



Donna Lee Klein

September 12, 1957 - January 4, 2020

Donna Lee Klein, 62, of Grand Blanc Michigan, passed away on Saturday, January 4, 2020 after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Donna was born September 12, 1957 to George and Pauline Rubin in Clawson, Michigan. She attended Michigan State University where she was a member of the marching band while earning her bachelor's degree in Business. While attending Michigan State University, Donna met her husband Thomas Klein. They were married for 19 years before Thomas passed away in 1998 in Warwick, New York. After Thomas' passing, Donna moved back to Michigan with her two children, Calvin and Lesley. Donna then earned a degree from Michigan State University in Elementary Education and later a master's degree in Educational Technology. She was an educator for Huron Valley Schools for 12 years before retiring in 2018 to focus on her battle with Thymic cancer. Donna enjoyed spending time with family and friends at home and up north by the river or out on the lake. In her 50's, Donna found a passion in running, and participated in many races. She also shared a love/hate relationship with the game of golf. Donna is preceded in death by her husband Thomas Klein and parents George and Pauline Rubin.

Donna is survived in death by her sister Cathy Edgar, son Calvin (Jamie) Klein, daughter Lesley (Joshua) Shepherd, granddaughters Kayla and Kristen Klein, grandsons Lawrence and Peter Shepherd, and nephews Ryan (Karishma) and Alec (Jenna) Edgar.

Funeral services for Donna will be hosted by Dryer Funeral Home at the Great

Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan, this Spring at a date yet to be determined. She will be laid to rest with her late husband Thomas, Lt. Colonel of the United States Marine Corp. Reserves.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Foundation of Thymic Cancer Research at http://www.thymic.org/?page_id=38 in honor of Donna. w
www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

Holly, MI

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ I served with Tom in the Marines in the late 1980s through the early 1990s. and deployed to Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm with him as part of HMM 774 in 1990-91. I knew Donna very well, and had spent time with both Calvin and Lesley I have too many memories and too little space to share them. Rest In Peace TK and Donna and my condolences and wishes for the very best to Calvin and Lesley and your families.

Semper Fidelis
Robert C Santucci
Colonel USMC (ret)

Robert Santucci - March 13, 2021 at 09:24 AM

KK

Robert please feel free to reach out. We would love to reconnect. My phone number is 248-895-5970.

Kalvin Klein - May 04, 2022 at 08:51 PM

RS

Kalvin,
I just saw your response. I will call soon. Looking forward to talking with you - Robert

Robert Santucci - December 31, 2022 at 10:01 AM

LE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



lauren e - January 18, 2020 at 07:06 PM

NH

“ I was very saddened to hear of Donna’s passing. I met her through greyhounds and greyhound adoption. She was one of the kindest people I’ve met. To her family, I am so sorry for your loss. You’re in my thoughts.

natasha harhold - January 13, 2020 at 02:58 PM

SI

“ Donna was a dear friend and will be greatly missed! We met many years ago over our love of greyhounds. Donna was always the level headed, sweet and kind soul. She helped so many people and animals alike. She was always up for some fun and we enjoyed her quiet wit. My thoughts go out to her family.

Stacey L Ignagni - January 13, 2020 at 01:33 PM

 Nora
Plank-
Champe

“ I was so very saddened to hear of Donna's passing. I worked at Kurtz Elementary School as the secretary where Donna taught. I will always remember her as such a kind, gentle, positive person. Her beautiful smile, bright eyes and positive attitude would light up a room, and yet so quietly and unassuming. As a teacher, I know she affected so many young lives in a positive way. Kindness and caring were second nature to her. My heart goes out to Donna's family at this difficult time. May she rest in peace.

Nora Plank-Champe - January 13, 2020 at 09:15 AM

LE

“ Though we are not related by blood, Donna and her family will always be a part of my family. In Virginia we (the Lundins) lived on the same street as the Kleins. With the Kleins, we created our own three-family group along with the Ferrells. I have so many great memories as a kid because of our time together. Things like dinners as a group of 11, epic adventures getting home in crazy snow storms, holiday parties, beach vacations, crafts, trick-or-treating, apple picking, and all around just time together at home. The thing I remember most about Donna as a kid and adult is her warm laugh when things would inevitably spin into the absurd. Any major life event over the years, Donna was there to celebrate with positivity and joy. She will be deeply missed and I know her absence will be felt more as the days move forward. I am grateful for all of my wonderful memories of Donna and I know more are to come for us with Lesley, Calvin, and their amazing families.



