



Donna Marie Schade

January 15, 1954 - June 2, 2019

Donna Marie Schade, 65 of Winter Park, Florida passed away June 2, 2019. Donna was born January 15, 1954 in Flushing, New York to Forte Dell and Diana Spei Dell.

She is survived by her loving husband of forty-four years, Robert Schade, and her two daughters, Sarah Mabery and Amanda Schade. She is also survived by her two sisters, Denise Brennan and Dorine Eckert, as well as several nieces, nephews, godchildren, and “adopted” grandchildren.

Donna was known as the crazy squirrel lady because of her involvement in wildlife rehabilitation and over the years has fostered and raised numerous squirrels, opossums, raccoons, crows, pigeons, cardinals and blue jays. She is also survived by her baby boy Theo, the squirrel.

If you are attending any of the services for Donna, the family encourages you to add some bright color to your attire in honor of her eclectic style.

A funeral will be held at St. Peter and Paul in Winter Park on Monday, June 10 at 10am. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Donna’s name to The Haven for Injured and Orphaned Wildlife (<http://thehavenonline.org/>), or the Foundation for Thymic Cancer Research (<http://www.thymic.org/>).

Events

JUN **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

9

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory
9001 N. Orlando Ave., Maitland, FL, US, 32751

JUN **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

10

Sts Peter & Paul Catholic Church
5300 Old Howell Branch Rd, Winter Park, FL, US, 32792

Comments



“ Donna will be greatly missed at the office. So many of the other comments made me smile, so I'll add mine...when Donna first joined our team, she kind of just quietly appeared. She would whoosh past my office in this dark cloak-like sweater, and until I got to know her, it always confused me. The calendars (haha), the pictures of squirrels...who was this interesting woman?! But she always had candy, and I love chocolate, so over squares of Dove, 3 Muskateers and Twix, I got to know this precious soul. I really cant say it any better than what's already been said. Donna was the most caring human being I've ever met. Her laughter and kindness will be missed tremendously. And the bell, haha...every time a bell rings, Donna is rounding the corner. Peace and comfort to the family during this time.

Tiffany Collier - June 09 at 11:58 PM



“ We love you!



Tracey C. - June 08 at 05:33 PM



“ Donna,

I feel so lucky to have known you and to have been a part of your extended work family. You were the perfect balance of spunk and sweet! You loved deeply - people and animals - but didn't waste precious time on anything or anyone that was going to bring you down. I loved your spirit. I am pretty sure that if haunting is possible, you'll make a point to visit us. I'm ready! :) I am going to keep a candy dish going in your honor, and I'll never see a squirrel without sending some love your way. Thanks for always caring so much about me and my family.

Until I see you again.... much love,
Tracey

Tracey C. - June 08 at 05:28 PM



“ Doris Mahoney lit a candle in memory of Donna Marie Schade



Doris Mahoney - June 07 at 10:35 AM



“ I first met Donna (AKA Sarah's mom to me) several years ago at one of her daughter's many parties. I think my first memory of her was how Sarah was trying to explain why her mom had gotten involved with fostering the baby squirrels she took on. The laughs and exclamations of exasperation on everyone else's part, while Donna just smiled, nodded, and continued on with her marching to her own drum beat, always struck me in a unique and impressive way. In many ways, she reminded me often of my own mother. And I can give her no greater compliment than that. I can't help but now imagine her getting to the Pearly Gates to meet St. Peter and having all the various squirrels she saved standing behind St. Peter as he's getting ready to let her in. Sarah, Amanda, and your dad are in my heart and in my prayers. I wish each of you what Donna now has...peace, persistence and strength as you soldier on. With love, the Bauer Family (AKA Deborah and Co.)



Deborah Bauer - June 06 at 04:25 PM



“ John Bozard and Your family at Orlando Health Fdtn purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Donna Marie Schade.



John Bozard and Your family at Orlando Health Fdtn - June 06 at 01:42 PM



“ My dear sweet friend Donna,
Your huge heart, fantastic sense of humor, and love for all the critters will be missed. I know in my heart that you are up in heaven surrounded by loved ones and countless animals. My life was brightened by your friendship.
Love ya girly, brunch will never be the same. Prayers and love sent to everyone in the family.
Sincerely, Cyndy

Cyndy Walters - June 06 at 10:52 AM



“ I will never forget the kindness and excitement for life Donna showed me. Donna loved well. She made time for what mattered to her and lived out her passions for animals, babies, people and nature. In our office of 50+ people I think everyone has a story about how Donna encouraged them in some way.

Donna knitted each newborn in our office a personalized outfit, blanket, hat, or booties because she wanted each baby to have something special when they were born. This quality is something to be treasured and Donna will be missed by so many.

