



Donna Ankenbauer

January 24, 1934 - July 3, 2024

Donna Mae Ankenbauer, age 90, passed away peacefully, Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at the Manning Regional Healthcare Center in Manning, Iowa.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Dedham. The Celebrant will be Fr. Patrick Behm assisted by Deacon Louis Meiners. Music will be by Cindy Bauer and the St. Joseph's Choir. Lector will be Julie Greving. Gift Bearers will be the Mike and Lizzy Heinrichs Family. Eucharistic Minister will be Linda Sporrer. Casket bearers will be Joshua Halterman, Zachary Halterman, Nathaniel Halterman, Daniel Halterman, Travis Hilgenberg, Trevor Hilgenberg, Tyler Hilgenberg, Tiffany Fatka, and Lukas Volman. Burial will be in the Newton Township Cemetery near Dedham.

A visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday at the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll. A Rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m. The casket will be moved to St. Joseph's Church on Wednesday morning where visitation will resume from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

In lieu of flowers donations will be distributed to Donna's favorite charitable organizations.

Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sharp Funeral Home in

Carroll, and online condolences may be left for Donna's family at www.sharpfuneral.com.

Donna was born on January 24, 1934, a daughter of Leo and Hilda (Underberg) Stangl. She graduated from St. Joseph's School in Dedham in 1948, and later St. Angela's Academy in Carroll in 1952.

On January 24, 1952, Donna married her high school sweetheart, Dean Ankenbauer in Ogden, Iowa. They were married by Fr. Koester who grew up in Dedham, and was a former neighbor of the Stangl family. They raised three loving daughters in their Dedham home: Rae, Gae, and Kay.

Dean and Donna opened Donna's Café on September 21, 1958. Many memories and stories abound regarding the café. They enjoyed making people laugh and making sure no one went away hungry. They worked hard and long hours as Donna's was open seven days a week. Donna's Café was sold in 1985 due to Dean's health. Donna provided the very best of care for Dean until his passing on May 24, 1988.

After Dean's death, Donna enrolled in the nursing program at DMAACC in Carroll. She graduated from DMAACC as a Registered Nurse. She was employed as an RN at the Village Clinic in Coon Rapids for 15 years. She retired from there in 2005 and then worked part time for McFarland Clinic in Carroll.

A life well lived sums up Donna's life. She enjoyed bowling, golfing, traveling, cooking, baking and most of all her family and friends. She enjoyed helping others as well. She was a generous woman who loved people. In 1998 she was presented the Governor's Volunteer Award. She was always proud to call Dedham home. She assisted with the Dedham Centennial, the Dedham, Quasquicentennial, and the St. Joseph Centennial books. She belonged to

the St. Joseph Parish and guild, Legion Auxiliary, and was a lifetime member of the Dedham Booster Club.

Most of all Donna loved her family. She truly believed they were all perfect, even though they knew they weren't. One of her favorite sayings was "I love my girls". She will be dearly missed by many but she left us with many cherished memories.

Left to celebrate her life are her daughters, Rae (Dan) Halterman of Lake View, Gae (Ric) Hilgenberg of Avoca, and Kay (Steven) Volman of Grand Junction, CO. Nine grandchildren: Josh (Reanna), Zach (Nicki), Nat (Jennifer Diggers), Daniel (Holly Nicely) Halterman, Travis (Kim), Trevor (Tia), Tyler (Brooke) Hilgenberg, Tiffany (Matt) Fatka, and Lukas Volman; 19 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren; two sisters: Linda (Harlan) Sedivey of Omaha, and Marilyn Stangl (Frank Matulich) of Bellevue, WA. Two sisters-in-law: Judy Ankenbauer of Dedham, and Diane (Ray) Kitt of Dedham; a brother-in-law: Harry (Betty) Ankenbauer of Milford, MI, as well as many nieces, nephews, and other extended relatives.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband Dean, parents, Leo and Hilda Stangl; brothers: Anthony (infancy), Billy Lee (infancy), Robert (Rosie) Stangl; parents-in-law: Bernard and Freda Ankenbauer; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Doug (Cleo) Ankenbauer, Robert Ankenbauer, Linda (Lloyd) Robinson.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **9**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sharp Funeral Home ~ Carroll, Iowa
226 W. 8th St.
Carroll, IA 51401
(712) 792-4301
info@sharpfuneral.com
<https://www.sharpfuneral.com>

Mass of the Christian Burial

JUL **10**. 10:30 AM.

