



Donna Walker Johnson

October 20, 1931 - May 5, 2019

Donna Walker Johnson, 87, a gracious community leader and beloved wife, mother and grandmother, died peacefully on Sunday, May 5, 2019 in Charlotte. Donna was born October 20, 1931, the daughter of Earl and Leona (Smurr) Walker. She graduated from Charlotte High School in 1950 and soon after married her life-long love, Richard "Dick" Johnson on October 5, 1952. The two spent 5 months in Memphis, TN, at a national Hardwood Lumber Grading School, before returning home to work in the Johnson family business, L.L. Johnson Lumber.

As a fulltime homemaker and community volunteer, Donna was very busy. She demonstrated to her community the value of service to others and life-long learning. Donna was a member of the General Federation of Women's Club - Charlotte for 63 years and President in 1969-1970. She was co-chairman of the committee that developed the award winning "Charlotte Welcome Sign" which was an award winner at GFWC State Conference. At the State convention they also voted to organize the Mobile Meals of Charlotte program in 1970. She remained engaged with GFWC long after her leadership, attending town-hall meetings and supporting other members in their roles. Donna was a 4-H leader for 9 years helping to teach many young ladies the fine art of sewing. Along with her husband Dick, Donna was on the Explorer Scout Post 45 advisory board and a Pack 45 Cub Scout Den Leader. Donna also served as past chairman of the conservation club and served on the City of Charlotte Park Board, where she was instrumental in adopting and maintaining flower beds through town. She also received a year of art training at MSU Kresge Art Museum, where she then served 12 years as a docent. Donna attended First Congregational Church, taught Sunday school class, and was Women's Fellowship President for 30 years as a member of the Memorial Committee for over 10 years. She also served the church as the Holiday Bazaar chairperson and helped with the Bazaar luncheon every year. She received the Ernie Nash award for Community Service, and in 2014, was recognized for her life's achievements as the recipient of the Charlotte Rotary Clubs prestigious Clyde A. Fulton award. Despite all of these accolades, she remained humble and always focused on others first.

At home, Donna's crafts included decoupage (for which she won first at the State GFWC convention), quilling, candle making, making Artemisia wreaths, card club, and silk ribbon projects. She also collected cardinals, drummer boys and Amanda Bricker flowers. Donna upheld and developed many family traditions throughout the years. The 2 PM Christmas Dinner was always set beautifully with a centerpiece, china, silver and all the trimmings. She made special Christmas Tree-shaped coffee cakes to give as gifts, along with countless plates of goodies, including her Chex Mix treats, she and Dick would so thoughtfully deliver to friends and family. Donna was a fabulous cook and enjoyed time in the kitchen whether at home or on the road in their motor home. When traveling, it wasn't unusual for Dick and Donna to pull into the driveway with dinner ready to share with their weekend hosts. Some of the family's favorites were Donna's Goopy Rolls.

Above all, Donna loved her family. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Richard Johnson; their children, Mark (Becky Gemalsky) Johnson, Sherry Guzy, and Tim (Sally) Johnson; 8 grandchildren, Brooke (Kyle) Stevenson, Noah Johnson, Dara (Koky) Sisoura, Meg (Mark) Robinton, Melissa Guzy, Vaughn (Michele) Johnson, and Connor and Tanner Johnson; 9 great-grandchildren, Emma and Hailey Stevenson, Carson Elizabeth, Beckett, and Reagan Sisoura, Ellie, Cooper and William Robinton, and Katharine Grace Johnson; brother, Larry Walker; and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her sisters, Shirley VanAuker and Joyce Johnson.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2019 at the First Congregational Church of Charlotte with Pastor Curtis Demars-Johnson officiating. Visitation will be from 2:00 - 4:00 and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Memorial donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of Charlotte, Kresge Art Museum, or Eaton Community Palliative Care. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Donna on her Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

MAY 9. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

MAY 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Charlotte
106 S. Bostwick
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Donna Walker Johnson



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 09, 2019 at 05:04 PM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Donna Walker Johnson



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 07, 2019 at 04:29 PM

TM

“ Donna was my very sweet, special and warm hearted "American mom" during my Youth Exchange experience in the United States way back in 1983. She sure knew how to make me feel at home. I have very loving memories of that amazing year. We last saw her and the whole of her family in the summer of 2015. My sons enjoyed spending a couple of days in the Gun Lake cottage. The "Brazilian" branch of the Dick and Donna Johnson family will miss her dearly. Love, Tito Maule

Tito Maule - August 23, 2019 at 02:57 PM

WC

“ We have enjoyed the pleasure of knowing Donna as a “very dear friend” for many years. We began as “back door neighbours” in Paradise RV Park in Sun City, AZ where we quickly “connected” and found ourselves gravitating toward each other. Pleasant early memories of the many meals, the visits, and the times we spent together are great to recall. Our most recent memories of Dick and Donna’s hospitality enjoyed only a few months ago are real treasurers. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Sent with our love.

Wayne & Wyn Clews - May 13, 2019 at 10:35 AM

DB

“ Dave and Kristie Buehler purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donna Walker Johnson.



Dave and Kristie Buehler - May 09, 2019 at 11:23 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donna Walker Johnson.



May 09, 2019 at 10:14 AM

CW

“ Chad & Carol Walker lit a candle in memory of Donna Walker Johnson



Chad & Carol Walker - May 09, 2019 at 07:20 AM

TD

“ I have so many great memories of Dick and Donna and family. They were especially welcomed guests when they came to visit at the cottage because not only would Donna bring dinner but they also brought there own bedroom! So much fun water skiing and rides in Dad's Model A. The best part of winter was meeting up with the whole gang at Caberfae and later at Winter Park for skiing and apres ski dinners and fun. My Mother and Donna were good friends as long as I can remember. After my Mom was ill she would come over and keep my Mom company when Dick and Dad went to Yacht Club. She was a wonderful Mother and a wonderful friend to so many. I will truly miss her. My heart goes out to Dick, Mark, Sherry, and Tim and the rest of the family in this great loss.

Teresa (Pray) Dougherty - May 08, 2019 at 05:56 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna Walker Johnson.*



May 08, 2019 at 03:28 PM



“ *57 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 07, 2019 at 03:26 PM

TF

“ *Ted and Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Donna Walker Johnson.*



Ted and Family - May 07, 2019 at 10:07 AM

BF

“ *My condolences to Donna's family. I met Donna through the GFWC book club we attended. She always came with notes! She was a gracious, kind, and talented woman. Her thoughtful and caring spirit will be missed.*

Brynda Filkins - May 07, 2019 at 08:32 AM

LR

“ *Our heart is saddened hearing of your Donna's passing. After our mom's passing we know how U feel and what U are experiencing emotionally, we will be praying for U all and I can just see mom and dad waiting to greet her at heaven's gate !!*

Larry and Diane Ranshaw - May 06, 2019 at 08:58 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna Walker Johnson.*



May 06, 2019 at 06:57 PM

GC

“ *Donna did so much for, family, church and community, she led by example and will be missed by so many. We are very saddened by the loss of Donna. It was our pleasure to get to know Donna and Dick over the last 35 years at church and community*

Gene and Ruth Conley

Gene Conley - May 06, 2019 at 05:36 PM

PB

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. I met Donna when I started substituting for her bridge group on Monday at Evelyn Bay. I thoroughly enjoyed her, she was so kind and sweet. She made me feel welcome on the very first time I met her and played with her. Prayers to the family.*

Pauline Borgman

Pauline Borgman - May 06, 2019 at 04:41 PM