



Donna Wilkins

October 3, 1930 - January 2, 2022

Donna Grace Garrett was born to John F. Garrett and Grace B. Frost on October 3, 1930 and passed away January 2, 2022 at Heritage Crossings in Geneva, NE at the age of 91. Donna was the youngest of five children, siblings: David, Lowell, Evelyn, and Norma.

Donna's mother passed away when she was 13 years old and other than a brief stay in California, she lived most her life in Fillmore County. She graduated from Geneva High School and soon after married the love of her life, John Wilkins of Geneva on February 23, 1949. Together they were blessed with 8 children.

Dear friends, Don and Eleanor Kimbrough, were not only traveling buddies but their families shared a very special relationship. Donna received Christ as her Savior shortly after being married and Eleanor was a great encouragement to Donna's faith. Together they taught a weekly afterschool Good News Bible Club for decades. Through the years she and Eleanor shared God's love with many children. Donna was very passionate about inviting new people to Christian Women's Club and Friendship Bible Coffee studies in her home as a way to encourage women and share her faith. She and John were able to go on numerous trips together creating many wonderful memories and relationships with dear friends.

Another joy for Donna was being involved in the horse business with John. She loved to see her kids compete and was so proud of their accomplishments. Donna will always be remembered for sharing meals with anyone who happened to stop by their home. She never met a stranger. No matter who you were, she always made you feel welcome and as if you were the most important person in the room. Every time you were around her you always knew that Donna put people before things. For years she distributed the Daily Bread devotional to nursing homes and to anyone who visited their home. She never missed an opportunity to share her faith.

Donna had several jobs including working at YRTC for several years as a house-mother. She had a heart for the girls that were living there and was a true light of love to them. Donna had a dream of owning a Christian Bookstore someday. That dream came true and

she owned and operated Body and Soul Bookstore for several years in the front of Wilkins Livestock Insurance offices. She absolutely loved talking to people and sharing her faith as people shopped the store. After closing the bookstore she began volunteering at Heritage Crossings as the “Juice Lady” and did this for many years. Not only did she bring them her special blends of juice most importantly she brought them a smile and took time to call each by name and visit with them.

Donna was always positive and had a grateful heart. She was forever thanking anyone who did even the smallest thing for her. Even in her last breaths she was thanking the Lord for her family and for all He had done for her.

Donna blessed her family in so many ways and she provided countless memories with her kids and grandkids and great grandkids. She was adventurous and loved to laugh. She loved to fish, play cards, build Gingerbread houses and attend any activities family members participated in. She was remembered for making sugar doughnuts every time it rained. Donna was also quite the poet, writing poetry for many special occasions. She loved to garden and can the produce and make jams and jellies from the Crabapple tree in the front yard of her home. She cared for her grandchildren whenever she could and built precious memories with each one. Donna’s legacy is one of faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and her unconditional love for others.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents; siblings; two infant daughters; son Gary Wilkins; grandsons, Austin Adkisson, Iesa Eddmeiri and Craig Wilkins and great grandson, Chase Wilkins; her loving husband, John.

She is survived by her children, Ginger Wilkins (wife of Gary) and family, Mike Wilkins and wife Janet and family, Jan Stuck and husband Jerry and family, Lorrie Eddmeiri and family, Linda Chapman and husband Jay and family, Bill Wilkins and wife Karen and family, Becky Adkisson and husband Steve and family, Jim Wilkins and wife Jacki and family; foreign exchange student Roberta Schneider and husband Hannes and family; thirty-three grandchildren; many great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, of which there are an ever increasing number; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends.

A Funeral Service for Donna was held on Friday, January 7, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the Evangelical Free Church in Geneva, Nebraska. Pastor Jeff Jensen presided over the Funeral Service. Danelle Andres provided the prelude and postlude music and also accompanied the congregation in the singing of “How Great Thou Art.” The recorded selections “Come to Jesus” and “Scars In Heaven” were also played during the service.

Pallbearers for the service included Bob Wilkins, Justin Chapman, Jaeden Wilkins, Mark Wilkins, Jeran Stuck, and Roger Kimbrough.

A Graveside Service was held in the Geneva Public Cemetery following the Funeral Service.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com

Memorials are suggested to the Billy Graham Foundation or the Timberlake Ranch Camp Scholarship fund.

Cemetery Details

Geneva Public Cemetery

Geneva, NE 68361

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Family Present for Visitation

JAN 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 7. 10:30 AM (CT)

Evangelical Free Church of Geneva
230 N 17th St
Geneva, NE 68361-1607

Tribute Wall

VJ

“ *A sweet lady that always would speak! Thoughts and prayers!* ”



Virginia Johnson - January 07 at 09:49 PM



“ 56 files added to the album Flower Pictures ”



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - January 07 at 02:17 PM

AS

“ *Becky and family, You are in my thoughts and prayers. Arlene Softley* ”



Arlene Softley - January 07 at 10:08 AM

RO

“ To my American Mom

When I came to the U.S. in 1969 as an exchange student you welcomed me in your family like your own daughter. And 30 years later when I came to you - you opened your arms and heart even to my whole family.