Whitney - June 06 at 10:41 AM



“ To my biggest supporter at Planet Fitness. Girl, without your smile and support I never would have gotten very far. You were there 7am sharp encouraging SO many people to be their best. A kind, but feisty ("I don't want to hear any excuses, I went to bed at 2am and I'm here!") but always with a big heart and smile. My biggest regret is not going to NC with you. I could have had my own Thelma and Louise moment! You always think there will be another day...until there isn't. Lady, you cracked me up every day. You made the gym fun! The Three Musketeers will forever be in my heart. I'll miss your support and love. I'll try and take care of Susan in your honor. Help me from above! Always in my heart, lady! You made life SO much better! Thank you for sharing your animals with me! Mr. Snake, not so much! Love you. Susan (2/3 Musketeers) you will always be our #1 Musketeer.

Susan - June 05 at 08:31 PM



“ Mia Clay lit a candle in memory of Donna Marie Schade



Mia Clay - June 05 at 05:13 PM



“ Dearest Donna,

You have been missed and we will continue to miss your shining light. I have so many funny and sweet memories of you here at work. Early in the morning as I made my way around the building you always greeted me with a smile. I loved your bigger than life personality. The way you expressed yourself each major holiday, having witty comments when I would stop by for candy! Your wild calendars, and the way you decorated your office space always drew people to you. I loved your free spirit and I wish you peace and harmony. I hope your family finds comfort in knowing that we thought you were just awesome and much appreciated.

With fond memories and respect,

Mia Clay

Mia Clay - June 05 at 05:12 PM



“ Donna was the definition of sassy and was a blast to work with. Her sense of humor, love of holiday decorating, team-orientedness, and amazingly kind spirit made her beloved by me and those that worked with her. I will miss her jousty humor and her laugh.

Harrison

harrison - June 05 at 04:21 PM



“ I moved to Florida 23 years ago and the first friend that I found here was Donna. I was from Brooklyn and Donna was from Queens and we immediately clicked. I've yet to meet someone who could make me laugh like she could. My friend Donna: I will miss your kindness, generosity, sarcasm and witticisms. Sunday at the Haven will never be the same again. My heart is broken but my life was so much more fun

having you as my friend. You are now my angel. Love you always and forever. Doris

Doris Drivas - June 05 at 04:08 PM



“ My big sister Donna. We may not have always gotten along but we always loved each other. I know you are dancing with Bamma and Patha as I write this. Forever in our hearts. Love, Reenie



Dorine Eckert - June 05 at 03:27 PM



“ Oh Dorine....I am so so very sorry....May she dance with the Angel's and be happily reunited with your Mom and Dad...With Love Genea

Genea Natale - June 05 at 08:23 PM



“ I met Donna when we worked together for about 7 years at MD Anderson Cancer Center Orlando. As everyone has said, she moved to the beat of a different drummer. Way before hair colors and spiked hair were popular, Donna would show up with streaks of whatever color she was in the mood for and the cat eye glasses that no one was wearing yet. That same independent streak showed through in her dedication to her work. I ALWAYS knew that if Donna had done a job or researched something, it would be right because she never did a job half-way. She always put her whole self into it and she couldn't rest easy until the financials balanced. She was such a good role model as an employee. Always came up with ideas. She was very smart and was able to see how all the pieces of the puzzle fit together. She could spot when what was said in one place in a protocol did not match what was said in another place. Yes, she was witty. You never knew what she would say. She always tried to be up-beat even to the end. I will miss her terribly and think of her often. She was such a kind-hearted person. Always looked out for others. Prayers for you Donna. I love you. I am glad your suffering is through. Just sorry you did not really get to experience retirement as I have.

Barbara Ward

Barbara K Ward - June 06 at 10:43 AM



“ I was blessed to work with Donna for a few years at the Orlando Health Foundation. I will always remember her playful spirit, kind and thoughtful nature and the love that shown so bright! My favorite time with Donna was when she brought to my house 4 mallard ducks and released them into the lake. Those 4 ducks continued hanging out together and went on to have many babies. I will always remember Donna as I watch her legacy swim by....Quack! Quack sweet friend! I miss you and love you! -- Pam David

Pam - June 06 at 03:21 PM



“ There are a lot of squirrels who are missing their best friend and protector. RIP Donna. I'm sure Heaven has some animals for you to mentor.

Greg Taylor

Greg Taylor - June 07 at 10:57 AM



“ I met Donna at a farm out in Vermont when I was on a vacation with my family. Every morning when I would wake up early, she would be up, and we would go outside together to take care of all the baby dairy cows. We always had fun every morning, every afternoon, and evening on that vacation. We saw her again when my family and I were out in Orlando for my gymnastics competition. She and Bob invited us over for lunch at their home and we got to meet all their animals and two daughters. She made me a beautiful poster for my competition and also came to the competition to cheer me on! She was a very wonderful lady, and even though I am only 10 years old, she was a good friend to me. She is tremendously missed! -- Carmen Martinez

Carmen - July 07 at 09:26 PM