



Donna Mae Swanson

July 15, 1967 - October 11, 2025

Donna Mae Swanson was born on July 15, 1967 in Chicago IL. At age 58, she went home to be with the Lord on October 11, 2025, in Kankakee IL.

Donna was a 1985 graduate of Oak Lawn Community High School, and she earned an Associate degree at Moraine Valley Community College. During her career years she held very responsible positions at some well-known entities such as Loyola University, McDonald's Corporate, Ty Incorporated and the Chicagoland Speedway.

Donna was very spontaneous. She enjoyed delving into new hobbies such as painting and wood burning. Over the years, she developed a deep love of the outdoors and nature. She absolutely loved traveling to northern Michigan for camping trips with her boyfriend John McGrath and his energetic dog Tig. The trips they took out West in recent years gave her many, many treasured memories.

A self-proclaimed foodie, Donna loved to eat good meals although you couldn't tell by looking at her petite frame. She enjoyed music (and knew all the lyrics she said) and loved dancing. She made occasional trips to the casinos to play the slots. Donna also loved spending time with family and friends. She was blessed to spend a lot of time with her mother who lived to be 95. They had a special relationship and a close bond.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents Marvin R. and Dorothy M. (Nelson) Swanson, her sister Barbara Swanson, all of her aunts and uncles and several cousins.

Surviving are her daughter, Alyssa Mae Banach of Bloomington IL and her son, Private Andrew Louis Banach of Braidwood IL. She loved her children beyond words and was extremely proud of them and their accomplishments. She is also survived by her boyfriend and the love of her life, John McGrath. He loved and cared for her with kindness and respect for the last five years until her passing.

Also surviving are her siblings Nancy (Dave) Bond of Washington IL, Don (Sheila) Swanson of Selmer TN and Jean (Rich) Moran of Tinley Park IL. She will be missed by her Wisconsin siblings Deane Roe, Ken Swanson and Pat (Doug) Nagle. She also leaves behind cousins, nieces and nephews and their children as well.

Donna will be missed by special friends Tresa (her Greek sister), Piam, Jackie, Louann, Fran and Courtney and so many more.

Donna fought a decade-long and courageous battle for her health. She overcame many obstacles by her sheer will and positive mindset. She was greatly loved by many and will be greatly missed by all.

Family and friends, please join us as we have a Celebration of Life for Donna Swanson on Saturday, July 18, 2026 from 4-8 p.m. at White Fence Farm 1376 Joliet Rd. Bolingbrook, IL 630-739-1720. Donna wanted the celebration to coincide with her birthday-it isn't the exact date, but the closest we could get. Come and share your special memories of Donna. Dinner will be served.

More details to follow closer to the event.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Arrangements are by Schreffler Funeral Homes, Kankakee.

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Life Service

JUL 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

White Fence Farm
1376 Joliet Rd.
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Tribute Wall

AB

“ My mom was an amazing person. She was the light in my life. She loved me and my sister with all of her heart. She taught me how to be proper and have manners if my own. She loved cooking for me in her recent years. My mom was the most amazing mom that I ever could have wished for. She always helped me and nagged me to do my homework. (Back then I was a bit annoyed but looking back I see how it really helped me and turned me into a better person. There’s so many of my battle buddies that I wish she could’ve met and or talked to. Even while she was sick and hurting she still maintained a positive attitude firming everything. I love you mom and just know your friends and family all love you as well. Rest easy.- your son Andrew Banach.

Andrew Banach - October 30, 2025 at 10:01 PM

KE

Wish I could've been there for you Andrew. Your mother was a beautiful soul. Knew her for nearly 50 years, and I am completely broken by her passing.

Kimberly M Everhart - November 19, 2025 at 07:52 PM

DA

“ Darren lit a candle in memory of Donna Mae Swanson



Darren - October 17, 2025 at 03:37 AM

DA

“ May the Lord greet you in person upon arrival with his arms wide open! You were so energetic and such a positive force, always seeing the good in people. You will be missed for quite some time to come. "Kim, Bob, Donna, - Donna, Bob Kim, - Bob Kim Donna, yeh, yeh, yeh" ;-)

Darren - October 17, 2025 at 03:34 AM

DE

“ Donna, I couldn't believe it when I saw this! You'll be missed by a lot of people and I'll always cherish and remember all the good times we've had throughout the yrs especially when you, myself, & Kim would get together! Whether it was getting together at a sports bar to watch a Bears game, play pool, or one of my favorites, the girls camping trips! I'll never forget those days! Rest easy Donna.
Donna Everhart

Donna Everhart - October 16, 2025 at 11:19 PM

KI

“ I will love you forever and a day. 40-year friendship and it ended in tears. I'll see you again in our next life.



Kim - October 16, 2025 at 09:46 PM

CB

“ See you in paradise my friend. Prayers for you and all of your family.

Christine Benson - October 16, 2025 at 07:30 PM

JR

“ *Jeanne Reder lit a candle in memory of Donna Mae Swanson*



Jeanne Reder - October 16, 2025 at 08:35 AM

LC

“ *Donna was one of the most generous people I have ever met. I will miss our walks and talks. She was so kind and wise. She was authentic and down to earth. She was my best good friend. I am grateful to John and Tig for taking such good care of her. My sympathy to Jean, Nancy and Don for the loss of your sister with the big heart! To Andrew and Allysa, you were her loves. I'm sorry for the loss of your mom.* ☐

LouAnn Carpenter - October 15, 2025 at 11:12 PM

TP

“ *Terry Prude lit a candle in memory of Donna Mae Swanson*



Terry Prude - October 15, 2025 at 10:25 PM

JM

“ *Donna will be missed greatly. She inspired me - seeing her courageous battle and positive attitude. She loved her kids, life, and appreciated nature and the simple things. Her boyfriend was the love of her life and I was so happy she found that true love in her life.*

Jean Moran - October 14, 2025 at 11:55 AM

NB

“ *Rest and be at peace, little sister!! We love you and will always miss you!*

Nancy Bond - October 14, 2025 at 10:06 AM

DD

We always enjoyed talking to Donna. We are so sad she left us so soon. We are praying for you all. We know Donna will be greatly missed by all of us. Love you all.

Debbie and John Dorothy - October 14, 2025 at 10:54 AM