



Donna Marie Graves

August 26, 1941 - February 20, 2022

Donna Marie Dyke Graves was born August 26, 1941, in Parsons, KS to Mildred Rogalsky and Victor Dyke. She was the oldest of 6 children. She grew up in Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri, on farms and ranches where she learned a love for the land and its creatures. A love she kept and passes on to her children.

On August 14, 1965, she married Bruce Leon Graves and moved to his hometown of Siloam Springs, AR. She had five children. Her marriage was cut short by Bruce's untimely death in 1981. Over the next two years her beloved father and M. I. L. (Hazel Daisy Graves, a woman she revered) passed. With the help of extended family on both sides she raised 5 children on a working ranch. She owned a fabric shop for a time before going back to her true career love which was nursing. She was immensely proud of being one of the first Cardiovascular Intensive Care Units in the nation.

She loved beautiful things. Many of which she made herself. She was a fierce self learner. Her children wore clothes that she made and lived in a house that she modified and decorated herself.

She loved her farm and its animals. One of her favorite times of year was calving season and watching the calves running in formation.

She taught her children by giving them experiences and telling them to “look things up” and to “figure things out.” She gave us a house full books to do so.

She became adept at technology. She learned to use an iPad and an iPhone well, in the last year of her life. She remained current on events and had a nuanced view of the world.

She loved her children and grandchildren most of all. We miss her terribly and don't know what we will do without her. We are certain that with her teachings we will figure it out.

Donna is survived by her sons, Charles Leon Graves and wife Mary of Joplin, Missouri and John T. Graves and wife Kellie of Sapulpa, Oklahoma; daughters, Teri Williams of Joplin, Missouri, Dawn Gates and husband Tony of Little Rock, Arkansas, Amy Trammell and husband Earl of Gentry, Arkansas; brothers, Tom and Jim Dyke of Gridley, Kansas, Ron Dyke of Wichita, Kansas, and Gary Dyke of Belleville Kansas; sister, Vicki Barrett of Alta Vista, Kansas; eighteen grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 26, 2022, at Wasson Memorial Chapel, Siloam Springs, Arkansas with Pastor Tim Estes officiating.

If you prefer, in lieu of flowers please donate to the charity of your choice in memory of Donna M. Graves. Acknowledgements may be sent to the: The Graves Family, 5145 E. 14th St., Joplin, MO, 64801

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **26**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home

441 U.S. 412

Siloam Springs, AR 72761

(479) 524-5131

wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com

<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Donna was a great person, she taught me many things as i started my nursing career. I worked for her in ICU for several years, I will always remember her. Then i was working at Highlands as she became a patient there. Loved this lady and she will be missed.* ”

Georgenia Harrs - March 16, 2022 at 05:58 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes* ”



Wasson Funeral Home - February 26, 2022 at 10:06 AM

IR

“ Donna and her family have been wonderful, hard working neighbors of ours for over 45 years. She was my Dad's nurse when he was dying of cancer, and we all loved her for all she did for him! She was a great nurse! She never stopped working. I remember she was finishing some of her own cancer treatments and her cows got out, and there she was outside trying to get them in when we ran over there to help. You just could not keep her down! I cannot imagine how much you all will miss her! She leaves a great legacy for you kids and grandkids!! She'll never be further than that memory in your hearts! She's in each of you! You all remain in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time. May God BLESS each of you and give you peace during this difficult time.



Irene & Jim Roberts

Irene & Jim Roberts - February 25, 2022 at 07:06 PM

TW

I remember Donna and her wonder caring eyes and positive outlook.

*She would recall memories with laughter and always care deeply for each of her nephews and nieces
What a lady!*

I think about her as I see her on my phone screen and thankful for how she blessed me

Ted

Ted Williams - May 06, 2022 at 10:41 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Graves.*



February 25, 2022 at 06:11 PM



“ *Karen Davis lit a candle in memory of Donna Marie Graves*



Karen Davis - February 24, 2022 at 10:28 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Graves.*



February 24, 2022 at 03:40 PM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Graves.*



February 23, 2022 at 07:36 PM



“ *Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Graves.*



February 23, 2022 at 02:38 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Graves.*



February 23, 2022 at 02:17 PM



“ *Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Graves.*



February 23, 2022 at 12:08 PM

ME

“ I have always been a little bit in awe of Aunt Donna - I found her strength of spirit and self-sufficient nature something of legend (seriously, I talk about her amazingness to my friends), but I think it was her "get it done" attitude that most captivated me. She was someone who got. it. done. (and so many "it"s to boot) against all odds. She was amazing.

I remember my Mama telling several stories about your Mom. She told me about how she was the best nurse Mama had ever had - how she never missed one of Mama's veins (and she had the worst veins) - apparently one time Mama was in the hospital and whoever was her nurse kept missing getting her iv in, and wiggling the needle and complaining about the tiny veins – Mama begged them to get your Mom, and of course, she came right away and got the iv in with no problem. Mama told me how when she had her appendix out, Aunt Donna made her get up and walk right away. It wasn't hospital protocol, but Donna was before her time - she knew walking and standing up straight were key to healing quickly from the surgery and she didn't let up. Mama also told me how your Mom taught her to sew. Mama was never the seamstress your Mom was, but Aunt Donna was super patient with her, and when Mama kept ripping out seams because they weren't perfect, your Mom marched her into JC Penney and started grabbing dresses off the rack, examining the seams and pointing out the imperfections to Mama. That made a huge impact on my perfectionist Mama. Of course, she also told Mama to get an electric pedal, the manual pedal was not going to work out for Janet! Aunt Donna was big in my Mama's life, and she was big in mine.

I will always remember her grace under pressure, her strength in the face of obstacles, her love of hard work and the way she believed (rightly so) that if something could be done, she could do it. I'm so thankful I got to be her niece. Even though I haven't seen her in years, knowing she is no longer here I miss her and the world feels a bit emptier. I love you all, and I'm so, so sorry for your loss.

Michelle Emmitt - February 23, 2022 at 11:16 AM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Graves.



February 23, 2022 at 10:33 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Happy memories of her as one of my delightful school parents.*

Betty Southerland - February 23, 2022 at 08:55 AM

ME

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Michelle Emmitt - February 22, 2022 at 11:24 PM



“ *Multicolor Pastel Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Graves.*



February 22, 2022 at 09:14 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Donna Marie Graves.*



February 22, 2022 at 05:46 PM



“ *Renea Hill Ellis lit a candle in memory of Donna Marie Graves*



Renea Hill Ellis - February 22, 2022 at 03:34 PM