



Donna M. Roe

November 9, 1941 - March 7, 2019

Donna Marie Veronica Roe, age 77, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, departed Thursday in the company of her husband, children, and loving family, who she cherished spending much of her time with. Donna was raised in Lenawee County and was a proud graduate of Tecumseh High School. She pursued a bachelor's degree in Library Science and French from Michigan State University, followed by a master's degree from the University of Michigan, and yet another from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Donna's teaching career started out with welding at Tecumseh High School, from where she went on to her library cataloging career, which began at Sienna Heights College in Adrian. She completed her career as head of the Cataloging Department at the University of Detroit Mercy from which she happily retired as the first librarian granted the title of professor emeritus. In 2004, she was presented with the Significant Achievement Award in Women's Studies Librarianship.

When she was younger, she spent several years dancing for the Toledo Ballet Company. She and her husband Jack enjoyed many happy days of traveling. She enjoyed working on crossword puzzles, but not as much as she enjoyed keeping up to date with Game of Thrones and Outlander. She was especially pleased when her daughter relocated back to Michigan and she had her own personal acupuncturist. Her family hopes that her soul may continue to soar with us on the wind.

Donna is survived by her husband, Jack Volk; daughter, Doreen Zack Flynn (Doug); son, Erich Flynn (Lori); grandchildren, Lauren Flynn (Jake), Shane Flynn, and Hayley Arkovitz; great-grandson, J.D. Niezurawski; brother, Edward Roe (Liz); stepdaughters, Nancy McLaughlin (Matt) and Karen Saito (Hiroshi); grandchildren, Koya Saito, Juna Saito, Liam McLaughlin, and Kai Saito; and her brother-in-law, Richard VanValkenburg. She is preceded in death by her father, Edward Roe; her mother, Isabella Patterson Roe; her brother, Daniel; her sister, Patricia Mae VanValkenburg; and her grandchild, Scott Arkovitz.

In lieu of flowers, Donna would value donations to the following charities:

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

<https://ncadv.org/donate>

Futures Without Violence

https://secure3.convio.net/fvpf/site/Donation2;jsessionid=E32F1D0DF93968309A35276DABCAF981.app317d?idb=450608905&df_id=1862&1862.donation=form1

National Women's Law Center

<https://act.nwlc.org/onlineactions/tpGjcHGp80-2Ofx5k3jJ2A2?>

[ms=A_2018_EOY_Adwords_Branded&gclid=EAlaIqobChMlrPGBrMjz4AIV0bXACH2WzAOWEAAYASAAEgIIRfD_BwE](https://act.nwlc.org/onlineactions/tpGjcHGp80-2Ofx5k3jJ2A2?ms=A_2018_EOY_Adwords_Branded&gclid=EAlaIqobChMlrPGBrMjz4AIV0bXACH2WzAOWEAAYASAAEgIIRfD_BwE)

9 to 5 National Association of Working Women

<https://9to5.org/donate/>

Events

MAR **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

13

Liberty Road Chapel

3767 W. Liberty Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48103

Comments



Apache Grief Blessing

May the sun bring you energy everyday, bringing light into the darkness of your soul

May the moon softly restore you by light of the night bathing you in the glow of restful sleep and peaceful dreams.

May the rain wash away your tears and cleanse the hurt that sits in your heart.

May the breeze blow new strength into your being, that you might believe in the courage to be yourself.

May you walk gently through the world, keeping your loved one with you always, knowing that you are never parted in the beating of your hearts.

Apache Grief Blessing, Modified by ZaKari Roe LaPointe

Please share any other prayers you might have with us.
zacklapointe@ymail.com

Zack LaPointe - Yesterday at 11:16 AM



Gentle hugs. I worked with Donna many years ago at UDMercy. She was amazing to work with. One of my favorite times was when I baked her a flourless chocolate cake for her birthday and celebration with the department. She was a shining light. My condolences to all her family and friends whose lives she touched.

Karen Van Antwerp - March 14 at 12:08 PM



Donna was not only an exceptionally strong woman, she was also a most kind, loving, thoughtful, gentle, and generous woman. She had a beautiful, loving heart and her presence would light up the lives of those around her. She truly enhanced the lives of those who were blessed to be a part of her life and left an unforgettable impression on acquaintances. Dear family of dear Donna, I am profoundly saddened and sorry for your loss.

Donna Dunn - March 13 at 07:38 AM



Dear Jack, and each member of Donna's family,

I met Donna at UDM many years ago. Women's Studies and Religious Studies brought us together. For many years Donna shared her spirituality and values with our students studying "Women and Religion." She literally moved us from the traditional setting of straight rows and one leader into a circle of spirituality and community, of inclusivity and equality, of mutual respect. She spoke of the presence of Spirit in all creation and illustrated what that meant with stories of her relationship to the grandmother spider she found in her house, the mosquitoes she asked to stop biting her, and the patience it takes to search for a willow branch that was willing to be plucked for her medicine shield.

