



Madonna "Donna" Rudy

April 24, 1946 - February 26, 2018

Madonna "Donna" Rudy (nee LaCrosse)

On the evening of February 26, 2018, Donna passed away peacefully in her home, surrounded by family, and overlooking the lake. As she passed, she left the most beautiful sunset for us to treasure.

Madonna Marie LaCrosse was born in Rhinelander, WI on April 24, 1946 to John and Elvera (Al) LaCrosse. She came into the world with her identical twin sister, Diane, and joined her brothers Wally and Wayne. She lived in Minocqua where her father was caretaker at Camp Minocqua until they moved to Lac du Flambeau where they became caretakers at Camp Wipigaki.

Donna graduated from Lakeland Union High School in 1964 and studied at University of Wisconsin – Madison. Following Madison, she moved to Chappaqua, New York where she lived for a short time before moving back to the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

Although Donna met Fred at Dillman's Lodge in the fall of 1960, and enjoyed many years of friendship, it wasn't until she moved back in the mid 1960s that they began dating. Fred insists that he knew she would be his wife the moment he laid eyes on her, and as he says, he chased her until she let him catch her. She and Fred married on June 22, 1968 at the Methodist Church of the Pines in Minocqua. They would have celebrated 50 years of marriage this coming June. He was the love her life and her best friend.

Following their wedding, Donna and Fred lived in Kenosha and Racine and owned/operated an automotive distribution warehouse, K&R Distributors. In

1973 they moved back to the Northwoods. It was then that they began their life on White Sand Lake where she lived the rest of her life. Together they raised three children and lived a life of so many fun adventures, they are impossible to list....

Donna will forever be known for her kindness and generosity. She had an amazing way of welcoming people into her home and her life – filled with joy, laughter, fun and humor. Friends who walked through her door were soon considered family. She made room in her heart for everyone she met. She will be remembered for her love of the outdoors and the ability to see beauty in the small things of life. She was loving and thoughtful and had a wicked sense of humor that made us laugh every single day.

Friends near and far would say she made the best chocolate chip cookies and Swedish pancakes in the whole wide world. She was always up for a mean game of cribbage or Scrabble and was a dedicated Packer fan. Donna loved swimming and boating and spending as much time as possible on and in White Sand Lake. Her love of the lake carries on in all of her children and grandchildren.

Loved ones who cleared the path for Donna are her father, John LaCrosse, her mother, Elvera (Al) LaCrosse, and brothers Wayne and Wally Brown.

Loved ones who will miss Donna until they meet again are her husband, Fred Rudy, daughter Hillary Anderson (Jim Feierstein), daughter Brooke (Jason) DeVries and son Fritz (Tara) Rudy, sister Diane LaCrosse Baarlaer and 5 grandchildren who she loved beyond measure: Parker Anderson, Nora and Avery DeVries and Friedrich and Evelyn Rudy. In addition to her immediate family, she had many cousins, nieces and nephews whom she adored.

And so the story goes until we see our beautiful wife, mother, sister, Nanny and dear friend again. She will be greatly missed, deeply appreciated, abundantly loved and joyfully celebrated.

Donna's family would like to extend a very special thank you to the Dr. Kate Hospice team. Their authentic kindness and care over the past several months has been nothing less than extraordinary.

Visitation will be held at Bolger Funeral Home in Minocqua, WI on Saturday, March 3 from 1-2:30pm with a short service beginning at 2:30. In lieu of flowers, Donna and her family request that a donation be made to HYF- Dr. Kate Hospice, P.O. Box 770, Woodruff, WI 54568.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 3. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Bolger Cremation & Funeral Services - Minocqua Chapel
212 West Chicago Street
Minocqua, WI 54548
(715) 356-3200
bolgerfuneral@gmail.com
<https://www.bolgerfuneral.com/>

Memorial Service

MAR 3. 2:30 PM (CT)

Bolger Cremation & Funeral Services - Minocqua Chapel
212 West Chicago Street
Minocqua, WI 54548
(715) 356-3200
bolgerfuneral@gmail.com
<https://www.bolgerfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Christopher Bacon lit a candle in memory of Madonna "Donna" Rudy



Christopher Bacon - March 09, 2019 at 09:44 AM

GH

“ Fred and Family, Nancy and I are so sorry for your loss of Donna. We fondly remember so many times, so many years ago, when we would play cards, share dinners, or simply enjoy being together.

