



## Donna Rae Pavel

January 27, 1943 - June 6, 2011

Donna Rae (McLaughlin) Pavel was born in Omaha, Nebraska on January 27, 1943 to Donald and Mildred (Smithberg) McLaughlin. She grew up in South Omaha the oldest of 2 brothers and one sister.

At the age of 16, Donna quit school and began working to help support her family. She went on to get her GED and helped with all the reunions for South High School. Over the years she held a large varieties of jobs, including teaching dance with the Arthur Murray dance studios, packing house, Western Electric & more. The last 20 years she worked at several flower shops as a florist, which she loved and had a real talent for. She traveled to Pasadena twice to decorate floats with live flowers for the Rose Bowl parade. She also traveled to Washington D.C. to do the flowers for President George H.W. Bush's Inauguration. Dancing was always one of Donna's great passions. She taught herself every dance and could never waste a great dance tune and a dance floor.

She married Gaylord DuRee in 1962, moved to southwest Omaha and had two sons: Rick and Travis. Donna's house was always the hub of neighborhood activity as she did ironing, hair and wedding cakes for the neighborhood ladies. They would frequently gather in the morning to discuss husbands, kids, friends, family and events.

Donna had the ability to put 120% of herself in everything she did, whether it was creating a flower arrangement to dancing to having the many large holiday dinners. Asked how many were going to be at her home for an

occasion, she would count her family and then add several more since any friend who needed a "Home for the holidays" was welcome.

Donna married Larry Pavel in July of 2000 beginning a relationship that spawned a new zest for life for both of them. Traveling, dancing, and partying with friends most every night made them the envy of old and young alike.

Larry said that one year of their life together was worth 5 years of the average marriage. Larry says it was the most exciting time of his life.

Donna passed away on Monday, June 6, 2011 at the Methodist Hospital in Omaha. She was preceded by her father. Donna is survived by husband, Larry; sons and daughters-in-law: Rick & Jody DuRee and Travis & Darla DuRee; step-children and spouses: Jolene & Kevin Vermeer, Scott & Kristi Pavel, and Vicki & Christopher Andersen; grandchildren: Kolten Lathrum, James Welty, Dalton DuRee and Dylan DuRee; step-grandchildren: Luke Pavel, Lauren Pavel, Ryan Vermeer, Drew Vermeer, Hank Andersen, Max Andersen and Claire Andersen; her mother Mildred Deutch; sister Lynda her husband Paul McEvoy and brother Ed and his wife Betty McLaughlin and nieces and nephews.

Pavel, Donna Rae (DuRee) age 68 years of Omaha

Survived by husband Larry; sons and daughters-in-law Rick and Jody DuRee and Travis and Darla DuRee all of Elkhorn; grandchildren Kolton, Dalton, Dylan, Nicholl and James; mother Mildred Deutch of Omaha; sister Lynda (Paul) McEvoy of Glenwood, IA; brother Ed (Betty) McLaughlin of Omaha; step children Jolene and Kevin Vermeer of Ankeny, Iowa, Scott and Kristi Pavel of Omaha and Vicki and Christopher Andersen of Omaha; 7 step grandchildren; nieces and nephews; visitation with the family Wednesday 5 to 8 PM; funeral Thursday 11 AM at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn; private interment; Condolences to [www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com](http://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com)

Reichmuth Funeral Homes

21901 W. Maple Rd. 402-289-2222



# Tribute Wall



“ *Donna Rae Pavel*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Larry, Gayle and I offer our deepest sympathy to you at this time of sorrow. Donna is in God's care now and what better care could we ever ask for her? Now we pray for your comfort in the days ahead. God bless you and keep you in His tender care and love for all eternity.*

**Dan & Gayle Clark** - June 09, 2011 at 12:23 PM



“ *I have many fond memories of Donna and your family growing up on 117th Street. I will never forget her or your family. God bless you all.*

**Cathy Harvat Putler** - June 08, 2011 at 11:36 PM



“ *To Rick and Travis, our thoughts and prayers are with you. To her husband, what a wonderful woman your wife was. As a neighbor and close friend, we truly loved Donna. She was such a part of our lives when we were young. She helped in a special way with our children when they were young and again when they wed. She baked our girls wedding cake, and helped with my sons flowers for his wedding. I will always remember in many special ways. Love to you all.*

**Betty Harvat** - June 08, 2011 at 09:35 PM

DM

“ I am blessed with many memories of Donna that make me smile. She was not only our neighbor, but someone that was very special to me growing up. Donna was a fun-loving, talented, passionate person who always gave so unselfishly from the heart. I will miss having that cocktail, sharing those stories and hearing that wonderful laugh that was so contagious. My thoughts & prayers are with all of you.

---

**Diane 'Harvat' Mitzlaff** - June 08, 2011 at 06:41 PM

RA

“ I have only known Larry and Donna for a couple of years. Rick and Jody DuRee recruited them for our couples golf league. I always enjoyed being around both of them and Donna will be sorely missed. She had a great sense of humor and did a good job of keeping us all in line. She is now at God's right hand and probably helping out right now getting things moving in heaven. My thoughts and prayers go out to her loved ones.

---

**Randy Adcock** - June 08, 2011 at 05:42 PM

CA

“ Please accept our most sincere condolences. She will be missed. With our deepest sympathies to the family. Mike and Cindy Austin

---

**Cindy Austin** - June 08, 2011 at 05:30 PM

BD

“ Larry, My deepest and sincere condolences to you and your family during this difficult time. Kylie and I will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers! Brandon and Kylie Dirkschneider

---

**Brandon Dirkschneider** - June 08, 2011 at 05:09 PM

TD

“ Larry and family - we were so sorry to hear about Donnas' passing. We want you to know that all of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Donna was a special lady and we enjoyed the times we spent together with you and her. She will be missed by all. Take care and hope to see you again - soon. Love, Tony and Anna Marie

---

**Tony & Anna Marie Danaher** - June 08, 2011 at 02:35 PM

RO

“ Larry,  
You, your family and Donna's family are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. You now have a special Angel looking over you and giving you strength. Remember the good times as I am sure there are many.  
God Bless you all.  
Barb & Rich

---

**Rich & Barb Ortmeier** - June 07, 2011 at 06:46 PM

SL

“ To the Duree and Pavel families: Donna was a regular member of our Friday night BBB golf league and we had many special times with her over the last few years. She always brought a flare to golf and used to tell us all "...if you can't play good, then you gotta look good!..." Her golf attire was second to none. She was a wonderful person and we will miss her.

---

**Steve and Sheryl Louis** - June 07, 2011 at 05:42 PM

JP

“ Your entire family continues to be in our thoughts and prayers. Let good memories be a support during these tough days.

*Jane & Bob Patterson (friends of Jeannene Rossitto)*

---

**Jane & Bob Patterson** - June 07, 2011 at 05:08 PM

JL

“ Larry, I am so sorry to hear of Donna's passing. She will now be watching you and your family along side of God. You all will be in my prayers as you cope with your loss.

---

**Jo Ann Lownes** - June 07, 2011 at 04:15 PM

MJ

“ Larry;  
We are thinking of you. Donna touched all of our family members lives. We cannot imagine how difficult these days/weeks/months have been. Please know that you will continue to be in our prayers.  
God's Blessings,  
Gerrit, Michele and girls

---

**Michele and Gerrit Juffer** - June 07, 2011 at 03:38 PM

SF

“ Travis, Rick, Darla and family. I am sorry to hear of your Moms passing. Bless you and your family at this time and if you need anything let me know! Scott

---

**Scott Fitzler** - June 07, 2011 at 03:31 PM