



## Donna Jean (Childers) Kraus

August 7, 1941 - October 22, 2017

CUMBERLAND – Donna Jean (Childers) Kraus, age 76, of Cumberland, passed away on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at IU Health University Hospital. She was born on August 7, 1941 in Indianapolis as the daughter of Oris and Ernestine (DeNoon) Childers. She graduated from Lawrence Central High School in 1959.

Donna dedicated her career to working in healthcare as an executive assistant. She began her employment in 1959 at Community Hospital East. In 1985 she moved to Dallas, TX to accept a position with Voluntary Health Enterprises, Inc. In 1991, Donna returned to Indianapolis to be with her family and began her employment with St. Vincent Hospital. A few years later, Donna accepted the executive assistant position at Hancock Regional Hospital in Greenfield. She retired from Hancock Regional Hospital in 2013. Donna believed that by working in an administrative position in healthcare she was helping patients get quality healthcare with the hope that their road to recovery was a healing, holistic experience.

Donna enjoyed being with her family and especially her grandsons, who provided her with a lot of love and pleasure. Donna had a love for gardening, beautiful flowers and enjoyed hiking in wooded areas. She spent a great deal of time reading.

She is survived by her children, Deborah JoAnn Kraus of Greenfield and Donald James (Connie) Kraus, Jr. of Lawrence; three grandchildren, Kyle Moffitt, Trent Richmann and Keith West; and brother, Bud Childers of West Palm Beach, FL. She was preceded in death by her parents, Oris and Ernestine Childers; and brother, Jerry L. Childers.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory, 1484 W. US Hwy. 40, Greenfield, IN 46140. A funeral service will take place immediately following the visitation at 5:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made by mail to the American Heart Association, 208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60604 or envelopes will be

available at the mortuary. Friends may share a memory or a condolence at [www.erleweinmortuary.com](http://www.erleweinmortuary.com).

# Events

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**OCT 25 Visitation** 03:00PM - 05:00PM  
Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield  
1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

**OCT 25 Funeral Service** 05:00PM  
Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield  
1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

# Comments

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“ I met Donna when she came to Hancock Regional in 1994. She quickly became a working partner even though we were worked in different areas of the hospital. She had a passion to develop and recognize other office professionals in the hospital. We worked together to organize workshops and luncheons to acknowledge the importance of their work. Her vision of developing a county-wide program for office professionals came to fruition by the creation of the Hancock County Office Professional organization. This organization touched many businesses here in Hancock County by bringing educational and personal growth opportunities to their office professionals. Her circle of friends and business partners grew and she was able to touch so many with her impressive professionalism, skills and grace. She taught us all to strive to be the best we could be while maintaining the utmost in professionalism.

Donna and I shared a friendship outside of the hospital. I quickly learned how important her family was to her – especially those two little grandsons who have now grown up to be the highlight of her life. Trent and Kyle, you are so special to be the individuals who were able to bring such delight to this lady. No one else could fill her with such overwhelming joy when spending time with you. Never forget how special you are to have been able to bless someone like this. And to her daughter, Debbie, who was always there to support her – which I know wasn't always easy as Donna was a very independent lady who did not like asking for help. You just had to slip it in when she wasn't looking. And thank goodness you convinced her she should bring that adorable furry canine into her home, Winston. He was her constant companion who was by her side day and night. Donna never experienced loneliness as Winston gave her all the love and kisses she could ever want.

Even after retirement, Donna was never one to sit around for too long. After reading a few chapters of a good book, she was up and meeting friends for lunch, shopping with her wonderful neighbor Kay, or being drug down to Nashville or spending the weekend in a lodge or cabin with me. I will miss those adventures but I will never forget them nor the warmth of this friendship I was able to enjoy for a short 23 years. Rest in peace dear friend.

Carol Barrett

Carol barrett - October 25, 2017 at 11:32 AM

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“ Donna has been our dear friend for over 35 years. Our hearts are filled with great sadness with the loss of this beautiful and kind soul. Our prayers and love surround Donna as she continues her spiritual journey with God and her wonderful family. Donna will be greatly missed.

Love always,  
Rita and Richard Smith



**Rita Smith** - October 24, 2017 at 09:56 PM

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“ 8 files added to the album Hancock County Office Professionals



**Mary Lynn Burrows** - October 24, 2017 at 10:46 AM



“ Donna Kraus was very dedicated to our Hancock County Office Professional Group.

I will never forget one of the library's board presidents introducing me to Donna. Her organizational skills were shared with me so I could do my job better.

Rest in peace sweet lady...until we meet again in heaven.

I am sure you and Mary Thurston are in heaven organizing things up there.

Mary Lynn

**Mary Lynn Burrows** - October 24, 2017 at 12:34 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Mary Lynn Burrows - October 24, 2017 at 10:32 AM

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“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Carol Barrett - October 24, 2017 at 09:58 AM

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“ To Debbie and Family, Donna meant a lot to me. I had a chance to work directly with her about 19 years at Hancock Regional. She was the best Executive Assistant that any organization could have. She was great in working with the Board of the Hospital, the Medical Staff, Hospital professional staff, our patients and all the volunteers! She was also very active in the Community and helped found a professional organization for other Executive Assistants in the community. I could not have had a better Executive Assistant to work with and I will remember her always with many fond memories. She will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with you!

Bobby Keen - October 23, 2017 at 06:02 PM