfuss.



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**James and Karen McGraw** - April 27, 2023 at 11:52 AM

TJ

“ As you probably have heard from many people, Becci touched many lives.

*We were blessed to know her through JBU, particularly through Ireland studies and missions trips, as well as her accompanying us on one of our Italian studies trips, and her hosting of some game nights at her home. We most recently got to spend time with her in N. Ireland in March, and even though she was experiencing a lot of tiredness (we didn't know why, at the time), she still was a gracious host and kindly took time out of her already busy schedule to help me learn/practice driving there, as well as spending a day to drive around the group we were with. I'm glad we had those times with her!*

*Becci always added a special touch to things, whether it was making her food delicious and beautifully presented, or adding plants/flowers/decor to a space. She was a patient, and wise listener and teacher. I know she did not ever want any attention called to her, or have her picture taken, but hopefully she knows how much she was loved and appreciated by those who knew her and whose lives she impacted. She will be greatly missed.*

*Praying for comfort and peace for Becci's family and friends as they go through this time of grief and loss, but also rejoicing for Becci that she is with her Lord and Savior, and free of pain, sadness, and the evils of this world.*

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TJ - April 27, 2023 at 11:33 AM