



Donna M Erickson

August 11, 1931 - February 18, 2016

Donna Marie Erickson, 84, died suddenly early Thursday morning February 18, 2016 at Samaritan Hospital in Moses Lake. Donna was born August 11, 1931 to Francis and Ella Kitsch in Webster, ND. Donna was raised on the Kitsch family farm in Webster, ND and graduated from Starkweather High in 1949.

Following high school Donna attended Saint Mary's Nursing School from 1951-52 and graduated as a registered nurse and worked in a doctor's office in Devils Lake. Donna met the love of her life Robert "Bob" L. Erickson on a blind date on August 24, 1954 which went well as they were engaged November 29, 1954. They wed October 1, 1956 after Bob returned from Army deployment in Europe. In 1959 Donna and Bob moved to a 112 acre farm in Block 40 near Moses Lake where they had six children, Lee, Paul, Chris, Wade, Robin and Elizabeth. In addition to being a small business owner, Donna stayed busy raising her brood and attending as many school events as possible. It was always a thrill to look up into the stands and see her proud face looking on.

Donna loved and missed her Kitsch family in North Dakota. When the Erickson children were young Donna and Bob made an annual visit back home to Webster and Devils Lake a priority, saving money by making sandwiches for the two-day train ride, only rarely splurging for breakfast in the

dining car. Donna loved birds of all kinds and although she hated the color yellow, her favorite was the American goldfinch. Next to her kitchen window sits a copy of the Peterson Field Guide for birds. She would spend hours watching her birds in the feeders she generously kept full. In recent years, a pair of great horned owls took up residence in her yard and raised several broods there much to her delight. Donna had her hands full with six busy children but always managed to make each feel the most precious of the bunch. Her favorite remedy for a bored, fussy or unhappy child was to tell them to "run around the outside of the house, eat a banana, drink some milk or take a bath." Her fourteen grandchildren learned the same. One of her greatest gifts to her children and grandchildren was the love of being outside creating one's own adventure.

Friends of her children were welcome in her home and many adopted her as their second mom. On a moments notice she would find herself with a house full of hunters whom she fed and found places to sleep. Repeat guests learned to wait until all were seated and grace was said before enjoying her amazing home cooking. Donna also had a reputation for overestimating her control of fire. On more than one occasion her burn pile would get out of hand and Grant County Fire Protection District Five would show to douse the flames. After nearly burning down the barn she was given the totem name "The Burning Woman" by the Barrels of Flame Rod & Gun Club Members.

Her first love was the Lord. She was a devout Catholic and rarely missed Mass and passed on her faith to her family. One Sunday on her way home from Mass, Donna lost control of her van on an icy country road, wrapping the van around a tree, totaling the van and spilling her groceries on the road. Her priest assured her later that God wouldn't mind her missing Mass for her own safety. She was a longtime Perpetual Adoration and Soup Kitchen volunteer at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Moses Lake where, as at home, she put others before herself. Donna was well loved and will be dearly missed.

Those who knew her agree that the world is a better place because she was in it. As well as her above mentioned children she is survived by grandchildren Nicole, Kalin, Sidney, Keaton, Calloway, Morgan, Jack, Molly, Kees, Christopher, Isabella, Taylor, Ashley and Morgan Sams. She is also survived by brothers, Dennis and Mark Kitsch, sister Anita Adahl and is preceded in death by her brothers Jim, Jack, sister Lois Ann, parents Francis and Ella Kitsch and husband Bob.

A rosary prayer will be said at 10:30 a.m. on March 8, 2016 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Moses Lake followed by a funeral Mass at 11a.m. Donna will be interred in the church columbarium next to her husband Bob.

Cemetery Details

Our Lady of Fatima Columbarium

200 N Dale Road
Moses Lake, WA

Previous Events

Service

MAR 8. 10:30 AM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Holy Rosary)
200 North Dale Road
Moses Lake, WA

Service

MAR 8. 11:00 AM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Mass of Christian Burial)
200 N. Dale Rd
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

QG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Q Glaze - March 07, 2016 at 10:27 PM

PG

“ *I will miss Donna terribly. She was so kind and fun to be around. I felt she was the mom to all the members of our duck hunting club. I wish she could have gotten to meet our new lab puppy Gus. He would have loved her, although I know she would not let him sleep on the couch. All our love and support goes out to the Erickson clan and all the relatives. Love Paul, Q, and Gus.*

Paul Glaze - March 07, 2016 at 08:11 PM

QG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Q Glaze - March 07, 2016 at 08:01 PM

QG

“ Donna was everyone's surrogate "mom". She made all of us feel special. I always felt welcome at her house(as long as we did not let Smee up on the couch). Which he ended up doing anyway. She never got too mad.

Great memories of gatherings at the farmhouse. She passed on her love of "the more the merrier" attitude to her kids. Resulting in some wild hootenannies. She only had one request "stay out of MY kitchen". We ignored her.

Donna was easily pleased. Paul always brought flowers and ice cream when we came to stay? Oh did I mention the bottle of single malt scotch he stashed in her cupboard so her degenerate sons would not find it. Maybe that was what made her happy to see us.

Anyway I could go on and on, May she rest in peace.

Q Glaze

Q Glaze - March 07, 2016 at 06:23 PM

QG

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Q Glaze - March 07, 2016 at 06:09 PM

AA

“ My sister Donna was my idol in many ways. I spent the greater part of my childhood following her around when she was home from school. must have been very trying to her and my" older cousins", because you see, I was 10 yrs younger and somewhat of a smart mouth. or as some may say a wise a**. but she put up with me and as we got older we spent many a happy day just being ridiculous. everything struck us as funny, and we laughed a lot, in a respectful way of course{?}. Not to say that all was jolly as there where times when we did disagree on how things should be done. such as dusting, mom would ask me to dust and then Donna would go behind me and redo it, you see my sister was a clean freak. which must have been very trying for her , as my brothers and Dad would do their best to lay things down where they felt like. Mom appreciated her neatness and her constant conversation. as you all know she liked to visit and was able to talk about many diverse subjects. Our house was always filled with cousins and friends and the conversations were many, about all things. one day the subjects covered everything from the mating habits of elephants to aardvarks and everything in between. So I write this so you can understand where she came from. Donna wanted to be a Stewardess as they were called in those days. but she was too short and Dad had a fit so that was that..She was a great nurse. she was a graduate from The Mercy school of nursing. trained by Nuns. not St marys. It was hard for her to be away from family those years of training , and she always was very family orientated.. I will miss her and those many mysteries we watched together, the silliness we shared. the little drives we took. the very long telephone conservations. Her Faith was very important. and very sustaining to her. I know she will be receiving her rewards now. Love from your Little Sister Anita

anita adahl - March 01, 2016 at 08:51 PM

QG

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Q Glaze - February 28, 2016 at 05:29 PM

QG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Q Glaze - February 27, 2016 at 11:15 AM

PZ

“ *My entire childhood flashes before my eyes when I think of Donna and the Erickson family. I loved growing up on the farm down the road from you guys. I'm so sad for your loss. I'm thinking of all of you and praying that the strong Erickson family bond can live on even without the "super glue," that made it so amazing. My prayers are with you. Love you guys.*

Pam Zickler-Tunstall - February 25, 2016 at 09:35 AM