



# **Donna Noreen Arnold Kennedy**

APR 12, 1929 - FEB 11, 2021



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# **Donna Noreen Arnold Kennedy**

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**D**onna Noreen Arnold Kennedy, of St. Clair, passed away on February 11, 2021, after a brief illness. Donna was born on April 12, 1929, to Harvey and Ethel Inches Arnold, of Brigden, Ontario. She was predeceased by her sister, Dorothy Johnston (Robert), her brother, Ernest Arnold, and her baby sister, Norma Jean Arnold.

Donna worked on her parents' farm until she became a student in the Sarnia General Hospital nursing program, from which she graduated as an R.N. in 1950. She often said that, as much as she loved nursing, she would have preferred to become a veterinarian, a career not really open to women in the 1940s, and certainly not open to women of modest means. Along with humans, she has nursed various cats, dogs, cattle, and horses throughout her life. Her mother told the story of how Donna tried to sneak a horse up to her second-floor bedroom one night because it was cold outside, but the horse had very noisy feet! And there was the time she revived our beagle, Tippy, by giving it chest compressions after the dog apparently had a heart attack. Tippy lived for several years after her brush with death.

During nursing school Donna went on a double date with her friends, Betty Watson and Tom Guffey, and met Bob Kennedy, who was stationed with Tom at Selfridge Air Force Base. They were married on November third, 1951, in Brigden. After moving to St. Clair, Michigan, the Kennedys had four children. Donna did occasional special duty nursing when the kids were little, including the care of John McDonald, a St. Clair police officer injured in the line of duty. She began working at Mercy Hospital in the mid-1960s. She was well known as an accomplished cardiology nurse.

Donna participated in the Jaycee Auxiliary and the Child Study Club. She was famous for the elaborate costumes she created for her four children for the summer carnival children's parade. One year they went as a hospital ER team, complete with a dolly on a stretcher hooked up to an IV. She also loved to knit and provided countless baby layette sets to new parents. The day before she died she was preparing to knit caps for newborn babies.



## Obituary

### Donna Noreen Arnold Kennedy

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She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church for over seventy years, serving on the Altar Guild for most of that time. Donna participated in several mission trips as part of the Mission in Action team, traveling to Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Haiti, where she formed a lasting bond with her Haitian hosts, Leonard Isidor and his wife.

After retiring from Mercy 1994 she worked part-time at Cardiology Associates. Donna also volunteered at the People's Clinic, a free clinic run by Mercy Hospital serving people in need. She reluctantly retired completely when she gave up driving. For the last several years she participated in a physical fitness program called Body Recall, where she leaves many dear friends. Until a week or two ago she was attending Sunday service at Immanuel Lutheran Church with her dear friend Martha Dougherty. Donna was pleased to receive a visit from her dear Pastor Dave Dubois in the hospital.

Donna was the guest of honor at a lovely party in the summer of 2019 to celebrate her ninetieth birthday! She welcomed over 75 guests.

Donna lost her husband Bob, exactly five years to the day of her own death. She is survived by her children, Patricia Kennedy, of Massachusetts, Robert Kennedy II (Betty), of St. Clair, Thomas Kennedy, of Michigan, and Nancy Kennedy, of Virginia. Donna was also the proud grandmother of five grandchildren, Aaron Kennedy, of St. Clair, Samantha Duchene (Josh), of Michigan, Christina Kennedy, of Florida, and Aidan Novo and Diem Novo, of Massachusetts. She leaves one great-grandchild, Jackson Lamere, of Massachusetts.

Donna leaves behind several dear Canadian relatives, Judy and Al Coleman, Jane Johnston (Brenda Polnick), Tracy Coleman, Lisa Coleman-Trudell (Todd), and great-nephew and niece, Jordan and Alexis Trudell, Barbara Hartley, Deborah Dionne, and James Arnold, all of Ontario. She leaves her dear friends, Lois Clubb, of Ontario, Ruth Pflaum, of Minnesota, and many friends from Mercy Hospital. She also leaves her beloved cats, Buddy and Tugger.

Services will be private, with a memorial service planned for the summer.

