



## Donna Lou Froelich

June 19, 1928 - October 16, 2021

Donna Barry Froelich died peacefully in her sleep October 16, 2021 after a lengthy tango with cancer. A woman who lived her life in grace will be known to all who knew and loved her as spreading kindness and song to everyone she met.

Donna was born on June 19, 1928 in Duluth, MN to P. James and May (Zaiser) Barry. Even as a young girl she was known for her beautiful soprano voice and won a regional talent show for a chance to make a record and audition for the Little Rascal movie franchise. Donna graduated from Denfeld High School and moved to Ft. Snelling with her family, taking a secretarial job on the base to help in the war effort while studying voice performance at the McPhail School of Music. After the war was over, she met the love of her life Robert "Red" Froelich on a blind double date with a friend. Unfortunately, he was supposed to be her friend's date rather than hers. With her friend's blessing, Donna and Red's began their own romance culminating in a marriage proposal.

Donna and Red married in 1951 in the historic Ft. Snelling chapel and embarked on their first stage of life as a military family. They raised their four children on numerous Air Force bases, where Donna often had to become a single mother during Red's many overseas deployments. After retirement Donna and Red settled down into their very first house in Coon Rapids, MN in

1968 where they happily remained in one place for nearly than three decades.

Donna was a long-time employee of the former Mork Clinic in Anoka MN and an active voice in the United Methodist Church choir, and as a soloist at many weddings and funerals in the area. She was famous among her extended family for having the presence to sing The Lord's Prayer at all four of her children's weddings without crying until she sat down. Donna was active in local community musical theater including the Anoka Opera Ensemble excelling in Gilbert and Sullivan productions where she was well known for her beautiful voice and her two left feet.

After retirement, Donna and Red returned to winter many times at his last station in Panama City, FL until they were temporarily parted by his death in 2004. She continued to winter there in the company of her beloved sister Virginia Olson for many years.

In 2020, she entered hospice care after learning that the lung cancer she had beaten years before had returned in an untreatable state. At the start of the first Covid quarantine she told one of daughters that she did not want an in-person service until the crisis had passed. "I'll be really upset if someone dies because of coming to my funeral." A memorial service will be scheduled in the spring after the current surge has abated to honor her wishes.

Donna loved her family and friends without measure and maintained close friendships with her childhood schoolmates and friends scattered throughout the company. She is survived by her children; Kim (Steve) Stenehjem, Kris (Ed) Eide, Kathy (John) Tondig, and Robb (Linda) Froelich; the many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who were the light of her life; by her sister Virginia Olson and many nieces and nephews.

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ Please accept my sympathy at this time of Donna's passing. She was a great, kind lady who shared her talents with everyone. I will miss her at church, but can see her face in my mind. Thank you for the beautiful messages about her life you gave us.  
We will remember her from Anoka United Methodist Church.  
Thinking of you with love at this time,  
Mary Walker Hanson

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**Mary Walker Hanson** - October 29, 2021 at 09:54 AM

MG

“ Donna was always so good to me. My mother Pauline Ganser always talked of her and Red. I have thought of her often over the years.

Sending love,  
Mike Ganser

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**mike ganser** - October 27, 2021 at 01:27 PM

WV

“ Condolences to the Froelich family! Donna had such a beautiful voice and such a commanding presence when she sang her solos and duets at the United Methodist Church. My parents, Clyde and Charity were Donna's contemporaries and I remember many Sunday afternoons commenting on a beautiful duet with Kris, in particular, or with Paul Pierce. Thank you to her for enriching our Sunday morning service experiences!

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**Wes Volkenant** - October 27, 2021 at 12:33 AM