



Donna Rae Caquelin

October 17, 1932 - January 18, 2021

Donna Rae (Lindstrom) Caquelin passed peacefully to her heavenly home on Monday, January 18, 2021 with family at her side. Donna was born on October 17, 1932 in Wright County, Iowa to parents Lenwood and Margaret (Beach) Lindstrom. As the oldest, Donna loved and cared for her sisters, Lynn, Dalene, and Diana, and often commented about her father's plight in a houseful of girls. Donna was a lifelong learner and teacher and shared stories of her early teaching years in an Iowa country school where she was responsible for bringing in the wood and starting the woodstove for heat before the students arrived. Donna married Richard Dean Caquelin on November 22, 1951 and was well-loved by the Caquelin family. As they raised their children, Marcy Lynn and Lennie Ray, in Clarion, Iowa, Donna continued her teaching career. They later moved to Des Moines where Donna taught elementary classes, including drama, in the Des Moines Public Schools. She loved theater and even in later years enjoyed going to local school plays, always commenting on the set design, lighting and other aspects of the production.

Donna and Richard later moved to Phoenix, Arizona where they enjoyed warm, sunny weather and the company of extended family in that area. Donna was an avid reader and was often found with a book in hand. She continued teaching in the Phoenix area and eventually they settled in Sun City.

Donna was a strong and courageous woman, traits that were needed as she faced the loss of their teenage daughter in 1972 after a long battle with

Hodgkins Lymphoma and later dealing with the death of her husband in 2013, followed a few years later by their son's death after an extended illness. She was able to draw from her faith and family for comfort to carry her through hard circumstances. She loved spending time with nephews and nieces, and their home was often open for extended visits. Following her husband's death, Donna relocated to Minnesota to be near Lennie and his family. She found a good home at Mainstreet Village in Richfield where she enjoyed the companionship of other seniors and the activities provided: regular outings to restaurants, school plays, farmers markets and holiday light tours as well as programs and birthday celebrations onsite. Her upbeat attitude and sense of humor provided lots of storytelling and lively conversation with her new neighbors. As her health weakened, Donna moved into Mainstreet's assisted living apartments where she received compassionate care by their dedicated staff.

Donna is survived by sister, Diana (John) Kowal of VanCleave, MS; daughter-in-law Suzanne Caquelin of Richfield, MN; grandson Matthew (Jennifer) Caquelin and granddaughter Kristin (Adam Proulx) Caquelin; great-grandchildren Sebastian and Savannah Caquelin and Aaron Proulx. She is also survived by her brother-in-law Jack Hansen (AZ) and sisters-in-law Rachael Kvapil (IA), Norma Ellen Caquelin (IA) and Norma Lee Caquelin (CA), along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, including Deb Elston Schendt (IA).

Preceding Donna in death were her parents; husband Richard; children Marcy and Lennie; sisters, Lynn Bierl and Dalene Hansen; sister-in-law Amie Lois Foster, brothers-in-law Duane Bierl, Melvin Caquelin, Don Caquelin, Kenneth Caquelin, and great-grandson Simon Caquelin.

May God bless our precious memories of Donna as she will be deeply missed.

A family memorial gathering is being planned at a later date. Contact Suzanne at scaquelin@yahoo.com for further details.

Tribute Wall

AL

“ Donna was such a kind soul with a heart of gold. I cherish the times we spent together as well as the many conversations we shared on the phone. I always loved going to visit Dick and Donna in Des Moines because it typically meant a trip to Chucky Cheese and playing multiple games of Yahtzee. When they moved to Arizona, we went to the zoo and casino, visited with family, played multiple games of Yahtzee, and continued to enjoy their local pizza places during our visits. I feel truly blessed that my own children got to meet Donna and know how special she was to me and the rest of my family. I take comfort in knowing she is finally back with Dick, Marcy and Lennie. What a reunion that must have been. I can still hear her saying, "Oh I love you too, honey. Bye-bye." She was one in a million and I will miss her always.

Amy Link - January 25, 2021 at 06:23 PM

MJ

“ I am Dick's cousin and was very close to the family for years. She wad welcomed into the Caquelin family and enriched the family so much. Then time and distance changed and we didn't communicate often. Then thanks to Rev. David Foster, I got reacquainted and shared old memories and new ones. Donna was a very special person and loved unconditionally,

Mari Johnson - January 25, 2021 at 12:04 PM

PM

“ I live in AZ and made two visits to see Dick and Donna. She was always welcoming and loved to speak of her children. I'm happy to see after Dick passed away that she returned closer to family and a new home that she loved. She was a great story teller of the "old days" and I can still hear her say "Dick" when she thought he was speaking out of line. They were a great couple.

Paula Shillington McCloskey - January 24, 2021 at 03:03 PM

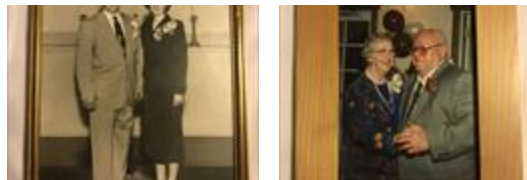


“ I am blessed to have had Donna in my life as what I would call my “bonus grandmother.” As a child, some of my favorite memories are of visiting Dick and Donna in Des Moines and all the experiences we shared. Donna was so strong, so wise and so caring and no doubt generations of students were lucky to have learned from her. I'd like to think she and my Grandma Betty are now watching over all of us as they enjoy their coffee and read books together. I love you, Donna, and you will be missed greatly.

Angie Krieger - January 24, 2021 at 12:35 PM

SC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Suzanne Caquelin - January 24, 2021 at 09:19 AM