Donations may be made to:

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Child Fund, 415 N. 9th Street, St. Clair, MI 48079



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The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society-USA, PO Box 22544, Lincoln, NE 68542-254

Humane Society of St. Clair County, 6177 Fred W. Moore Highway, China Township, MI 48054



# Events

**Donna Noreen Arnold Kennedy**

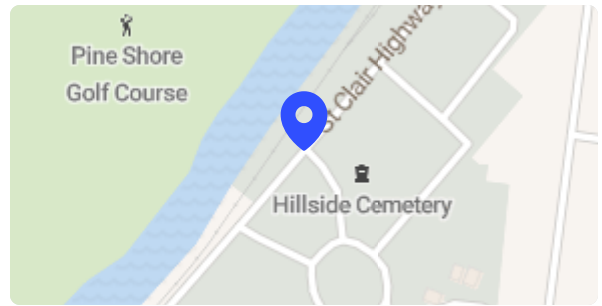
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## Cemetery Details



**Hillside Cemetery**

1355 St. Clair Hwy., St. Clair MI 48054





## Tribute Wall

**Donna Noreen Arnold Kennedy**

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RC

**Rex Clark** posted:

sorry to hear this rob !

February 23 at 4:31 AM

TC

**Tony Cilluffo** lit a candle in honor of Donna.



February 22 at 5:54 PM

AK

**Alice King** posted:

Donna was my dear friend from Body Recall. I will miss her a lot. She was a very special lady.

February 22 at 3:16 PM

SM

**Sara Mccallum** posted:

Sending thoughts and prayers to Donna's family. I am a nurse who worked at Mercy Hospital for many years with Donna. She was my mentor, a wonderful nurse and beautiful person. We had stayed in touch over the years and she will be missed. Sara McCallum.

February 16 at 3:30 PM

HF

**Howard & Arlene Shurkey And Family** sent a Love's Journey to the Kennedy family.



February 16 at 12:55 PM



## Tribute Wall

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EE

**Ed Elsholz** posted:

Our heartfelt sympathy to Donna"s family. What a lady! As members of Immanuel for many years we had come to know her as the type of lady described in the wonderfully written obituary. Donna always had a good story to tell in bible class and could relate the message of the day to something that had happened to her in the past. Donna had a very sharp mind and certainly expressed her feelings toward her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We relied on her many times to help decipher difficult scripture and enjoyed her fellowship right up to the last Sunday before her entrance into eternal life! What a blessing to know that she is home with the Lord. God's blessings to the entire Kennedy family! With Love In Christ,Ed and Gloria Elsholz

February 15 at 3:47 PM

VP

**Vartush (Hratchian) Platzer** posted:

My deepest condolences to Patty and family for the loss of your precious mom. Thinking of you today.

February 15 at 12:46 PM

RB

**Rick And Suzanne Burnett** sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Kennedy family.



February 15 at 11:22 AM

MH

**Mary Lynn (Williams) Houle** posted:

Mrs. Kennedy will be remembered for her compassion and kindness. Her friendship with my mother, and their work together as nurses leaves a lasting legacy. May she Rest In Peace

February 15 at 8:07 AM

MB

**Marion Bushey** posted:

My heartfelt condolences to the entire family. She seemed to give support to all of those around her.

February 15 at 4:52 AM



## Tribute Wall

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MB

**Marion Bushey** lit a candle in honor of Donna.

February 15 at 4:50 AM



NK

**Nancy Boomer (Koryba)** posted:

She sounds like a very special lady that had a kind and giving spirit. A life well lived for sure! My heartfelt condolences to the entire family.

February 14 at 10:10 AM

DB

**Donald F Burgett** posted:

We are very sorry for your loss. She was a very accomplished lady. Prayers for all Donald and Jane Burgett

February 14 at 7:22 AM

MB

**Merna Brostoff** posted:

Remembering our time in St. Clair with your folks in the mid 1970s. Sending you my love. So sorry for all your family members

February 14 at 6:47 AM

DP

**Dorothy Gene Peterson** lit a candle in honor of Donna.

Wish I could have made it to Michigan sooner. My heart goes out to my cousins. My deepest sympathy to you all. Rest In Peace Aunt Donna

February 13 at 7:25 PM



MD

**Martha Dougherty** lit a candle in honor of Donna.

February 13 at 12:45 PM





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NB

**Nancy Beaudua** lit a candle in honor of Donna.

February 13 at 11:43 AM



FW

**Frances Walker** lit a candle in honor of Donna.

February 13 at 10:29 AM



VW

**Victoria Weidel** posted:

It was a pleasure to know Donna through Immanuel Church where we sat together often. Always a loving person. We also belonged to Book Club at Immanuel where Donna shared many books her daughter shared with her. I always admired her ability to tell the story of a book she read! Donna just recently donated many beautiful hand made prayer Shawls to Immanuel to distribute to the many locked down members. A truly loving heart and she will be greatly missed! Victoria Weidel

February 13 at 10:02 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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