



Donna Lou McNerney

DEC 16, 1928 - JUN 18, 2025



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Donna Lou McNerney

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Edmore- Donna Lou McNerney, age 96, of Vestaburg passed away at the home she was born in on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, surrounded by her beloved family. Donna was born to parents, Clare and Gladys (Hare) Beach at the farm on December 16, 1928, along with her twin brother Dean Luis. She arrived in this world with fiery red hair and freckles. More boy than girl, she loved to play outside with her best friend (Dean). Donna grew up during the Great Depression, forever touching her life, teaching her to make the most of what she had and to value things until they have truly worn out. She went to a one-room schoolhouse, on the corner of Crystal and Kendaville roads. Donna said everything she learned she did by watching Dean. She graduated with the Class of 1946 at Vestaburg High School, where she was the 5'2" starting defensive guard on the undefeated girls' basketball team back in the day when they played 6 on 6 and only 3 players on each team could be in either the offensive or defensive zone at one time. As such she was inducted into the Vestaburg Sports Hall of Fame. After high school, Donna's father helped her through beauty school at M J Murphy Beauty College. There she excelled and was even invited to Mackinac Island do the hair of the cast members of "This Time for Keeps" in 1947. Industrious and hardworking, she opened her own salon, employing several other beauticians and became well known in her community. She was at one time president of the Michigan Hairdressers Association and served on the board of the School of Cosmetology run by Montcalm Community College. Later, she sold the business and moved the shop to her home so she could "be there" for her kids and successfully did so until her retirement in 1990. On May 18, 1949, Robert Joseph (Bobby Joe) McNerney married Donna, and they started a family in 1950. She raised 4 children with strength and humor and a great deal of affection. She loved fiercely, prayed fervently, wept openly and didn't find it necessary to say, "Wait until your father gets home." Along with raising her children, Donna raised a host of other kids



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to love Jesus, as a Sunday School teacher at Vestaburg Church of Christ for nearly 30 years. She was an adventurous soul, growing old but never growing up, even as a grandmother who was still climbing trees higher than the grandkids. Donna also enjoyed gardening, arranging flowers, cooking, sewing, and quilting over the years. Donna will be deary missed by her daughter Kris Ann McNerney-Blake; sons Timothy (Debbie) McNerney, Thomas (Rhonda) McNerney, Greg (Becky) McNerney; grandchildren Hayley, Holly, Hilary (Philp), Heath (Kellie), Hannah (K.C.), Alisa (Joe), Anna (Chris), Samuel, Amber (Toren), Rebekah, Rachel, and Amanda; 16 great-grandchildren; and sister Janet Yesmunt; brother in law, Tom Johnson. Preceding Donna in death are her parents; twin brother Dean Beach, who was killed while serving in the Air Force during Vietnam; husband Bobby Joe in 2005; and siblings Kendall Beach, and Jackie Johnson; Brother in law, Norm Yesmunt. A celebration of life for Donna's life will take place on Friday, July 11, 2025, at Vestaburg Church of Christ at 3:00 PM with sons Timothy and Thomas McNerney officiating. Family will receive and greet friends from 12:00 PM until the time of service. Interment will take place on a later date at Ferris Township Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions in Donna's honor be made to Rock Lake Christian Assembly.



Tribute Wall

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GS

Grace (Erskin) Shaffer posted:

A tree to live long and prosper for others to enjoy. Donna lived long and we loved and enjoyed her all our lives.

July 8 at 8:00 PM

RW

Richard Wilson posted:

Donna was my mom's hairdresser for years. What a beautiful lady she was and she and Bob raised a great family. Richard(Dick) Wilson

June 22 at 8:00 PM

JC

Judy Chaffin posted:

A very sweet lady and neighbor. Her and her husband were sweet Christian neighbors.... Judy Chaffin

June 20 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

We are thinking of you.

June 20 at 8:00 PM



NW

Neil Wilson posted:

With deepest sympathy,

June 19 at 8:00 PM

PB

Phil Beaver posted:

Gma Nerny as I knew her was an awesome soul, every time she came to San Diego, always fun and quiet, I am so happy I got to know her and i even visited her house and farm one year with my son Philip and daughter in law Hillary, she will be missed beyond words, Rest in Peace beautiful lady, you will be missed so bad, please find my wife and son up in heaven and give them a kiss for me please. Love Phil Beaver Sr.

