



Donna Marie Drew

December 9, 1938 - October 6, 2018

Donna M. Drew, 79, of Grand Detour, IL, died Saturday, October 6, 2018, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, IL. She was born December 9, 1938, in Lincoln, IL, the daughter of Thomas and Marie (Berlage) Smythe. Donna was a graduate of Dixon High School and graduated from the KSB Hospital School of Nursing in 1959. She worked at KSB Hospital from 1959 to 1985. In 1985 she became health care administrator at the Dixon Correctional Center until her retirement in 2005. Donna was awarded Employee of the Year at the Dixon Correctional Center in 1993. In retirement she worked part time for KSB Occupational Health and the KSB Clinic.

She was a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church and served on the Dixon School Board from 1981 to 1989.

She was a true family matriarch and was fondly referred to as "Sarge" by her children and co-workers; both will no doubt be lost without her direction!

Friends and colleagues say she was a very caring and compassionate nurse who had no trouble taking charge—our Sarge in Charge!

Donna married Francis Drew in Dixon September 12, 1959.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas and Marie Smythe, step sister, Fanny Mae Smythe, and brother-in-law, Jerry Brady.

Donna is survived by her loving husband Francis of 59 years as well as her children, Linda (Jim) Drew-Lass of DeWitt, IA, Jim (Robyn) Drew of Dixon, IL, Steve (Amy) Drew of Gurnee, IL, Pat Drew of Dixon, IL, Dennis (Sherri) Drew of Mt Morris ,IL, Tim (Rhonda) Drew of Grand Detour, IL, fourteen

grandchildren, Chelsey, Garrett, Keegan Lass, Brennan, Connor, Morgan, Shea, Josh, Grace, Kristin, Kaitlyn, Emily, Katie, and Rachel Drew; one brother Tom Smythe of Rockford, IL, two step sisters Betty Ann Dust of Effingham, IL, and Joanne Hickman of Vero Beach, FL, two sisters-in-law, Judy (Ron) Conderman of Dixon, IL, and Sally Brady of Dixon, IL. She will be missed by her cat Boots.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday October 12, 2018, at 10:00 am at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Dixon with the Rev. Thomas Doyle officiating. Cremation will follow with burial of cremains at a later date in Grand Detour Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at St. Anne Catholic Church. Memorials have been established to St. Anne's Catholic Church and a nursing scholarship will be established in her name.

Cemetery Details

Grand Detour Cemetery

Grand Detour, IL 61021

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **11.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Anne Catholic Church
1104 N Brinton Ave
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 288-3131
http://www.stanneschooldixon.org/st_anne_parish.htm

Service

OCT **12.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anne Catholic Church
1104 N Brinton Ave
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 288-3131
http://www.stanneschooldixon.org/st_anne_parish.htm

Tribute Wall



“ *Donna Marie Drew*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Donna Marie Drew*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *I just moved back to the Dixon area in mid-September. During a get-together tonight with old friends, I asked about the Drews and said I wanted to look them up. I was heartbroken to hear of Donna's passing on Oct. 6. She and Francis and her lovely family were some of our first (and longest) customers at the Colonial Rose in Grand Detour. They became close friends during my time there. My deepest condolences to Francis and all of her children -- and a special shout-out to her cat, Boots.*

Jayne Rodriguez Rose - October 16, 2018 at 10:51 PM



“ *I will greatly miss my Aunt Donna. She was a strong woman whom I admired greatly. I will keep my Uncle and cousins in my daily prayers.....Pam Hickman Wilson*

Pam Hickman Wilson - October 15, 2018 at 05:57 PM

SD

“ My sympathy to all of Donna’s family. I worked with Donna for many years. She earned her name ‘Sarge’, but had the greatest smile and a huge heart behind her ‘get tough attitude’. May you Rest In Peace.

Sue Devers - October 13, 2018 at 02:53 PM

PD

“ Donna will be dearly missed by all of us at Pam's Hallmark! She was always on the hunt for a special gift when she came in and we loved to have her! She was always in a good mood and we had the pleasure of having her in to shop just Friday afternoon on her way to physical therapy and she told us she was not looking forward to her appointment and she came to the store just to get herself in a positive mood before she went. She was definitely one of our favorite customers and we will miss having her stop in to see us in the middle of running her errands. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and everyone who loved her!

Pam Daws - October 11, 2018 at 05:25 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Drew.



October 11, 2018 at 01:55 PM

AA

“ Donna was my mentor. I started at Dixon CC the end of 1999. Her presence both in the HCU (Health Care Unit) and in the facility as a whole showed her strength and the respect she had from the wardens down to line staff in any department. After Donna had retired, years later I considered the position previously held by her so I called her to ask her advice. She offered for me to come to her home to meet with her. Never had I had better advice coming from the woman who built this HCU. Her coaching and encouragement made the difference in my ability to do my job to this day. "Know your contracts. Communicate. Stand your ground." It has served me well.

When I heard of her passing last weekend I was very sad. Reaching out to several of my current and former co-workers we all shared similar stories of her to include when you knew Donna walked in because you could hear her shoes clicking on the floors. It made everyone stand a little straighter and tow the line a little harder because she had that effect on everyone.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Donna's family. Donna was a strong, respected woman who for us, will never be forgotten.

-Amber Allen

Amber Allen - October 11, 2018 at 09:12 AM

TF

“ The Dust family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Donna Marie Drew.



The Dust family - October 10, 2018 at 10:43 PM

SS

“ *Sandy Schamerger lit a candle in memory of Donna Marie Drew*



Sandy Schamerger - October 10, 2018 at 02:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Drew.*



October 10, 2018 at 01:59 PM

RW

“ *Dear Francis and family,
Our memories of Donna-our fun family and working times- are many.
Be assured you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are sorry we cannot be there to give hugs and comfort.
Love,
Randy and Connie Walcott
Melissa and Derrick Mitchell and family
Tracy and Mark VanWeelden and family
Amanda Walcott*

Randy and Connie Walcott - October 10, 2018 at 11:10 AM

RW

“ Francis (Junior) and family. So sorry to hear of your loss. Stay strong at this sad time and may God bless all your family.

Roger Wolfe

Roger Wolfe - October 10, 2018 at 08:16 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Drew.



October 09, 2018 at 05:31 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Drew.



October 09, 2018 at 11:36 AM

CC

“ Worked with Donna from 1995 till her retirement what year? She had her children in tennis with my parents by far one of the best nurse colleagues supervisors I had in my careers my prayers go out to the family

Cecelia Fitzhugh RN retired Montrose Col - October 08, 2018 at 07:04 PM