



Donna Ford

April 19, 1945 - March 11, 2025

Donna Jean Ford, 79, of Centralia, Illinois, passed away on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at St. Louis University Hospital Hospice Care Center, with her family at her side. She was born on April 19, 1945, in Chicago, Illinois, to the late Harry and Angie (Jakob) Arhelger. She married J. Michael (Mike) Ford on September 30, 1967, and he preceded her in death on May 1, 2022.

Donna is survived by her three children: Deborah Huber and husband Christopher of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Steven Ford and wife Julie of Chandler, Arizona; and Richard Ford and wife Rachel of Metamora, Illinois. Her six grandchildren: Tyler Sulcer and wife Kyla of O'Fallon, Illinois; Brooke Sulcer and partner Nathan Boyd of St. Louis, Missouri; Mason and Grant Ford of Chandler, Arizona; and Mady and Sophie Ford of Metamora, Illinois. She also leaves behind her step-granddaughter, Abigail Huber of St. Louis, Missouri, and her cherished great-grandson, Bennett Sulcer of O'Fallon, Illinois. Additionally, she is survived by her sister-in-law, Susan Lester and husband Bob of Reno, Nevada; sister-in-law Ann Ford of Mississippi; and two nieces, Molly Lester and Katherine Breedlove. Finally, she is survived by special families Kelly Bennett and wife Cheryl of Irvington, Illinois and Brandon Hatfield and wife Keli and their three children of Glen Carbon, Illinois.

In addition to her parents and husband, Donna was preceded in death by her brothers-in-law, John and Robert Ford and nephew James Lester.

Donna was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Nothing brought her greater joy than her family, especially her great grandson Bennett. She retired from the Centralia Correctional Center after serving in multiple departments, concluding her career in the medical records office. In addition to her family she enjoyed sewing, reading, and all things Christmas. She passed that love of Christmas on to her family.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at St. Mary's Catholic Church from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, followed by a memorial prayer service officiated by Father Steve Pautler. Interment will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Centralia.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the donor's choice of either St. Jude 's Children's Hospital, American Heart Association, or St. Mary's Church. Contributions will be accepted by Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street, Centralia, Illinois, 62801, (618) 532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Ford family.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **20**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Church
424 E Broadway
Centralia, IL 62801

Funeral Service

MAR **20**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM.

St Mary Catholic Church, Centralia, Illinois

Tribute Wall

DS

“ I met Donna on the first day of school at St. Ben's. As luck would have it, we ended up having every class together that first semester. It was the beginning of a life-long friendship. We've stayed in touch through the years, reminiscing about our high school days and sharing information about our families. We were able to meet in the Chicago area a couple years ago while she was visiting her daughter. We had a great time together. I will miss her greatly and I'm so sorry for your loss.
Denise Shaw

Denise Shaw - April 02, 2025 at 12:00 PM

CU

“ Donna took me to and from the bowling alley when I first moved to Centralia in the spring of 1979. We shared some good times during those visits.

Carol Mulica Unger - March 20, 2025 at 01:38 PM

KE

“ Ken and Marie Eckhardt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Ford.

Ken and Marie Eckhardt - March 19, 2025 at 08:43 AM

KE

“ Ken and Marie Eckhardt purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Donna Ford.



Ken and Marie Eckhardt - March 19, 2025 at 08:43 AM

WW

“ Wil and Sondra Wendt purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donna Ford.



Wil and Sondra Wendt - March 18, 2025 at 11:33 PM

YC

“ Your Friends at Smart Choice purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Donna Ford.



Your Friends at Smart Choice - March 18, 2025 at 11:32 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Donna Ford.



March 16, 2025 at 01:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donna Ford.

March 16, 2025 at 07:49 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of Donna Ford.



March 16, 2025 at 07:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donna Ford.

March 15, 2025 at 01:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Donna Ford.



March 15, 2025 at 01:43 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray* was purchased for the family of Donna Ford.



March 14, 2025 at 11:25 AM

SL

“ Hope you are at peace now Donna. You will be missed by many.
Sincerely, Bob and Susan Lester



Susan Lester - March 13, 2025 at 01:38 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donna Ford.



March 11, 2025 at 04:31 PM

KG

“ Ken Gray purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Donna Ford.



Ken Gray - March 11, 2025 at 03:24 PM