



Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel

June 21, 1939 - June 4, 2026

Donnalie Tietjen-Fintel was born on June 21, 1939, in Deshler, Nebraska to her loving parents, Anita and Arnold Tietjen. She was baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Byron, marking the beginning of a lifelong foundation of faith and community. Growing up on the family farm with her siblings Rosalie, Marty and Joe, Donnalie was surrounded by the values of hard work, responsibility, and togetherness. Some of her fondest memories came from doing daily chores—milking cows, tending the garden, and learning the skills of homemaking that would stay with her throughout her life.

Donnalie attended Cracker Box Elementary School, where ten of her close-knit mates created friendships and memories that lasted well beyond childhood. She later went on to attend school at Byron High. Donnalie enjoyed every moment of her time there—both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. She stayed active in sports, playing volleyball and softball, and she proudly served as a cheerleader, cheering on her classmates and embracing the spirit of school life.

After graduating from high school, Donnalie moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where she lived with her sister Rosalie. This move marked the beginning of her early work life and the start of her journey toward adulthood and independence.

On May 19, 1959, Donnalie married Kenneth Fintel in Marysville, Kansas—a partnership that would grow into a full and beautiful family life. Together, they raised four children and were later blessed with nine grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren, each bringing joy, pride, and countless cherished memories.

Donnalie and Kenneth lived in Lincoln until 1965, when they relocated to Valley, Nebraska. Valley became the heart of their family life, a place where Donnalie poured her time and energy into raising her children and supporting their activities and milestones. She was an active and devoted member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, where she found fellowship and purpose. Donnalie also participated in the Douglas County Fair Board and various city clubs and remained deeply involved in her children's school and community events.

For 32 years, Donnalie and her family owned and operated a grocery business. She took great pride in serving the community—meeting people, greeting familiar faces, and fostering connections. The service industry suited her well; her kindness made everyone feel welcome. But what truly defined Donnalie's presence in the store was her warmth and genuine interest in others. She greeted customers with a smile and often knew their families, preferences, and stories. For many locals, stopping by the store wasn't just an errand—it was a chance to chat, catch up, and feel part of a welcoming place. Donnalie loved the personal connections, the conversations in the aisles, and the opportunity to brighten someone's day, even in small ways.

After decades of dedication, Donnalie retired in 1998. In her retirement, Donnalie joyfully continued to serve. She volunteered at her church and within the retirement home and community, sharing her time, compassion, and gentle spirit with others. She also nurtured her love of gardening, often spending peaceful hours tending to the plants and flowers she adored. Above all, she treasured her time with family and friends, embracing moments of laughter, celebration, and connection.

Donnalie's life has been defined by faith, family, service, and love—values she lived out every day and passed on to those around her. Her story is one of hard work, devotion, generosity, and a heartfelt commitment to the people and communities she cherished.

Donnalie passed away on June 4, 2026 surrounded by her family. She was preceded by her parents, her husband Ken, and daughters: Kebra McClellan and Rachelle Vencil. She is survived by her children Londa, and husband Brian Vencil of Waterloo, NE and David, and wife, Tina Fintel of Overland Park, KS; 9 grandchildren: Kellan (Meagan) Vencil, Brianne (Andrew) Biehl, Trent (Blair) Vencil, Justine (Kyle) Kibbie, Megan (Billy) Wisniewski, Connor McClellan, Cameryn (Justin) Harris, Gage Fintel and Brooke Fintel; 13 great grandchildren: Jack, Stella, Eli, Isaiah, June, Cecilia, Grayson, Nolan, Mackenzie, Kynlee, Weston, Sloane, and Wesley; and her brother Martin and wife Arlene Tietjen.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, June 9, 10:30 AM at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Valley, NE. Interment at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Elkhorn. Visitation will be Monday from 5-7 PM at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Memorials may be made to the church.

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

21901 W. Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68022

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Valley)
115 W Meigs St
Valley, NE 68064
(402) 359-2315

Funeral Service

JUN 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Valley)
115 W Meigs St
Valley, NE 68064
(402) 359-2315

A lunch reception will be held at the church following the burial at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Elkhorn

Tribute Wall



“ *“Forever In Our Hearts” Memorial Garden Stone – A Lasting Tribute of Love and Remembrance was purchased for the family of Donnalie “Donna” Dorothy Fintel.*



June 12 at 01:04 PM



“ *Lisa Egbarts purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donnalie “Donna” Dorothy Fintel.*



Lisa Egbarts - June 08 at 03:41 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donnalie “Donna” Dorothy Fintel.*



June 08 at 10:19 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Donnalie “Donna” Dorothy Fintel.*



June 07 at 06:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel.

