



## Donna Lou Ericson

June 14, 1929 - February 18, 2021

Donna L. Ericson has passed from our worldly sphere February 18, 2021 of natural causes at the age of 91. Her abundant energy, creative talent and bold ventures touched all the lives of those fortunate enough to know her – friends and family alike.

Donna and her sisters, Alice Miller and Myrna Miller grew up on a farm near Radersburg, where the three sisters acquired independence and inquiring minds. Their parents Boyce and Lillian Miller were divorced in 1937, and Lil raised the girls in Butte as a single parent until Ted Beaulieu joined the young family as their step-father in June 1941.

After Donna graduated from Butte High School in 1947, she started an office job and a co-worker Lillian Ericson introduced Donna to her brother George, and that was the start of her Happily-Ever-After Story. They were married in January 1951 in a small family ceremony.

George and Donna designed and built their home on Edwards Street, living in the basement for 12 years until the house was completed. They had three children, Duane, Devvi and Todd. Donna created beautiful flower gardens within their property; and had a raspberry patch that was the envy of the neighborhood. Flowers still bloom in her beds.

Donna worked for several insurance agencies while the kids were in school and she was an excellent typist and took dictation in short-hand; a skill you don't see very often, and one she used until a few years ago. She was a Den Mother for the Boy Scouts, and there were always educational, creative, and adventurous den meetings and outings.

Donna's kitchen was the center of the home for the family. She was a remarkable cook and every new recipe was a success; she knew how to read a yummy one. Family gatherings were planned around a delicious menu. With her love of cooking and sense of style, Donna's parties always provided a warm ambiance and hearty bounty for family and friends.

Donna's creative side was evident in everything she touched or put her mind to craft wise. Her home was always decorated with pieces created for every holiday. Donna was left handed but could teach her friends how to knit and smock right handed.

Some of the types of hand crafts she perfected were: sewing children and doll clothes, knit, crochet, cross-stitch, embroidery, rug hooking, quilting, hardanger, pencil sketching, and smocking. Her first quilt projects were bed-sized quilts for each of her children. She has a true artisan. All these hobbies and associated friends helped her through the loss of her husband George in 1994. She was tech-savvy for a senior, and was the Newsletter Editor of "the Quill" for the Butte Quilt Guild, publishing the creative stories from their membership.

Her friendships evolved thru the times, "To make a friend, you need to be a friend", characterized Donna to a "T". Her friendships centered around motherhood, gardening, quilting, card playing, with her round oak table being the heart of these gatherings.

Donna is survived by her sister Alice Miller (Missoula); son Duane Ericson (Billings) and his wife Karen, daughter Angie, son Russell and grandsons Cameron and Chase; daughter Devvi Morgan (Kalispell); and son Todd Ericson (Butte). Donna also has nephews and nieces and their families: Greg Olsen, Eric Olsen, Kevin Olsen, Lyn Olsen, Rebecca Johnson and Kyle Olsen.

Donna was a resident of the Crest Nursing Home for the last two and a half years, where she was treated kindly and with respect.

Donna passed along a life well lived, filled with joy, beauty and love. Donna will be missed, but never forgotten. Our Center of the Universe is now in Heaven.

There will be a small celebration of her life at a later date when family can gather. In lieu of flowers, Donna would have asked that you simply make a contribution to a local charity or non-profit of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ *Deevi, I was so sad to read about your Mother passing. Some of my fondest memories are sharing your Birthday dinners with your family, the yummy ribs, Grandma's homemade rolls and your Mom's contagious laughter. Looking back, I value every minute I spent with your family. Your parents were both amazing people and brought joy to everyone around them. Sending you, Duane, Todd and the family my condolences and Love! - Kathy Dobb*

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**Kathy Dobb** - February 23, 2021 at 01:52 PM

MS

“ *So sorry for your loss! Your mom was so sweet and kind. I met her at the quilt guild. Always so welcoming. I did a round robin quilt with her. She was such a delight to work with. My prayers are with you! - Michone Stewart*

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**Michone Stewart** - February 21, 2021 at 08:57 PM

SN

“ *Remember Donna from Quilt Guild. What a great lady. Prayers for her family.*

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**Sue Natiello** - February 21, 2021 at 04:42 PM

RJ

“ Donna will be missed by so many who loved her dearly. She was the best Aunt and her kindness and love for others will be remembered forever. One of my greatest joys was going to Donna's home. She always welcomed us with her big smile and her warm and loving invitation to sit down at her kitchen table for some wonderful conversation and delicious snacks. Thank you Donna for all your love and the wonderful memories. You will be missed dearly. Love, Bec, Mike, Andy, and Ben

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**Rebecca Johnson** - February 20, 2021 at 11:37 AM

AM

“ I was so lucky to have a sister like Donna. She always included me in her family celebrations. We enjoyed doing so many fun things together. She was a superb cook and made everything so tasty. Donna was an artist with all her creative crafts and never settled for anything less than perfection. She was the cornerstone of our family. I will miss her always.

*Alice Miller*

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**Alice Miller** - February 19, 2021 at 05:49 PM

JM

“ It is impossible to quantify the kindness, goodness, and Joy that Donna constantly gave to me and the rest of the neighborhood kids. Her yard was a lovingly manicured menagerie of colorful flowers and plants with a garden filled with delectable treats. How I remember Todd and I filling up on garden peas, strawberries, and raspberries. And then Donna coming to the backyard and asking us if we would like a nice juicy barbecued hamburger for lunch. Todd and I would sleep out in the backyard, and then Donna and George would wake us up and we would drive out to the 9 mile and she would cook a nice breakfast just so we could enjoy the fresh air As we ate our scrambled eggs and bacon out in the pine trees. What a blessing to have such a memorable times like the time she and George took Todd and I to the Great Falls fair. Or the time they took Todd and I to Elkhorn Hot Springs. And it was always a treat when Donna was cooking, because you would always receive some amazing tasteful creation That left you pleasantly full and very satisfied. Every morning Donna and Todd and I would climb in to her blue Dodge dart and she drive us to East junior high school. She was always there to pick us up at the end of the school day. And I always remember the conversations were wonderful. She always treated Todd and I like we were adults even though we were just kids. She respected what we had to say, and she listened to us. I always felt like she respected everyone no matter who they were. Such wonderful memories... Going with Donna and Todd and Ted out to get a Christmas tree over by basin, piling snow in the backyard with our shovels and then climbing up a ladder and diving into it, or just listening to Donna play the piano. Or having Donna show up at our front door with a bowl of freshly picked strawberries. Playing cards like crazy eights And listening to Donna always giggle and laugh, always cheerful always looking at the positive side of things. And watching her knit and crochet like no one else. There are people on this earth that Simply bring joy to others. Donna was that person. She was an important corner stone of my life growing up. And I am the richer for it. I know donna and George are rejoicing, because once again they are finally back together again. And heaven is shining brighter Because of that fact. Donna Ericson

*was a wonderful joy to all those who knew her. Much love goes out to her entire family. And for sure, the world is a much better place because she was in it.*

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**jeff maki** - February 19, 2021 at 03:51 PM

KH

“ *So many wonderful memories with Donna...her positive look at life, her love of her family and her creative and cheerful soul filled the room. Her devotion to her amazing children and families was apparent as she always spoke of all of them with pride and respect. We will miss her and know that she is at peace now, seeing her hubby and others to welcome her into heaven...she will be one of the newest angels!! Much love, Fred and Kathy Henningsen*

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**Kathy Henningsen** - February 19, 2021 at 03:34 PM