



Donna M. Shelatree

April 23, 1948 - December 9, 2024

Donna Marie Shelatree, 76, of Venus, passed away peacefully early Monday morning, December 9, 2024 at UPMC Passavant Hospital in McCandless following a brief battle with cancer.

She was born on April 23, 1948 in McKeesport; daughter of the late Ted and Dorothy Rybar.

Donna graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Slippery Rock University and went on to receive her Master's in Education and Reading at Clarion University. She was an elementary teacher at Cranberry School District for a number of years before receiving her principal certificate from Westminster College and becoming Principal at Cranberry. Donna also was the supervisor of curriculum and instruction. Even after she retired, she stayed active in the education field by monitoring school programs for the Department of Education.

Donna married Donald Shelatree on May 2, 1970, who survives. They moved into their dream farm in 1975 with no electric, no heat, and a hand pump in the kitchen. They became members of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion where they served as eucharistic ministers to shut ins for many years prior to the pandemic in 2020.

Donna had a passion for breeding and selling horses. She sold numerous Arabian and part Arabian Pintos throughout the United States, Canada, and Britain. She enjoyed traveling to horse shows and won many championships along the way. Donna's enthusiasm and dedication helped inspire and nurture

others passions for horses as well, creating many lasting friendships. She had so many talents. Donna was always winning a photography contest or designing websites for others. Her contagious positive outlook, happy spirit, and cheerful humming will be dearly missed by her family and her “horsey” friends.

Along with her husband, Donald, she is survived by her sisters, Sharyn Meredith and Janice Marklan, both of Pittsburgh; as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Donna was preceded in death by an infant son, Damon Scott Shelatree.

Family and friends will be received from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at the Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 13, 2024 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion with Rev. Monty Sayers presiding.

Entombment will follow at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Donna’s honor to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital online at stjude.org.

Cemetery Details

Immaculate Conception Catholic Mausoleum

Clarion, PA 16214

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 12. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Robert V. Burns Funeral Home
638 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 226-6300
<https://www.rvburnsfuneralhome.com>

Viewing

DEC 12. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Robert V. Burns Funeral Home
638 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 226-6300
<https://www.rvburnsfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
715 East Main Street
Clarion, PA 16214

Tribute Wall



“ Robert V Burns Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donna M. Shelatree



Robert V Burns Funeral Home - December 11, 2024 at 04:34 PM

KH

“ I first met Donna and Donald as a teenager as they shared a friendship with John and Pam Silvis. Horses brought me to know the vibrant and always helpful Donna Shelatree. And then as a fellow educator (this is my 32nd year of teaching). Although I lived in several places and different states after graduating from Clarion University in 1993, I kept in touch with Donna, and especially looked forward to her updates to Whispering Hill Farm and her fabulous Christmas letters!

In 2016, Donna helped me buy my dream horse from her...a beautiful Half Arabian buckskin. Stanley was my pride and joy until I had to let him go (through a lot of tears) to fabulous new owners, also friends of The Shelatree's, residing in Venus, Pa, too.

I'll forever cherish the people Donna and Donald were to me in my life. Kind, caring, and contagiously cheerful! Donna is now with my mom and Aunt Kathy in Heaven (my mom's birthday was Dec. 9 and Kathy died of cancer in 2017 on Dec. 9). Condolences to Donald, Donna's family, and Donna's extensive network of friends. She's now an angel for us here on Earth.

Katie Prevish Holzer - December 13, 2024 at 05:59 AM



“ This picture is how I will always remember my Aunt Donna. My Aunt Donna was my number 1 supporter in my photography career before I considered myself any kind of photographer. She taught me so much and always liked every single one of my photos. A part of her is a part of my photography journey forever. That I am grateful for.

Aside from photography, I value how present my aunt Donna was with us growing up to now. No matter the distance between she came down to see us or connected with us on Facebook she was always in tune and supportive of our lives.

I will never forget our memories from holiday mornings, visits to the farm, endless messages back and forth about photography and always being an amazing soul and the best aunt ❤️

This photo captures her best. A smile that radiates, a camera with photos filled with love, and my uncle Donald by her side. Praying and thinking of you, Uncle Donald, through this grieving time.

May you rest in peace and I will always continue to keep your spirit alive through my photography ☐❤️



December 13, 2024 at 01:41 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donna M. Shelatree.



December 11, 2024 at 03:44 PM



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

December 11, 2024 at 03:44 PM



“ 42 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Robert V Burns Funeral Home - December 11, 2024 at 11:32 AM



“ Nancy Carroll lit a candle in memory of Donna Shelatree



Nancy Carroll - December 11, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donna M. Shelatree.



December 10, 2024 at 07:57 PM



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

December 10, 2024 at 07:57 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Donald and the rest of Donna's family and friends. You are all in my prayers.

Heaven gained another angel yesterday... She stepped up when I needed someone to go with me on my FBLA trip to California in high school, and I never forgot that, or her! What a blessing that we have been able to stay in touch through Facebook for so many years! Rest in peace, my friend...."Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen." 🙏😊

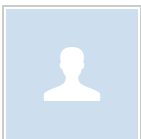
Susan Harry - December 10, 2024 at 07:54 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donna M. Shelatree.