It was such an honor and blessing to spend time with you and your great big family.

I have also very fond memories to the times we spent together in Europe - your loving interest in my whole family was admirable.

Mom, you hold a great special place in my hear. Now you can connect to Dad again - he will be happy to unite with you again!

A huge hug to my American family - sorry that I cannot be with you in person.

Love and prayers

Roberta

Roberta - January 06 at 11:48 AM

DR

“ I am so sorry to hear of Donna’s passing. I have such fond memories of her and Bible club when I was in elementary school. It was such a treat to hear her and Eleanor Kimbrough sing songs and tell stories about Jesus. It helped to shape my faith and I am forever grateful. She was a lovely woman and I am glad I got to know her, my prayers are with her family and I look forward to seeing her again someday!

Dixie Richards - January 06 at 09:39 AM

KS

“ Hugs & prayers to Donna's family



Karla Slezak - January 05 at 09:31 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donna Wilkins.



January 05 at 06:52 PM

RW

“ Donna and I were first cousins on the Garrett side - the two youngest of 13 first cousins, and the last ones left. We were great pals at family reunions, and I was invited several times to stay at her home on the farm. We had some good times, and I have such fond memories of those days. In later years, she took a loving interest in my daughter, Lisa, which meant a lot to us. She has a special place in my heart.

Rosemary Garrett Williams

Rosemary G Williams - January 05 at 06:06 PM

TB

“ Donna will always be remembered for her kind words, lovingly sharing God's Word, and her beautiful smile! I feel so blessed for having known her. Celebrating you flying high with the angels and meeting your Saviour face to face! Till we meet again, dear Donna!



TerryAnn Brandt - January 05 at 04:43 PM

TB

“ Donna will always be remembered by her kind words, sharing God's word lovingly, and that beautiful smile! I am so blessed to have known her! Fly high with the Angels, dear Donna!



TerryAnn Brandt - January 05 at 04:35 PM

LB

“ Donna will always have a special place in my heart. She intersected my life's path at exactly the right time with the right words and I will always be grateful for the contributions she made in my thinking and my life's path. And... I am sure that I am not the only one that she affected likewise. She loved people and it showed! Thank you, God for allowing me to enjoy Donna in this earthly walk. I am blessed!

Linda Bohling - January 05 at 01:55 PM

MW

“ *Melea Walters lit a candle in memory of Donna Wilkins*



Melea Walters - January 05 at 12:58 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donna Wilkins.*



January 04 at 06:14 PM

SS

“ *Steve & Barb Sadd lit a candle in memory of Donna Wilkins*



Steve & Barb Sadd - January 04 at 05:29 PM

CL

“ *Donna's organization/promotion of area GoodNews Bible Clubs for children and Women's Friendship Bible coffees impacted my family in a big way. Both my girls accepted Christ at a Good News Club and I attended and later led Friendship Bible Coffees, which helped so many of us grow in the Lord. Donna's determination to evangelize Fillmore County was very fruitful as I know many who accepted Christ through these ministries. See you in heaven, dear sweet lady. My sympathies to the Wilkins family.*

Cheryl Luzum - January 04 at 03:56 PM

BB

“ Donna was a wonderful person. I worked with her at Heritage Nursin: Home. She helped me get thru a lot of hard times. She would have me tell her what was going on. Than she would tell me how to overcome the problems. She was like a grandma to me. I loved her with my whole heart. She was ONE of the BEST!! My prayers to the family. May the LORD help u all in your time of need. GOD bless U all!!

Brenda Bonin - January 04 at 02:44 PM

KR

“ It's hard to think of a childhood memory that doesn't include Aunt Donna. Her love for Jesus and her family & friends was second to none. Drawing comfort knowing she took her last breath here on earth and the next one was in Heaven in the presence of our Lord.

Love

Kim (Wilkins) Raney

Kim Raney - January 04 at 12:12 PM

RS

“ Rhonda Schlick lit a candle in memory of Donna Wilkins



Rhonda Schlick - January 04 at 11:07 AM



“ Amanda Schropfer lit a candle in memory of Donna Wilkins



Amanda Schropfer - January 04 at 10:57 AM

MT

“ I will always remember her beautiful heart and welcoming smile. Our wonderful talks and her love for her family.



Melanie Theye - January 03 at 10:38 PM

SH

“ Sue Heironymus lit a candle in memory of Donna Wilkins



Sue Heironymus - January 03 at 06:10 PM