June 19 at 8:00 PM



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PB

Phil Beaver shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

RIP Gma Nerney, love Phil Beaver

June 19 at 8:00 PM



HW

Hazen & Beki Wager posted:

So many memories with Bob and Donna. We were always greeted with a smile and warm hug. You are already missed, Donna. We are so thankful you are face to face with our Lord. Well done, faithful servant. All our love, Hazen and Beki Wager

June 19 at 8:00 PM

AM

A Memorial Tree Was Planted For Donna Lou Mcnerney posted:

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Brigham Funeral Chapel - Edmore

June 19 at 8:00 PM



Media

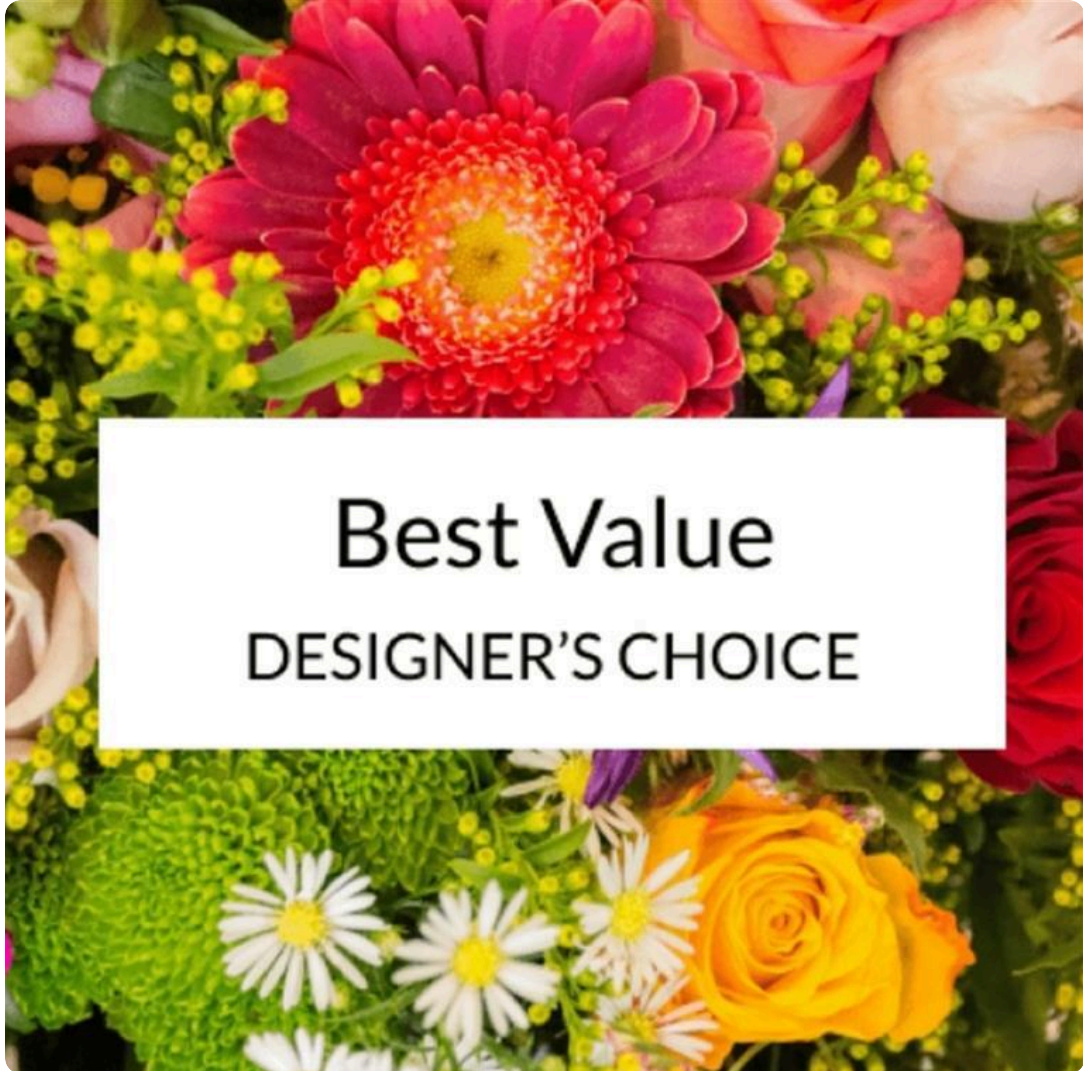
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Anonymous shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 20 at 8:00 PM





Media

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Phil Beaver shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 19 at 8:00 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donna by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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