



Donna Rae Wells

September 16, 1937 - July 30, 2024

Donna Rae Wells, 86, formerly of Kankakee, died July 30 at Belmont Village Oak Park of complications from dementia.

Donna was born on Sept. 16, 1937, the daughter of Irene Mae Swartz and Raymond Smith. She grew up in Essex, IL, was active in 4H, and the majorette of the Reddick High School marching band.

Donna met her husband, Robert F. Wells, while working at Wilson's Paint Store in Kankakee. They married on Oct. 13, 1956, at Essex Methodist Church. They raised their only child, Lisa Kae Wells, in Kankakee before moving to Eden Prairie, MN, then Streamwood, IL. Robert preceded her in death in 2004, and she returned to Westwood Estates in Kankakee and lived there until suffering a traumatic brain injury in 2018.

Prior to her accident, Donna enjoyed her rose garden, home decorating, shopping at Walmart and Dress Barn, and "junking" at garage sales throughout Kankakee County. She worked as a patient account rep for Riverside Hospital and an optician for Dr. Vincent Kelly before retiring in 1982. She was a member of St. John United Church of Christ and, upon her return to Kankakee, attended Asbury Methodist Church.

Surviving are her daughter Lisa Kae Wells, her son-in-law Albert Ferolie, and her only grandchild, Henry Wells Ferolie of Chicago; her niece Denise Mae (Jim) Moore, great-niece Katelyn Rae Moore, nephew Scott Smith, and great-nephew Cody Smith; her first cousins Betty (Chuck) Benbrooks, Beverly (David) Walking, Gary (Pat) Swartz, Jim (Carolyn) Swartz, Judy (Jeff) Ishmiel,

and Larry (Phyllis) Swartz, as well as many second cousins and their families. Donna is preceded in death by her sister Karen Kae and brother-in-law Bob Smith.

The family would like to thank the staff of Bourbonnais Grove Memory Care, Loving Lift, Belmont Village Senior Living, Suncrest Hospice, and the neurology department of Rush University Medical Center for their unwavering compassion and care.

Services are private and she will be buried at Kankakee Memorial Gardens surrounded by her immediate family. Memorials may be made to the National Alliance on Mental Illness at NAMI.org or to the Wells-Ferolie library fund for Queen of Angels Catholic Elementary School via their website or mailed to 4412 N Western Ave, Chicago IL 60625, Attn: Tom Madden/Library.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 South 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901