



Donna Jean Apling

November 26, 1940 - April 15, 2025

ADRIAN- Donna Jean Apling, age 84, passed away at her home on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family and under the care of Hospice of Lenawee.

Donna was the youngest and only daughter of Ray and Dorothy (Davis) Patrick's four children. She was born on November 26, 1940, in Toledo, Ohio. She attended Whitmer Public Schools while growing up and graduated with the Class of 1959. Donna went on to attend the University of Toledo obtaining her bachelor's degree in education.

It was during high school that Donna met her future husband, David Apling. The story goes that they met at a YMCA dance after Dave noticed her. He had to work up the courage to ask Donna to dance but thankfully she said yes; and from then on, the two became high school sweethearts. After graduating high school and the University of Toledo together they made it official and were married on November 23, 1963, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio. They shared over 51 incredible years together raising a family and running Devils Lake Water Sports before his passing in 2014.

Donna taught English at Whitmer High School before they started a family. She embraced being a mother and all the joys that came with making a house a home. Donna was naturally gifted in interior design and loved hosting family

and friends. Known for her kindness and sense of humor, she remained active with her Pi Beta Phi Sorority throughout her life and cherished the many friendships she shared. For over 30 years Donna and Dave called Marco Island, Florida home during the winter. They enjoyed boating together and made epic journeys aboard the “Donna Jean”, including trips along the eastern seaboard and throughout the Great Lakes. Donna enjoyed the Adrian Symphony Orchestra and supported the Lenawee Humane Society. She adopted a rescue dog, Charlie, who provided her countless adventures in their 19 years together. Family was Donna’s greatest treasure.

She is survived by her sons, Michael Apling (Jennifer Watson) and Patrick (Laurie) Apling; grandchildren, Andrew (Jade Huffman) Apling, Katie Apling, Thomas Apling, Mason Watson and Colin Watson; and brother, Allen (Jeanie) Patrick. Donna was preceded in death by her parents; husband, David; and brothers, Ray Patrick and Melvin Patrick.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Wagley Funeral Home, with Rev. Larry Betz officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will take place on Monday evening, April 21, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lenawee Humane Society or the National Kidney Foundation.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Funeral Service

APR 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Tribute Wall

SD

“ Sorry for your lose Stan Diroff

Stan Diroff - April 21, 2025 at 04:22 PM

MS

“ Michael and Susan Stump purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donna Jean Apling.



Michael and Susan Stump - April 21, 2025 at 01:38 PM

ST

“ Aunt Donna, I'm going to miss your lovely face and amazing sense of humor. I will love you always. Sherri

Sherri Thornton - April 21, 2025 at 10:13 AM

WF

“ With Love, Jeff & Kina Feick purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Donna Jean Apling.



With Love, Jeff & Kina Feick - April 21, 2025 at 10:06 AM



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

April 21, 2025 at 09:03 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donna Jean Apling.



April 21, 2025 at 09:03 AM



“ Barbara V. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Jean Apling.

Barbara V. - April 19, 2025 at 11:01 AM



“ Barbara V. purchased the A Full Life for the family of Donna Jean Apling.



Barbara V. - April 19, 2025 at 11:01 AM



“ What a sweet person Donna was. A beautiful lady with a wonderful, loving heart! She will be a special angel in God's Heaven.

Dee Yeager Bovenzi - April 19, 2025 at 12:35 AM



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

April 18, 2025 at 04:11 PM

MS

“ Meredith, Chip, Patrick, Ben, and Sam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Jean Apling.

Meredith, Chip, Patrick, Ben, and Sam - April 18, 2025 at 02:25 PM

MS

“ Meredith, Chip, Patrick, Ben, and Sam purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donna Jean Apling.



Meredith, Chip, Patrick, Ben, and Sam - April 18, 2025 at 02:25 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donna Jean Apling.



April 18, 2025 at 12:06 PM

RG

“ A beautiful person who blessed the lives of so many.....
Our continued love, Ron and Sharon Griffith

Ron Griffith - April 18, 2025 at 10:45 AM



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

April 18, 2025 at 10:38 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Donna Jean Apling.*



April 18, 2025 at 10:38 AM



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

April 17, 2025 at 09:21 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donna Jean Apling.*



April 17, 2025 at 09:21 PM



“ *We moved across the street from Donna in 2019. We loved getting to know her at our neighborhood get togethers. And then became closer neighbors. She was a gem. So funny and kind. We loved her and will miss her deeply.*
Jeff and Paula Aspacher

Paula Aspacher - April 17, 2025 at 09:16 PM