With a clear vision of her spiritual values, Donna touched the lives of many at UDM and implanted her values in the Women's Studies program as well as in library policies. It is important to remember that this was her commitment to the values of her native traditions that challenged the primacy of traditional European and masculine assumptions. She was, in her peaceful, gentle, and calm way, a defender of earth and all of its creatures - even humans.

Donna was my friend and my teacher. On my mantle I have the beautiful wedding vase with its two separate but connected spouts that she gave to me and my husband: two but always one, one yet always two.

May all who love her remain strengthened by her spirit and guided by it,
Gloria Albrecht

Gloria H. Albrecht - March 11 at 12:43 PM



“ Thank you Gloria, I will make a copy of this beautiful letter & place it in her guest book. From her daughter, ZaKari LaPointe
Zakari LaPointe - March 11 at 10:06 PM



“ Thank you so much for sharing this. I have always wondered why she would have me get a spider tattoo for her and now I know. I love hearing the stories of the people she taught!
Lauren Flynn - March 12 at 12:06 AM



“ Our condolences on your loss. We're keeping your family in our thoughts. Sajbel Family & Bill and Jackie Forgie.

Jennifer Sajbel - March 09 at 11:34 AM



“ My grandma was my best friend. I have thousands of memories that's it's so hard to choose which one to talk about so I'll speak on a couple.
1st is when she had me come up for a weekend to welcome me into womanhood with all of my female relatives she could find. She held a ceremony for me and everything. Candle burning, roses, the works.
2nd is the renaissance festivals. Going through the shops. Talking about the knights on horses and the costumes.
3rd powwows when I was a child. To embrace our heritage.
4th the love of someone who showed me how to be the person I am today. She shaped me spiritually and emotionally holding me through when I was having hard times.
5th the mementos she brought me from preu. I loved that llama. And I loved her stories of hiking with warrior women through the mountains and bathing in mud.

She is someone I will cherish forever. It will be hard to continue on without her. I just wanted to share a little of the loving most wonderful woman I have ever met.

Lauren Flynn - March 09 at 12:17 AM



“ She sure was a sweet and special person always kind words whenever I saw her. She will be missed by many. Loved her.
Linda and Ralph Callear - March 10 at 10:22 AM



“ Randy and I treasure the many cruises we took with Donna and my brother Jack in the last nine years. Those are golden memories of times we will never forget.

Lorrie Volk Rakoczynski - March 08 at 11:44 PM



“ Dear Family and Friends of Donna,

My condolences and prayers of comfort go out to you. I will always remember the friendship Donna extended to me as a 'newbee' to Michigan when I was faculty and departmental chairperson at UDM. I learned a lot from Donna as she assisted me to help students to be able to benefit to the maximum extent when they visited the university library where Donna worked, and we became fast friends.

Donna was such a good friend and quite a few times I was blessed to have a chance to visit with her beloved family: her mother, children, grandchildren, brother, sister, and her dear friend Stephen. She introduced me to some Ojibwa customs as she so beautifully and powerfully modeled a focus on relationships. We enjoyed attending meetings and events through the Women's Studies program at the university, and Donna introduced me to women like Jane, Gloria, and Stephanie who also became friends. Donna and the circle of women she introduced me to truly helped me to further find my voice, speak my truth, and be a part of a community of powerful women.

Years later, after I had moved from Detroit to Chicago and then to Florida, Donna introduced me to her dear Jack, whom she loved so. Donna and Jack visited Marcus and me at our home in Winter Park, Florida, and assisted us with some work in Philadelphia some 15 years ago. Most recently, I have enjoyed keeping up with Donna virtually on social media. As we talked about Donna's passing today, although deeply saddened, Marcus and I are so glad she and Jack enjoyed recreating together and traveling much in recent years since we have seen them. They enjoyed life.

Finally, I think back to a day when I was pleased to witness my beautiful and articulate friend accepting a much-deserved award at a national conference and referred to Mahatma Gandhi's saying, "Be the change you want to see in the world." My dear friend Donna Roe was that change.

Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

With Love,

Donna Wilson Conyers



Donna Wilson Conyers - March 08 at 07:55 PM



“ Donna and I met at Siena Heights when we were both very young and still finding our voice! We were friends within a circle of friends who supported each other in that sacred search. My sadness is only exceeded by my gratitude. My deepest sympathy to her beloved family and the host of friends to whom she was beloved. Grief's last gift is to live well in honor of those who loved them so well.

Eileen Stenzel - March 08 at 07:09 PM



“ Joan & Linda Roe (Morris) Johnson & Debbie & Gene purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Donna M. Roe.



Joan & Linda Roe (Morris) Johnson & Debbie & Gene - March 08 at 06:58 PM