St. Joseph'S Catholic Church

Tribute Wall

BI

“ Brad And Carrie Irlbeck lit a candle in memory of Donna Ankenbauer



Brad and Carrie Irlbeck - July 10, 2024 at 12:11 PM

WN

“ To Donna's family: You have our deepest sympathy in the loss of your dear Donna. She was certainly a positive force that left her communities a better place. She had a great smile and was always interested in other people.
Her lasting legacy will be her kindness and love. Wes/CJ Niles, Carroll

Wes/CJ Niles - July 09, 2024 at 09:26 AM

DW

“ My condolences in the loss of your mother. She was always so nice and she never met a stranger.

Dee Winnett

Dee Winnett - July 08, 2024 at 07:51 PM

DF

A friend to all, with unconditional positive regard toward others. Her kind and generous spirit were the basis of her personality. Donna's was a life well lived.

David Farrell - July 28, 2024 at 10:05 PM

JK

“ I've loved reading all the wonderful stories here. My Godmom was truly a generous person who touched and inspired many. I am privileged to have known her. She will be missed, but I think we can all take comfort in the knowledge she is in a better place.



*Love and best wishes,
Jerrod Kitt and family*

Jerrod Kitt - July 07, 2024 at 12:13 AM

MB

“ Our deepest sympathy to all the family. May God grant you peace at this time. May your memories be everlasting.
Mike & Jan Boes

Mike & Jan Boes - July 06, 2024 at 02:02 PM

VD

“ Vickie Duff lit a candle in memory of Donna Ankenbauer



Vickie Duff - July 06, 2024 at 10:46 AM

NF

“ From: Neil Ankenbauer and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Ankenbauer.

Neil Ankenbauer and Family - July 05, 2024 at 10:38 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donna Ankenbauer.*



July 05, 2024 at 10:38 PM



“ *I'm so saddened about Donna's passing. She was such a special lady. I have so many fond memories over the years. From the time I would get to go with you Gae to your house for my flower girl dress fittings for your and Ric's wedding all the way up to as of late. The times spent at the Cafe, and the bags of candy your dad would send home with us, oh boy! And when your mom moved into Brad and my apartment complex when she was in nursing school. She was the bright light in any room she walked through and will truly be missed by so many. Thinking of you all during this most difficult time. Penny and Brad*

Penny Kerns - July 05, 2024 at 08:32 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of your mother passing away Gae and family. It's so hard to loose your mother at any age. May she rest in peace. ☐*

Bev Vonnahme - July 05, 2024 at 06:29 PM

KG

“ So sorry to hear of Donna’s passing. She was a wonderful woman with a huge heart. My first job was waitressing at Donna’s Cafe! I have such fond memories growing up with their cafe being a staple in the Dedham community. Everyone knew Donna and Dean! Prayers for Donna’s family and may you find peace knowing she and Dean are together again.

Kris (Heman) Gross - July 05, 2024 at 02:50 PM

AO

“ Ann Olesen lit a candle in memory of Donna Ankenbauer



Ann Olesen - July 05, 2024 at 02:44 PM

LH

“ Donna was one super lady!! Will never forget all the memories of her at Donna’s Cafe with Dean. She treated us all as “ her kids.”What a wonderful pillar of the Dedham community. She will be missed.

Larry & Anne Heithoff - July 04, 2024 at 02:21 PM

MM

One of the best places to eat was at Donna’s Cafe in Dedham . We would ride our bikes into town for Church in the summer time and after we would go to Donna’s for a pop and chips before heading home . She will be missed by her family and friends

marla meister - July 04, 2024 at 04:13 PM

SP

A legend is someone who leaves behind an unforgettable impression on others. Donna was and will always be a legend in the eyes of us who lived in Dedham. There was nothing finer than walking up thru the alley to the cafe for the infamous french fries that Donna perfected. She is touching God's hand now...how lucky he is to have her. Love and prayers to her family.

Sherry Pomeroy - July 05, 2024 at 09:19 AM