



Donna Beth Worden

October 23, 1943 - March 29, 2023

Our mother, Donna Beth (Alexander) Worden, passed away suddenly on March 29, 2023. She had been living in North Carolina for years and enjoyed many friendships there, but her wish was to be buried in Michigan near her young son and parents. There will be a small graveside service on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 11:00 am at Oakview Cemetery, 1032 N. Main St., Royal Oak, Michigan.

Mom grew up in Hazel Park, Michigan, and married the boy across the street. She and Dad moved a lot throughout their marriage and endured some hardships-the worst of which was losing their 5 year old son. She died on his birthdate, which somehow seems fitting: she always thought of him and maybe it was one last way to include him in our family's history.

She fell in love with our little house on Fern Street in Royal Oak and insisted that we stay there "to let the kids finish school in one place". She was so pleased when they said she won the award for the most beautiful yard in the neighborhood. She worked as a cashier but enjoyed her neighborhood friends and always kept up with old friends. We moved to North Carolina during a recession where they purchased 3 acres from a long-time friend and began building a log cabin. It took 5 years but we finished it! They lived there some years before a brief move to Colorado to be near their first grandchild. They moved back to Lenoir, NC, in a more conventional neighborhood where they

lived a quiet life. Mom had a big yard for her plants and flowers and had to constantly remind Dad to mow the grass, which was not his favorite chore. We joked about how he rode the mower like his hair was on fire, trying to get through it as quickly as possible, often cutting down her flowers. It was a hard time when Dad got cancer but Mom was his willing caregiver until she had to have heart surgery near the very end. She tackled life as a widow with the same quiet acceptance of the situation that she showed through many challenges during her life.

Our Mom was a person of great humility, always grateful for the small things. Springtime was her favorite time, as she had a very green thumb and loved to see flowers and plants in full bloom. Mom was truly delighted with children and had a way of making them feel like they were special. She was the person who always smiled and started a conversation with the kid peeking over the back of the booth in a restaurant. She loved the beach and always had such appreciation for the sound of the waves, the cries of the seagulls and the feel of the ocean breeze. She used to pull the car over to the side of the road just to say "Look at the moon coming up! Isn't that beautiful?" Mom had a genuine curiosity about everyone's stories, asking questions and always interested in the answers. She missed her mother every day since 1989, often saying she wished she could hear Grandma's voice one more time. As we lay our own mother to rest, we know now how she felt.

Loving mother of Amy Westmoreland (Kevin Westmoreland) of Hendersonville, NC; Nicole Messing (Bryan Messing) of Candler, NC; and Dan Worden (Kristy Worden) of Holly, MI. Cherished grandmother of Matthew Westmoreland (Ohio), Lauren Westmoreland (Colorado), Samuel Messing, Delaney Messing, and Dakota Keene. Preceded in death by her son, Scott Andrew Worden, and her husband, Henry Andrew Worden.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Riley Howell Foundation, 4

Vanderbilt Park Drive, Suite 300, Asheville, NC 28803.

Cemetery Details

Oakview Cemetery

1032 N. Main Street
(south of 12 Mile Road)
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Previous Events

Burial

APR **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Oakview Cemetery
1032 N. Main Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall

SS

“ A lovely heartwarming & humorous tribute to a equally wonderful & lovely humorous Donna. My Mom just loved Donna; who couldn't just love Donna?? We all did....from DeVillen Ave in Royal Oak to Bee Mountain Road in Lenoir & beyond. :-) Thank you Amy, Nicole & Dan for sharing these wonderful memories & for the Riley Howell Foundation info. Love to all Wardens & extended family, Susie Blythe Simpson

Susan Simpson - April 25, 2023 at 10:46 AM

JM

“ Donna, I love you. You were the best friend anyone could ever have.
I will miss you every single day for the rest of my life.

joyce matczak - April 20, 2023 at 09:06 AM

JO

“ Joyce purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Donna Beth Worden.



Joyce - April 17, 2023 at 05:02 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donna Beth Worden.



April 17, 2023 at 02:03 PM

NM

“ So sorry for the loss of your mother! What a beautiful tribute the obituary was to her I know it would make her smile. It brought tears to my eyes as I too lost my mother three years ago. Thanks for sharing your awesome memories with us!

Nancy Melcher - April 17, 2023 at 09:35 AM

PF

“ Although we only saw Donna a couple times she instantly became a part of our family. She was that type of person.
So very sorry for your loss . May your memories comfort you.
Phyllis and Ted Franks

Phyllis Franks - April 14, 2023 at 08:30 AM

TA

“ Every time I talked to her was a Memory. I will miss her forever,💔
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Terry Alexander - April 13, 2023 at 02:57 PM