Greg Hershman

Greg Hershman - March 08, 2018 at 03:54 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Madonna "Donna" Rudy.



March 03, 2018 at 10:45 AM

DO

“ 1 file added to the album Denise's memories



Denise Odell - March 03, 2018 at 10:17 AM

RR

I didn't know Donna had passed I used to baby sit each Donna & Dian, her twin sister at swimming when I worked for Donna's dad John lacrosse, I am 10 years older than Donna, wow, I miss them all

richard rogers - June 29, 2020 at 09:27 AM

AH

“ Arleen Handrich lit a candle in memory of Madonna "Donna" Rudy



Arleen Handrich - March 02, 2018 at 06:52 PM

AH

“ Diane and family, I am so very sorry to read about Donna's passing. I didn't know her real well, but I had talked with her occasionally from time to time. Blessings to you all.

Arleen

Arleen Handrich - March 02, 2018 at 06:51 PM

WE

“ With Sympathy, Dan, Tammy and Kennedy Ebben purchased the Love Everlasting Bouquet for the family of Madonna "Donna" Rudy.



With Sympathy, Dan, Tammy and Kennedy Ebben - March 02, 2018 at 11:54 AM

TF

“ *The Michell Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Madonna "Donna" Rudy.*



The Michell Family - March 01, 2018 at 08:00 PM

CB

“ *Christopher S Bacon lit a candle in memory of Madonna "Donna" Rudy*



Christopher S Bacon - March 01, 2018 at 01:42 PM

JD

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



Jennifer Dudek - March 01, 2018 at 08:59 AM

PM

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. My sister Kathy Haig Gehrke and Donna and Diane were best friends all through highschool. Sadly, Kathy died on 11/16/18. They will be together in the afterlife.*

Priscilla Haig Mannes - March 01, 2018 at 08:43 AM

PG

*So sorry for your loss Fred and family and Diane. We all grew up together from grade school through high school. Friends will always be in my heart forever. Even though we didn't keep in touch, I feel a part of me is now missing.
God's Peace be with all of you.*

Phil Van Goethen - March 07, 2018 at 01:09 PM

CE

“ I had only met Donna a few times in person before my husband and I had twins. Being a twin herself, I was touched by the special things Donna did when we had our twins, including making each of them a special hand made Halloween bag. Our twins are 8 now and they still adore those special Halloween bags from her. We will forever remember Donna's kind spirit when we use them. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family in this difficult time.

Cindy Enli - February 28, 2018 at 10:23 PM

TF

“ The Brawner Family purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Madonna "Donna" Rudy.



The Brawner Family - February 28, 2018 at 05:03 PM

SP

“ Susie Poupart lit a candle in memory of Madonna "Donna" Rudy



Susie Poupart - February 28, 2018 at 04:01 PM

DO

“ I'm so lucky to have known Donna Rudy most of my life! A spitfire, straight-shooter, true blue love, great observer, sharp wit and a wild sense of humor are just a few of the things about her I will miss greatly.

I will also miss our gab fests every summer around the dining table and in her room, and the hugs. Her struggle with COPD was real and scary and she was a true fighter...fought it with everything she had, to enjoy her family just one day more. I will always remember the immense joy she took in husband Fred, children and grandchildren. What a remarkable spirit that will be with us on the lake for eternity.

All my love, Denise

Denise Odell - February 28, 2018 at 02:59 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Madonna "Donna" Rudy.



February 28, 2018 at 02:50 PM

DO

“ 1 file added to the album Denise's memories



Denise Odell - February 28, 2018 at 01:51 PM

DO

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



Denise Odell - February 28, 2018 at 01:49 PM

JL

“ *Joeleen LaCrosse purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Madonna "Donna" Rudy.*



Joeleen LaCrosse - February 28, 2018 at 11:39 AM

CD

“ *Char Dunlap lit a candle in memory of Madonna "Donna" Rudy*



Char Dunlap - February 28, 2018 at 11:28 AM