



Donna McKinney

July 4, 1953 - September 30, 2023

Surrounded by her family, Donna McKinney, 70, of Old Bridge, New Jersey went home to her Lord on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born Saturday, July 4, 1953 in Queens, New York, Donna was the daughter of Corinne Wheaten and the late Theodore O'Loughlin. At a young age Donna moved with her Dad and Mom to Staten Island. Donna went on to graduate from the Arts High School in New York City and subsequently from The City University of New York, Staten Island.

Donna first met Gregory McKinney in Elementary School PS 14. Greg knew from that point that he had found the love of his life. Eventually the couple started a courtship that led to a beautiful wedding at Willowbrook Baptist Church and 47 years of a blessed marriage. The couple first lived in the Port Richmond section of Staten Island. They later moved to Rahway, NJ for a short time before finally settling in Old Bridge in 1982.

Donna worked with special needs children as a teacher in different school districts in the area. She was adored by her students and respected by her peers in this position as it proved to be a perfect match to her patient and giving personality.

Donna devoted her life to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and never missed an opportunity to spread the Word. For many years she was an active member of Sayre Woods Bible Church, taking part in as many ministries as her time allowed. She was a talented artist and enjoyed painting, and spending time in her garden. She could also often be found by the beaches of the Jersey Shore compiling a virtual scrapbook of personal summer memories. She enjoyed and shared with her husband most things creative, from a great movie or novel to an eclectic collection of music that featured artists such as Robert Flack, CSN&Y, Henry Mancini and Steely Dan.

Donna was known for her many timely letters and encouraging cards sent to people who needed a bit of love. She was a caring and loving woman who will be deeply missed by all of those that have been blessed to have had her in their lives.

Donna is survived by her beloved husband Gregory, her loving mother Corinne Wheaton, her cherished children, Paletza O'Loughlin, Kristi McInerney and her husband John, and Sara McKinney; by her caring siblings, Greg O'Loughlin, Teresa O'Loughlin, and Leah Cuthbertson, and by her adored grandchildren, Julia, Mark, Micah, and Mia, and her grandkitten Nova.

A celebration of Donna's life and eternal future will take place from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Monday, October 16, 2023, at Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals and Cremation Service, 3377 US Highway 9, Old Bridge, New Jersey.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.HegartyScaliaFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Service

3377 US Highway 9

Old Bridge, NJ 08857

(732) 679-4422

hegartyfh@scaliahome.com

<https://www.hegartyscaliafuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

LL

“ I am so saddened to hear of Donna's passing. I was lucky enough to have worked with her at The Deron School. She was so patience and kind. I can still hear her voice saying my name. May she rest in peace and may the family know she was a great light in this world and she passed that on to those who loved her best.



LaKisha Lefever - October 28, 2023 at 09:06 PM

AM

“ I am saddened to hear of Donna's passing. She was a beautiful, caring and giving woman. We worked together at The Deron School. Donna was always willing to pitch in when help was needed. May she rest in the Lord's arms. 🙏🙏🙏

Annette Matarese - October 19, 2023 at 01:09 PM

BH

“ Sending love and peace and my deepest condolences to the McKinney family. I met Donna while working at the Deron School. She was a kind soul who always had something positive and uplifting to say. During a difficult time, Donna offered her help which I will never forget. Donna was one of God's superstars and I was blessed to have her in my life. Rest in peace Donna.

Barbara Herbert - October 16, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna McKinney.*



October 16, 2023 at 09:07 AM



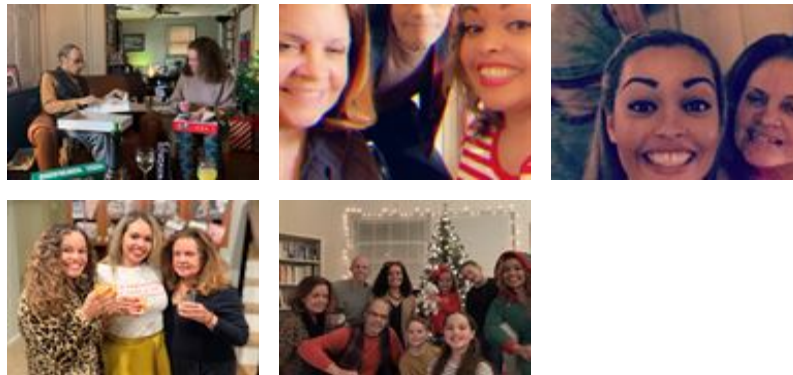
“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donna McKinney.*



