



## Donna St. John

August 31, 1942 - May 1, 2022

Our beloved mother and wife passed away on the morning of Sunday, May 1st peacefully in her sleep at her Royal Oak home at the Age of 79.

Donna was the anchor of our family, and she loved us more than anyone or anything else in the world. She was overjoyed with the recent arrival of her grandson, and she relished the opportunity to play with him in person and view pictures and videos of him online.

Donna loved sharing stories with her family members, and loved sharing stories about her family members to anyone else who would listen. For the first time since 1974, it's too damn quiet on Carman Avenue in Royal Oak.

Donna was a teacher in the Warren Consolidated School District for 35 years before retiring, and she was passionate about education and kids. We kindly ask that you donate <http://paypal.me/colecanoebase> in her honor to CCB Camperships [https://colecanoebase.com/support\\_cole/camperships.php](https://colecanoebase.com/support_cole/camperships.php), a charity that helps needy kids go to summer camp, in lieu of any flowers or other gifts.

Donna is survived by her husband Mike, her sons Michael and Mark, her two daughters-in-law Sara and Elizabeth and her grandson Sam.

We are honoring Donna's wishes to not hold visitation or funeral services, and we will instead plan an event to celebrate her life this summer. We greatly appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers.

# Tribute Wall

BD

“ Will always remember the yearly trips to Ontario to see Stratford plays. We shared stories and laughter.

---

**Beverly Drews** - May 16, 2022 at 09:44 AM

M(

“ I remember Donna most from the countless graduation parties, showers, weddings, and more that she attended. I recall her in her Kimball Knights sweater, probably at the football games with my parents (Pat and Maryann Messing). I was one of the little kids shaking my milk jug filled with pebbles and cheering for the marching band. During our many graduation parties I remember her walking up our driveway with her big smile and tremendous joy. Totally infectious and delightfully genuine! Donna always made a point to stop by us kids to say hi and ask about our lives. She loved seeing the babies at the showers as the years went on. She always attended, which I'm sure was difficult. Now that I'm older I realize her skill for making connections was fostered by her many years in education. It's no surprise to see that she's requested donations for a children's camp. That type of passion continues to impact lives, it doesn't fade. I can only imagine how many children she was able to spread her joy to. I'll remember her fondly.

-Monica Brennan (Messing)

---

**Monica Brennan (Messing)** - May 02, 2022 at 06:49 PM

BM

*Donna & I have known each other for many years. We met at swim aerobics at Balley's on 8 Mile near Greenfield. She loved the water!! More recently, after I moved from Detroit to Royal Oak (9yrs) less than a mile from Donna & Mike, we started going to LA Fitness. In the beginning we did go to a few classes earlier in the morning then since went on our own. We both liked to sleep in! ,z Like my mother she would clip articles of interest out & share them. Always learning new ideas!*

*Donna had a great love for her family! Telling great stories that kept you entertained for hours.*

*Donna, Mike, Ted - my new hubby of almost 3 years & I went to a Sing-a-long in Pleasant Ridge, a food truck in Royal Oak, out to dinner locally. We went to visit them in Florida for a day trip. All good memories!*

*Donna will be missed by many! She lived a good long life & now she can Rest In Peace without pain!*

---

**Bonnie Miller** - May 06, 2022 at 02:54 PM

DG

“ *Donna was the first person to greet me when I moved across the street from her and Mike over 20 years ago. She greeted me with a beautiful smile and told me how much I was going to love the neighborhood. She also introduced me to her family, and it was obvious that they were the lights of her life.*

*Over the years, we would share “teacher” stories, as well as tales of treasured grandchildren and family and travels.*

*I will miss her sweet smile, her friendly spirit, and her generous nature. Carman Avenue will definitely not be the same without her.*

---

**Donna Gillespie** - May 02, 2022 at 05:53 PM

GO

“ *Donna and Mike were wonderful neighbors when we lived next door. Such nice people! RIP, Donna.  
Gena Olson (nee Brown, I*

---

**Gena Olson** - May 02, 2022 at 04:58 PM

DM

“ *Donna is our beloved neighbor that welcomed us when we moved in. She had a sparkling personality that made us love her. We are missing her 😞 May she rest in peace Amen ❤️*

---

**Dolores Manriquez** - May 02, 2022 at 04:20 PM