December 10, 2024 at 06:46 PM



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

December 10, 2024 at 06:46 PM

JS

“ So sorry to hear. I shared her love of Half Arabian pintos, showing with some of the horses she bred, and always enjoyed the photos she took of her horses and shared with us on her face book page.

Jan Sharp - December 10, 2024 at 05:13 PM

AC

“ So sorry for your loss. I worked with Donna at Cranberry School District. She was a very special person.

Anna Marie Creighton - December 10, 2024 at 04:39 PM

KH

“ Our hearts go out to Donald in this most difficult of time Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you...she was an exceptional woman and will be missed

Kathy Hopkins - December 10, 2024 at 02:37 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donna M. Shelatree.



December 10, 2024 at 01:58 PM



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

December 10, 2024 at 01:58 PM

SD

“ My sincerest and deepest sympathies to Donald, her siblings, relatives, and her horse family that Donna touched their lives. Prayers for all.

Sondra Deeter - December 10, 2024 at 12:33 PM

JB

“ Donna was always laughing, Its always her smile I see when I remember the many horses she helped us with, the laughter over a Montana's meal, trips to RRR to see the kindergarten horses, and the German Shepard pup from you, that adopted us. Sorry for your loss Donald - she truly was a bright spot in the universe and will be missed.

Jacqueline blose - December 10, 2024 at 11:01 AM

JH

“ I was saddened to read of Donna's passing. My sincere condolences to her family. Donna and I met in the 70's during grad school. We did many projects together. Our paths crossed many times over the years and my admiration for her grew, as did our friendship. She was eternally optimistic which I greatly admired. I always enjoyed both reminiscing and catching up on her new adventures. She was an unforgettable character. I will cherish her memory as I am sure you will.

Jan Huffman - December 10, 2024 at 09:42 AM

AG

“ I will always cherish the memories of Donna's humming and kindness on Saturday mornings as we shared breakfast at Montana's in Fryburg. She was so kind and so thrilled when I told her I had decided to become a teacher. I will miss her. - Andrew Gilara

Andrew Gilara - December 10, 2024 at 09:39 AM

RS

“ Donna you will always be my favorite sister in law. I love you so much and will miss you.

Robbyn Jackman Sarvas - December 10, 2024 at 09:22 AM

LM

“ Donna worked with my kids years ago very caring and positive. Will truly miss keep up with her RIPz

Lynn Morrow - December 10, 2024 at 09:17 AM

DS

“ My sincere condolences to Donna's family.

Dave Stake - December 10, 2024 at 08:02 AM

JC

“ Donna (and Ed Schlick) interviewed and hired me when I started at Pinoak Elementary in 1990. She was a constant support and mentor that first year for this young teacher living five hours away from home. Donna is one of the main reasons I stayed in Cranberry and taught for the next thirty-four years. We lost a great child advocate and a wonderful lady. Prayers for you Don.

Jodie Yost Chittester - December 10, 2024 at 05:52 AM



“ Donald, words cannot express our sadness at your loss of dear, precious Donna. She touched so many lives in so many ways. I met her through horses many, many, years ago and treasured her friendship throughout all those years as I will treasure the memories forever.

Our hearts, our love and our prayers are with you today, as they have been with her.

Lots of love and our deepest sympathies, Faith, Eric and Wes Kaltenbach

Faith Kaltenbach - December 10, 2024 at 05:37 AM

TH

“ The Washington House purchased the Arrive in S tyle for the family of Donna M. Shelatree.



The Washington House - December 09, 2024 at 10:56 PM

PB

“ Will cherish all the days we shared in Susie's living room watching the Chosen and sharing food and love and Jesus together. Memories I will treasure forever. Love you dear friend.

Patti Bauer - December 09, 2024 at 09:17 PM

JS

“ Donna was such a precious lady, she always had a smile on her face and was do bubbly! She will be missed in the neighborhood and her posts of her horses and beautiful pictures ad well will be sadly missed. Prayers for Peace and Comfort to you Donald. I'm so very sorry.

Joy and Jeff Shotts - December 09, 2024 at 08:28 PM

NI

She was a wonderful lady. Always smiling and so bubbly. My girls loved her in teaching them. So very sorry to hear of her passing. She will be missed by all who knew her. Sympathy goes out to Donald and her family. Norma Confer Imler

Norma Imler - December 10, 2024 at 08:49 AM

CM

“ We bought two horses from Donna and gained both beautiful horses but wonderful friends. I will miss sharing our horse adventures with her. We are truly heartbroken. You will always be in our heart and we hope to continue to make you proud. Love Tripp, Indy, Caitlyn, and Cindy

Cindy Myers - December 09, 2024 at 08:12 PM

KW

“ Don: Ray and I are so sorry to read of Donna's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Karen & Ray Weaver - December 09, 2024 at 08:07 PM

NC

“ There are so many memories. She was such a vibrant person. I will miss her stories and her laugh even though live far away. Rest in peace with all your passed friends, horses and dogs. Love you Donna.

Nancy Carroll - December 09, 2024 at 06:37 PM

LR

“ My heart is broken to lose such an important person in my life. She taught me so much and her and Donald were a second family to me. I am really at a loss of words.

Leslie Raybuck - December 09, 2024 at 06:19 PM