



Donna Jean Kruse

May 11, 1943 - November 1, 2020

Donna Jean Kruse, 77, passed away peacefully at her home on November 1, 2020 in the company of her much beloved sister Shirley and brother-in-law Rob Walker and family who have so tirelessly cared for her with all of their heart and soul. She was born on May 11, 1943 and was the fifth of nine children born to William and Olga (Miller) Kruse of Napoleon, Ohio. Donna was a special soul since the day she was born. She had many challenges given to her throughout her life, but she always met them with a smile on her face.

Donna was a proud employee of Quadco Rehabilitation Center, working for them for over 25 years before she retired. In her retirement, she enjoyed spending her days with her many friends and wonderful caregivers at Hope Services in Napoleon, her home away from home, where she was named Senior of the Year in 2002. In addition to her time at Hope Services, she also enjoyed every minute that she spent with Angie Gaucin and the rest of Angie's Angels from COREE Residential Provider that so passionately took such great care of her over the years.

Donna enjoyed many things throughout her life. She was an avid bowler and a proud participant in the Henry County Special Olympics. She loved the color purple, butterflies, fuzzy socks, crazy earrings, a good joke (and even the bad ones), but most of all loved spending time with her friends and family that she

loved so much. Whether it be coloring pictures, watching a movie, playing a game of Uno, or taking part in a silly prank, she truly knew what it meant to find joy in the simple things in life. Donna never met a person that she didn't like, and there has never been a person that has met her that didn't instantly fall in love with her. Her genuinely loving and accepting personality was a rare find, and she never failed to brighten the day of anyone she crossed paths with.

Donna was preceded in death by her mother, Olga (Miller) Kruse, father, William Kruse, brother William Kruse Jr., sister Arleen Bressler, sister-in-law Diane Kruse, brothers-in-law Howard Behrman and Glen Bressler, and her very dear friend Pastor James Castello. She is survived by her siblings Margaret Busch, Norma Behrman, Lester Kruse, Ronald (Sharon) Kruse, Shirley (Rob) Walker, and Nancy (Wil) Behnfeldt, sister-in-law Elvera Kruse, and countless nieces, nephews, and cousins that will all miss her dearly. She is also survived by her special friends Jennifer Cordes and Angie Gaucin and many more friends who will forever feel her absence.

Donna was the heart and soul of our family. Her orneriness, contagious laughter, and mischievous smile will be missed more than words can express. And while there is great sadness with her absence, we rejoice knowing that she is now able to run through the gates of Heaven straight into the arms of her mom who she has missed dearly for so long. Donna was a beautiful person both inside and out, and there is not a soul that has met her that is not a better human being for having known her.

A private service to honor Donna's memory will be held at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home with Pastor Janine Shearer presiding. Burial will follow at Riverview Memory Gardens in Defiance, Ohio, where she will be laid to rest with her mom and dad. Due to the current health conditions, there will be no public visitation. Online condolences and messages may be shared with the

family at rodenbergergray.com. In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made in Donna's memory to the following organizations that are near and dear to our hearts; Henry County Special Olympics and COREE Residential Provider.

Rest in Peace Donna Jean. Fly high and run free!

Tribute Wall

JD

“ So very sorry to hear about the passing of Donna. We know how she will be missed. We are sending prayers.
Marv and Judy Dickmann

Judy Dickmann - November 12, 2020 at 03:54 PM

SC

“ Sue Christiansen lit a candle in memory of
Donna Jean Kruse



Sue Christiansen - November 07, 2020 at 10:47 AM

TS

“ So sorry to hear of Donnas passing. She was a great friend and bowling partner to Jerry. We will miss her dearly and our hearts go out to the family.

Tom & Vivian Scarberry - November 05, 2020 at 05:16 PM

KK

“ Donna was a very special and beautiful person inside and out! She could make one of my bad days into a good day with one of her hugs! Will miss her dearly.💕💕💕💕 Kathy Koppenhofer

Kathy Koppenhofer - November 05, 2020 at 08:38 AM

SD

“ So sorry to hear about Donna. Loved seeing her face light up every time I saw her. She has a great family. Sandy Dickman (Nurse Sandy to Donna)

Sandy Dickman - November 04, 2020 at 09:26 AM

SR

“ Donna was so sweet and so fun. She will always hold a special place in my heart.❤️
Sue Rosebrock and Steve and Bob too

Sue Rosebrock - November 03, 2020 at 05:57 PM

HS

“ Sorry to hear of Donna passing. The Schuette Family remembers her as our neighbor on Maumee St in Napoleon. Our heart felt sympathy to the family

Herb Schuette - November 03, 2020 at 05:16 PM

GD

“ Genia Donley lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Kruse



genia Donley - November 03, 2020 at 01:25 PM

BM

“ I am so sorry to hear of my friend Donna Kruse she was a good friend to be around.

Bethany Mathers - November 03, 2020 at 11:56 AM

KS

“ Oh, sweet Donna. Im so sorry to hear of her passing, she truly was an amazing person. I loved our times playing uno and making jewelry at the old Perry home. She was full of life and loved to have a good time. May she be at peace with our Lord.
-Kari (Schnitkey) Shortridge

Kari Elizabeth Shortridge - November 03, 2020 at 08:53 AM

JR

“ John & Tresa Rowland lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Kruse



John & Tresa Rowland - November 03, 2020 at 08:00 AM

JR

“ Shirley, Jennifer and family, you have our deepest sympathy. Donnie was a fun loving person, she will be greatly missed. You have many memories to heal your loss. She will be watching over you from Heaven. So remember her love and laughter until you meet again. Prayers for all of you.

John & Tresa Rowland - November 03, 2020 at 08:00 AM

VG

“ What joy Donnie must have felt when she entered the gates of Heaven and was met by her mom💕. Her life was well lived and know you all will miss her. She led by example and embraced the joy of each day. God was with her each step and walked her to her final home. God’s blessings to your entire family. Memories will make you smile🙏

Vicki Glick - November 03, 2020 at 06:39 AM

JS

“ *Sending our sincere condolences to the whole family.
Jan and John Stover*

Jan Stover - November 02, 2020 at 09:08 PM

BF

“ *Bill Ritchards and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Donna Jean Kruse.*



Bill Ritchards and family - November 02, 2020 at 08:12 PM

KB

“ *You all are very special and blessed for the attention you provided to Donnie, all these years. Thank you and God will continue to reward you in years to come. Kay Bost*

Kay Bost - November 02, 2020 at 07:40 PM

SN

“ *Our youth group went caroling to Donna a few years ago and she absolutely emoted joy. What a kind soul that was clearly adored by her family! Prayers for Nancy & all of the family. Sandi Naas*

Sandi Naas - November 02, 2020 at 06:08 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Bressler Buckmaster - November 02, 2020 at 05:26 PM

PC

“ God speed my friend! Give Jesus a hug for me!



Paulette Carpenter - November 02, 2020 at 05:22 PM

DR

“ I remember growing up with her, my sister and I would go to her house and we would play school with her and some of her siblings. We always enjoy that.

Diane Shumaker Roehl - November 02, 2020 at 05:20 PM

LB

“ Lisa Buckmaster lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Kruse



Lisa Buckmaster - November 02, 2020 at 05:10 PM

RS

“ *I will. always remember when we had the private communion at church and how much Donna enjoyed these get-togethers. I was sad when they no longer had them. Donna's presence at these made our day.*

Rita Schweinhagen - November 02, 2020 at 03:32 PM