



Donna Jean Reed

July 14, 1935 - January 3, 2019

Donna Jean (King) Reed, 83, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed peacefully on January 3, 2019 at Sensations Memory Care. Born July 14, 1935 in Charlotte to Lester and Winifred (Carter) King, Donna grew up and always lived in the Charlotte/Olivet area. She graduated from Olivet High School in 1953 as the class valedictorian, and later from Lansing Business University graduated Suma Cum Laude in 1954. Donna worked for Auto Owners Insurance 1954-1958, and later as an executive secretary in the Department of Social Services at the State of Michigan from 1975 until her retirement in 2000. In her spare time, Donna enjoyed doing crossword puzzles, attending musicals and plays, was a book club member, and loved swimming at the Aquatic Center adult swim. She was proud to be the last surviving member of the Northside Mother's Club. Donna and her husband, Roger, enjoyed winter in Texas on South Padre Island.

Donna is survived by her husband of 60 years, Roger Reed; sons, Douglas and Terry Reed; daughter, Janice (Michael) Matsumoto; grandchildren, Alexis Reed, Samantha and Kimberely Matsumoto; 1 great-grandchild; and sister, Leah Sparks. She was predeceased by siblings, Doris Andrus and Mary Fullerton, and her parents.

Friends are encouraged to support Donna's family at visitation and funeral services. Funeral services are Monday, January 7, 2019 11:00 AM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Visitation is Sunday, January 6, 2-4:00 PM and 6-8:00 PM at the funeral home. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to St. John's Episcopal Church or the American Diabetes Association. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Donna on her Tribute Page at <http://www.PrayFuneral.com>. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery

Bosworth Cemetery

6933 South Stine Road
Olivet, MI, 49076

Events

JAN 6 **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

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

JAN 6 **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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JAN 7 **Funeral Ceremony** 11:00AM

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401 W. Seminary St., Charlotte, MI, US, 48813

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - January 04, 2019 at 07:25 PM



“ Roger,
I wish to extend my condolences to you and your family. I schooled with Donna & worked with her & the committee for the combined class reunions ('53, '54, '55). A fine lady & friend. Although she will be missed, cherish your memories & God bless you & your family.
Shirley (Stansbury, Link) Weers
Class of '54, OHS

Shirley (Stansbury, Link) Weers - January 09, 2019 at 02:54 PM



“ Sorry to have missed the service. Donna was such a wonderful woman. Peace be to all who mourn her passing.

--Julie King

Julie King - January 07, 2019 at 11:40 AM



“ Donna was such a lovely person. We are sorry for your loss.
-Irene King and family

Julie King - January 07, 2019 at 11:38 AM



“ I have very fond memories of Donna. In 1985, I arrived one day on her doorstep; the result of a leadership change in the Medicaid program. I was immediately struck by her warmth and her honesty. This was an abrupt change and Donna was very clear about her respect and admiration for my predecessor. She was also very clear that a change had been made and she would do her level best to support me, if I wanted her to continue as my secretary. I knew immediately that I wanted her to stay; mainly because of our prior interactions and her stellar reputation throughout State government.

She never wavered from her commitment to be supportive and helpful as I transitioned over to Medicaid. I quickly came to rely upon her. Somehow, she always managed to find a needed document in her file room, even though the files appeared to everyone, except Donna, to be cluttered and out of control. She was also masterful in handling incoming phone calls; knowing exactly what department could best satisfy an inquiry, or helping an irate citizen, or delicately handling legislative or press inquiries.

Donna was a very smart and talented individual. She understood fully the policies of Medicaid and the people and the organizational structure of the surrounding bureaucracy. She also had a great sense of humor. I remember taking Maria's limo to El Azteco with Donna and Don VeCasey occupying the rumble seat. I also remember the gong show, holiday parties and birthday celebrations. Each special event had her imprint as she helped shape and monitor to make sure that there was a positive impact on staff morale.

I have not seen Donna in a number of year. But, she is one of the few people who keep recurring in my memories. I will always treasure her friendship and remain eternally grateful for her support over the years. To put it simply - she was the best secretary that I every had the pleasure of working with.

Kevin Seitz - January 06, 2019 at 03:26 PM



“ I so much enjoyed working with Donna - she was always so positive and cared for the employees. I'm sure she will be missed!

Eileen Ellis

Eileen Ellis - January 05, 2019 at 11:55 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna Jean Reed.



January 05, 2019 at 11:51 AM



“ 48 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - January 04, 2019 at 06:20 PM



“ We are so saddened to hear of Donna's passing. We send our love and best wishes to Roger and the family. Donna was such a joy to work with. We loved her. She was ever reliable, always cheerful, and completely at ease working with the public and with public servants at the highest levels of government. She could listen to callers and somehow resolve their issues no matter how tough the situation. She was amazing in so many ways, and as has been said, we loved "Mother Donna." Rest in peace, Donna, and prayers to Roger and the family.

Vernon Smith - January 04, 2019 at 03:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donna Jean Reed.



January 04, 2019 at 11:06 AM



“ Very sorry to learn of her passing. We know she is with God now and any suffering is over. We can't attend the funeral as Jane is in bed with a broken collar bone.
God bless,
Neil & Jane King

Neil & Jane King - January 04, 2019 at 10:38 AM



“ To Roger, Doug, Janice, Terry and the rest of the family, I was so sorry to hear about Donna's passing. Like Teri J., I worked with Donna at the Medicaid agency for more than a quarter century and there was a reason we called her "mother" ... she was loving and supportive of us all. She was funny and a joy to be around but was always on top of everything that needed to be accomplished ... and kept us all in line. I regret that I haven't stayed in touch over the last few years but will remember her forever. She will definitely be missed. Rest in piece, Donna.
Esther Reagan

Esther Reagan - January 04, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. She was such a dear lady! Today and always, may loving memories bring you peace, comfort, and strength. With sincere sympathy,
Carrie (Grenawalt) Sobleskey

Carrie Sobleskey - January 04, 2019 at 09:11 AM



“ So sorry for your loss

Laurie Newland - January 04, 2019 at 08:18 AM



“ Teri (and Rick) Johnson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donna Jean Reed.



Teri (and Rick) Johnson - January 04, 2019 at 02:08 AM



“ Roger, Doug, Jan, Terry, and the rest of Donna's family - I am so, so sorry for your loss. Donna was the most generous, kind, smart, hard-working, funny lady I have ever known. I worked with her at the State of Michigan from 1976-2000, and we always had fun no matter what was going on at work. I'll never forget our lunches at the R-Club, along with Maria Trevino and Char Huss. Rest in peace Donna, you've earned your wings!

Teri Johnson

Teri Johnson - January 04, 2019 at 01:48 AM



“ She was always available no matter what..and when Mom died in the car accident Aunti D, took me under her wing and helped me through those 1st awful hours..and laugh OMG she always had something to laugh about...



Carol Williams - January 03, 2019 at 07:41 PM



“ Devastating. So Hard to lose a loved one. I worked with Donna many, many years ago but remember her so well. She was a beautiful person. Endearing, funny, caring and always listening to my problems. Gave me advise when I needed it and boy did I need it. I've missed her in the years that followed since my retirement. My blessings to her beautiful family.

Barbara Kuerbitz-Gietzel

Barbara Kuerbitz-Gietzel - January 05, 2019 at 10:10 AM



“ We just learned of Donna's death. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family she loved so dearly. It was an honor to work with Donna and to know all of you through her. She was a beautiful person, and was kind to everyone. It truly was a privilege to have her as a friend.

Dorothy and John Perri

Dorothy Perri - January 08, 2019 at 09:18 AM