



Donna L. Kantner

March 30, 1933 - June 14, 2024

Donna Lee Kantner, age 91 of Troy, IL, died Friday, June 14, 2024, at Highland Healthcare Center in Highland, IL.

She was born on Thursday, March 30, 1933, in Saint Louis, MO, the daughter of John and Mary (nee Michael) Rench.

On Thursday, June 26, 1952, she married Wilbert G. Kantner at Little Rock, Arkansas, who passed away on Wednesday, February 14, 1979.

Donna was born in St. Louis, MO, and at the age of three, the family moved to Old Ripley, IL. She was a graduate of Pocahontas High School, Pocahontas, IL. She was a caregiver by nature and that led to her vocation as a Nurse's Aide. She had worked at St. Joseph Hospital in Highland and at Belleville Memorial Hospital. She retired in 1989, but continued working at Belleville Hospital and Chastain's Nursing Home, now called Highland Healthcare Center. She Truly loved her job and the people she worked with. Her Special Niece and Nephew welcomed her with open arms and shared pictures and stories of her heritage. She had an incredible smile. As a family we are forever grateful to have had her. Her strength was contagious to all who knew and loved her. She will be missed.

Survivors include:

Daughter - Bonnie (Jerry) Schmitt, Troy, IL

Daughter - Deborah Jakel, Bowling Green, KY

Daughter - Elizabeth (Kevin) Ward, Saint Charles, MO

Daughter - Naomi Brown, Saint Charles, MO

Grandchild - Dawn (Joe) Thein, Nashville, TN

Grandchild - Dara (John) Cherry, Bowling Green, KY

Grandchild - Cale (Laura) Schmitt, Highland, IL

Grandchild - Amanda (Significant Other Carrie Philbrick Mackey) Schmitt, Shiloh, IL

Grandchild - Brandon (Significant Other Jen Lohrman) Richter, St. Louis, MO

Grandchild - Austin (Significant Other Sheyla Fuentes) Ward, St. Peters, MO

Great Grandchild - Christ (Significant Other Sierra Leitz) House, Auburn, KY

Great Grandchild - Tyler Cherry, Bowling Green, KY

Great Grandchild - Caden Cherry, Bowling Green, KY

Great Grandchild - Gavin Schmitt, Highland, IL

Great Grandchild - Madison Schmitt, Highland, IL

Niece - Amy (Jerry) Walch, Villa Grove, IL

Nephew - Ralph (Marybeth) Sprague, Elmwood, IL

She was preceded in death by:

Father - John H. Rench - Died 5/01/1954

Mother - Mary E. Rench, nee Michael - Died 1/16/1976

Husband - Wilbert G. "Red" Kantner - Died 2/14/1979

Son - Robert W. (Theresa) Kantner - Died together 10/07/1979 Auto Accident

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Arrangements are private.

Interment will be at Highland City Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Metro East Humane Society.

Tribute Wall

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“ Her strength will be cherished. Her battles she won on her own and keeping her family together. If we only knew sooner. How we loved her later years to learn what a fabulous woman she was. When she let her guard down we learned her. We will miss her every single day.



Bonnie Schmitt - October 06, 2024 at 02:23 PM

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“ She was a sweet lady she will be missed!!

Christopher T. Loyet - June 24, 2024 at 12:30 AM

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“ Christopher T. Loyet lit a candle in memory of Donna Kantner



Christopher T. Loyet - June 24, 2024 at 12:30 AM