Lauren E - January 12, 2020 at 01:02 PM

GL

“ Donna was a gentle giant in my eyes. Her quiet an unassuming way was so very powerful. We have known each other our entire adult lives. I am part of the Klein, Ferrell, Lundin clan; that raised our children together as neighbors in Virginia. Her memories and experiences are mine. The loss of her is more than I can write here, but I am joyful knowing her kids are my kids. Kal and Les and their spouses are amazing caring people, this care along with the care given by Donna’s sister Kathy was endless. This is a strong family that grows stronger with each life event.

She became a teacher late in life after Tom her husband passed. It was her passion. We would share teaching stories and she always touched me with her joy of teaching children to read. I see the impact of her teaching in the stories that people have shared here. She really was an amazing teacher.

Her last project was to renovate a cottage in northern Michigan. She knew she was sick as she created it, but I knew it was a project to carve out a space for her children to go to be together. She loved the out-of-doors with boating, snowmobiling, and fire pits! We would walk the beach and she would tell me all her plans for the Lake House.

I will miss my friend but the Ferrells and the Lundin’s will keep her spirit alive in our retelling of old stories...and boy do we have some hum dingers! Love to all.

Gay and Ken Lundin

Gay Lundin - January 09, 2020 at 11:53 AM

GL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gay Lundin - January 09, 2020 at 11:22 AM

LM

“ Donna was my daughter Audrey's first grade teacher in about 2012. I was surprised that year to learn she had not been teaching all that long, because she was so good at it! She created a great, drama-free, caring environment for all of the kids. We are so saddened to hear of her passing and are sending hugs to her family.

Lisa Marckini-Polk - January 08, 2020 at 06:42 PM

NC

“ Donna was my son's first grade teacher. He could barely read when he entered her class, but with her guidance and encouragement he surpassed our expectations. We will forever be grateful to her for being such a wonderful teacher and role model. Our condolences to her family and friends ❤️

Nicole Campbell - January 08, 2020 at 09:14 AM

AF

“ Donna was my daughters kindergarten teacher when she first started at Kurtz. She was absolutely the kindest teacher I could have ever hoped for as a parent. I always tell my daughter that she set the bar high for all of the teachers that would follow. I helped her in the classroom quite often and at the end of the year gave me the sweetest doll that I still look at every day. It says "take time for you". She reminded me that I helped out so often that it was important to take time for myself once in awhile. I wish she knew that I literally look at this doll still and think of her....14 years later. She will be missed and was loved by so many. May she rest in peace and I will pray for all of the family in the days to come. Alice Fortin

alice fortin - January 07, 2020 at 09:12 PM

LF

“ So to start my story I have to set up our relationship with three families.

Klein's (Donna, Tom, Calvin, Lesley) , Ferrell's (Lynn, John, Matthew, Adam) and Lundin's (Gay, Ken, Lauren) - (3 very close families and met as neighbors in Manassas.

My family met Donna in Manassas VA in 1987. We were both pregnant at the same time with our two youngest children (Lesley and Adam) born 3 weeks apart. I was due 1st but Lesley was born 1st with Adam coming 3 weeks later. I told Donna he must have been waiting for that pink bow to be placed on her mailbox.

I would have to write a book of all the memories I have with Donna's family. The kids and husbands didn't have a chance with 3 wives and mothers to take care of them. The husband and kids were yelled at by all 3 of us. It didn't matter which kid was in whose house because we all had the same rules.

We did everything from yearly apple picking (many stories here), watching kids when parents went on vacation, yearly trip to Ocean City, eating out every Friday night (tradition started while Tom was in Desert Storm), spending most holidays on one of our back decks, eating WU Garden Chinese on Christmas Eve, trips to Williamsburg pottery (Kids loved this one- NOT), Buttheads , attended all 5 kids weddings and much more.

When those you love die, the best you can do is honor their spirit for as long as you live. You make a commitment that you're going to take whatever lesson that person was trying to teach you, and you make it true in your own life. It's a positive way to keep their spirit alive in the world by keeping it alive in yourself." Patrick Swayze

My love for Donna makes my heart hurt, and bring tears to my eyes as I'm writing this.

Rest in Peace and be pain free. You fought hard for your family to give them more time.

*Love You,
BFF*

Lynn

Lynn Ferrell - January 07, 2020 at 12:36 PM

LF

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Lynn Ferrell - January 07, 2020 at 12:31 PM