June 07 at 06:36 PM



“ My sincere condolences go out to Donna's family. She was a beautiful lady inside and out and I had the privilege of knowing her through Kebra during hair appointments. May memories of her warm your hearts always.

Debbie Carlson - June 07 at 04:10 PM



“ Heartfelt Comfort Charcuterie Gift Set was purchased for the family of Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel.



June 07 at 01:53 PM



“ Kent & Teri Roberts and family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel.



Kent & Teri Roberts and family - June 07 at 01:20 PM

JF

“ James Tews' & Shari Conner's families purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel.



James Tews' & Shari Conner's families - June 07 at 12:51 PM

SF

“ Scott and Robin Olson and family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel.



Scott and Robin Olson and family - June 07 at 03:34 AM



“ My heart felt condolences to the Fintel&family. I was selling my rabbit & Donna bought it for her grandchildren. Lovely person Donna was! God bless from the Renne Family.

Amy Renne - June 06 at 08:10 PM

SW

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss! I'm sorry I am out of town or I would be there to help. Donna will forever be my idol.
Sincerely
Sandy Wlaschin (Rogert)

Sandy Wlaschin - June 06 at 07:29 PM

LB

“ Love The Brokaw’s purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel.



Love The Brokaw’s - June 06 at 06:31 PM

BP

“ I was just 14 when I first met her I was a student at Valley high school. We would walk over to Ken and Donna's IGA store to grab snacks and chat with Donna. She was the first person I met after moving here. There was several occasions when she would insist on giving me a ride home after game on Friday nights she didn't want me walking to the lake by myself at night although I did it every other night. I kept in touch with her even after my parents moved us to California but I married my husband in 1970 moved to Yutan and would still come to get groceries just to visit Donna. I was just thinking of. Her few days ago funny how that works. She passed away on my Birthday I will never forget her smiling face and her pretty red car. Rest easy wonderful lady you deserve it spend eternity with Ken now.

Bunny Coffman Peterson - June 06 at 05:27 PM

JM

“ Donna, Ken and family were pillars in our community of Valley Nebraska. Donna was always kind, friendly, caring and loving to her friends and family. She carried herself with elegance. She served in many capacities in the church and community. Prayers for the family. May God grant them peace and comfort. Janet & Don Mott

Janet Mott - June 06 at 04:44 PM

FF

“ From The Gottsch Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel.



From The Gottsch Family - June 06 at 02:11 PM

PM

“ I worked for Ken and Donna at the store while I lived in Valley. Donna was always a fun person. They lived just a few house away from me later on Lakeview st. She will be missed. Pam Milligan



Pam milligan - June 06 at 11:15 AM

R&

“ Rosemary,Zach &family, Clayton &family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel.



Rosemary,Zach &family, Clayton &family - June 05 at 07:34 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donnalie "Donna" Dorothy Fintel.



June 05 at 06:25 PM

AJ

“ Donna was a wonderful person. I vividly remember her as my 4th grade Sunday School teacher. She always had a smile, a word of encouragement and a warm hug when it was needed.



Alice Ann Adams Johnson - June 05 at 03:46 PM

JL

Donna was an absolute treasure to all of us here in Valley! I've never met anyone in my life who had the personality and caring Spirit that Donna had. She will be remembered always by those of us who were fortunate to have known her for her ability to make you feel good talking to her and enjoying her beautiful smile. Yours was a life well lived, Donna, and thank you for the many pleasurable conversations we had! We will miss you so badly!
Jack and Mary Lenhart

Jack L Lenhart - June 06 at 10:27 AM

SE

Donna was a special person. I feel blessed to of shared my life with her. So gracious and loving to the end.

Sharon Elske - June 06 at 11:58 AM

IG

She was truly a wonderful person. We were blessed to have her in our family community. She will be missed. Ted and Irene Grace

Irene Grace - June 06 at 02:53 PM

SC

We are so sorry to hear of your loss! I admired Donna's kindness, grace, and warmth so much that I always wanted to be just like her. She was a role model for the rest of us, a beautiful person inside and out. All our love to your family during this sad time. Mark, Shari, Amy, and Joseph Conner

Shari Conner - June 07 at 12:31 PM

WD

*Donna was a special person who brought happiness wherever she went
I have many fond memories of her in downtown Valley, stopping in my gallery
Always a smile on her face and a kind word to say
She will be missed*

Wendy Deane - June 07 at 09:58 PM

BE

Donna was such a sweet person. I loved visiting with her at their store when I was visiting my parents. My mother (Frankie Kirkwood) thought so much of her. My thoughts and prayers are with the Fintel family.

Betsy Kirkwood Elder

Betsy Elder - June 09 at 08:15 PM