October 16, 2023 at 07:56 AM



“ *154 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Service - October 15, 2023 at 03:38 PM



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

October 15, 2023 at 02:34 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Donna McKinney.*



October 15, 2023 at 02:34 PM



“ *To Gregg and Family
Help me to be a source of encouragement consolation to others who also grieving this loss of Donna, I stand in faith that she was in right standing with you and you will be reunited for all eternity when Jesus returns at his second coming.*

1 Thess 4:13-18

From Lynda Wms

From Wash DC

Zdera - October 15, 2023 at 10:58 AM



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

October 12, 2023 at 03:59 PM



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



October 12, 2023 at 03:59 PM

WT

“ *With Love, The Uncommon Thread purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Donna McKinney.*



With Love, The Uncommon Thread - October 12, 2023 at 10:47 AM

LC

“ *"Ms. Donna", as I often called her, was a beautiful soul. She always exuded gentleness, patience, generosity, and spirituality. I have been fortunate to have known and worked with her in The Uncommon Thread where she touched many learners' lives. Our conversations ranged from professional to personal as she was seasoned in so many aspects of life. I thought, she's not going to learn anything from me but she made it a point to tell me what new things she learned from me. She's never short of praise and kindness. One day, she surprised me with a little plant, letting me know the benefits of lavender to destress- besides having the plant for aromatherapy, just her thoughtfulness truly made me feel comforted and cared for.*

Ms. Donna, I know our summer got cut short with the transition of our case happening so fast. We didn't even get to say a proper "bye". Finding out today about the news of your passing was a shock to say the least. I pray for your eternal peace and rest. I pray for your family's comfort at this difficult time. I will miss you, Ms. Donna!

Lou Grace Cua - October 11, 2023 at 08:23 PM

DE

I was so lucky to know Donna. She was an incredible therapist to our learner with her patience and devotion. I was also blessed to call her my friend. My condolences to her family.

Debbie Eichner - October 12, 2023 at 09:13 PM

MD

“ I'm so sorry to hear that Donna passed away. I worked with Donna for several years at *The Uncommon Thread*. She was a great therapist and was a great help to her Learners and her Learner's families. I consider myself lucky to have known her and will miss her greatly. God bless!
- MaryBeth Dougherty

MaryBeth Dougherty - October 11, 2023 at 11:11 AM

L(

“ Love, *The Cunningham Family (Ali)* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna McKinney.

Love, The Cunningham Family (Ali) - October 09, 2023 at 08:05 PM

L(

“ Love, *The Cunningham Family (Ali)* purchased the *Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of Donna McKinney.



Love, The Cunningham Family (Ali) - October 09, 2023 at 08:05 PM

AM

“Hello, Donna McKinney” was the voice we'd hear as kids sometimes calling the houseline for Sara. We'd all tease her about her professional voice and have a big laugh... her laughter and gorgeous smile are something I'll never forget. Her warmth and generosity, empathy... I could go on and on. Simply put, she was an angel on earth and anyone who knew her was better for it. Thank you, Donna, for being our 2nd Mom on the block... someone to turn to when school-life drama was hitting hard and we needed to laugh with some pizza bagel bites and a good movie. You will be sorely missed. Love always, Ali (Cunningham) Marras

Alison M Marras - October 09, 2023 at 07:56 PM

SC

“When my late husband passed away Donna made a collage of my husband for our 3 year old son. She is the most loving, kindhearted, soft spoken and giving woman I know. I was so happy to connect with her and her mother during my visit to New Jersey 2 years ago. May you rest in peace Donna.

Saidii Coon - October 08, 2023 at 08:11 PM



“Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Donna McKinney.



October 07, 2023 at 10:15 AM

SL

“ Donna was such an encouragement. When I was studying to become a music teacher, she hired me to teach her youngest daughter Sara the piano. She had her choice of so many other accomplished piano teachers, but she chose me, a novice. The confidence that gave me meant so much. When I was able to see her 4 years ago, she made me feel like no time had passed. She was a beautiful woman, both inside and out. I'm so thankful for having had the opportunity to know her in this life, and I look forward to seeing her again in eternity.

Suzette Ladouceur - October 06, 2023 at 02:59 PM

MZ

“ Donna was one of my closest friends over the past 25 years! She was a wise, godly woman who always made time for you. Her quiet calm demeanor was not to be confused with weakness. If something was important to Donna, she found a way to make it happen! Donna did not want to focus on herself, but always looking to help others! I will miss my dear friend deeply, but remind myself we will meet up again! So excited for where you are now, Donna!

Marni Zafar - October 06, 2023 at 01:03 PM