



# Donna Kaye Knapp

May 28, 1957 - March 6, 2024

Donna Kaye Knapp, 66, a beacon of love and courage, departed this world on March 6, 2024, peacefully in her sleep in the comfort of her home in San Pierre after a spirited battle with cancer. Born on May 28, 1957, in Gary, Indiana, Donna's years were filled with the warmth and strength that came to define her life, growing into the spirited soul so many adored. She was a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, and a grandmother.

Donna's academic journey began at William A. Wirt High School in Miller Beach, Indiana. Upon moving, she continued her high school education at LaCrosse High School, graduating in 1975. There, she exhibited a passion for sports, participating in volleyball and track. She furthered her education at Purdue North Central in Westville and proudly obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Valparaiso University in 1995.

On May 21, 1977, Donna married the love of her life, Michael T. Knapp. The couple welcomed their cherished daughter, Jacquelin K. (Knapp) Rowe. Donna's commitment to care and nurturing extended well beyond the walls of her home and into her professional life. She embarked on a fulfilling career at Porter Memorial Hospital as a nursing aide and ascended the ranks to Staff RN, Charge RN, Unit Director, and Admissions RN. Her dedication to her profession was evident through her active participation on numerous hospital committees. Her career was a testament to her tenacity and heart.

The great outdoors was Donna's sanctuary. Her affinity for nature was apparent in her enjoyment of the beach and mountains alike. Gardening brought her immense pleasure, not only in the cultivation of beautiful flowers but also in the delight of watching hummingbirds dance around her blooms. Alongside Mike, she embarked on countless adventures across the country, whether in their vintage camper or on their Harley, creating a tapestry of cherished memories with the friends made along the journey.

However, it was her role as a grandmother that Donna treasured most. Her grandchildren, Kaleb, Kaden, and Kendra Frazier, were the light of her life. She was a constant presence at their sporting events. Her enthusiastic cheers, smiling face, and warm embraces were a

source of comfort and joy to all who had the pleasure of knowing her. While family meant everything to Donna, it was not just family of her blood but everyone she befriended through the years. She was the unofficial matriarch of the local sports scene, cheering on her grandkids and their teammates enthusiastically. She was "Grandma" to everyone, doling out hugs and high-fives, her cheers for the Tigers echoing across the court and field.

Donna's spirit is carried forward by her daughter Jacquelin and her three children, Kaleb, Kaden, and Kendra, as well as her extended Tiger family, who will miss her unwavering support and radiant smile. She is also survived by her sister, Sandra J. (Michael) Muffley of LaCrosse, Indiana, and her many nieces and nephews, including nephews Tony W. Benson, Tim (Sharon) Benson, Aaron L. Muffley, Donald J. Lloyd, Joe D. (Heather) Lloyd, Jeremy W. (Lindsey) Lloyd, David L. (Haley) Muffley, and Cody D. Lloyd, nieces Julie L. (Josh) Ling and Litha Rose Muffley, as well as 17 great-nephews and great-nieces, and one great-great nephew/niece coming this spring. Preceding her in death were her parents, Donald and Thelma Lloyd, and her brother, Joe L. Lloyd of Tazewell, Tennessee.

Donna was loving, kind, and courageous. She always had a smile that could light up every setting, whether in her work as a nurse or in the Tiger Den as a cheering grandma. She faced life like she faced her illness: with courage and a smile at the ready. Donna's life was a testament to the power of positivity and the strength of the human spirit. She was a guiding light, a source of comfort, and a pillar of strength. Donna's journey may have concluded, and she will be deeply missed, but the impact of her love and kindness will continue to resonate for generations to come, living on in the hearts of those she touched.

There will be a Celebration of Life from 2-4 PM CT Saturday April 13, 2024 at the LaCrosse Gym. There is no place more fitting to honor Donna's life than in the Tiger Den.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to O'Donnell Funeral Home, which is handling the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR 13. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

LaCrosse Gym  
LaCrosse, IN

# Tribute Wall

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“ I will miss our long talks, our laughs, sharing highs and lows in our lives. My friend, my buddy. Be at peace. I love you  
Sue

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**Sue Ogle** - March 13, 2024 at 02:41 PM