



Doneta Mae Gifford

February 13, 1931 - June 28, 2019

Doneta Gifford, 88
Kearney resident

Doneta Gifford, 88, of Kearney died Friday, June 28, 2019 at her home in Kearney. A funeral service will be held 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at the Faith United Methodist Church in Kearney. The Rev. Jeff Wulf will officiate. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Memorials are suggested to the Kearney Area Animal Shelter or Faith United Methodist Church. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Doneta Mae Gifford was born on February 13, 1931 in Upland, Nebraska to Harm and Mary (Beisel) Best. She grew up and went to high school in Upland and graduated with the class of 1949. She continued her education at Kearney State College for two years.

Doneta was united in marriage to Robert E. Gifford on November 30, 1952 in Upland. Shortly after the wedding, the couple moved to Kearney. To this union, seven children were born: Patrick, Roberta, Mark, Timothy, John, Mary

and Mickey. The couple raised their children in Kearney and had lived here ever since their marriage.

Doneta worked as a cook for over 26 years at several places, including; Bryant Elementary School, Rhyme and Reason Daycare, Kearney Elk's Club and YRTC until her retirement in 1997. She always enjoyed her time with all the kids.

Doneta was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Kearney, and enjoyed bird watching, jigsaw puzzles and crocheting special gifts for everyone.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Roberta (Rex) Wiles, Mark Gifford, John (Leila) Gifford, Mary Gifford and Mickey Gifford, all of Kearney; 15 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; one great great grandchild; sister-in-law, Donna Best of Geneva, NE; as well as, several nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Doneta is preceded in death by her husband, Robert E. Gifford; sons, Patrick F. and Timothy J. Gifford; her parents; and her brother, Donald Best.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

Faith United Methodist Church
1623 Central Avenue
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Doneta Mae Gifford*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Doneta was a very funny, sweet, straight forward person. I loved everything about her. My mom and Doneta were great friends and did a lot of thing for our church. We were blessed to know her.....RIP sweet lady*

Janelle Beatty - July 03, 2019 at 06:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Doneta Mae Gifford.*



July 02, 2019 at 12:42 AM



“ *Patti Swift and the Kramer family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Doneta Mae Gifford.*



Patti Swift and the Kramer family - July 01, 2019 at 03:53 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Doneta Mae Gifford.*



June 30, 2019 at 02:09 PM



“ *I taught first grade at Bryant school when Doneta worked there. She always made sure the teachers got a larger portion when we went through the lunch line. She always had a smile on her face and enjoyed working with the lunch workers. Later I worked with her at YRTC as her supervisor. She was a hard worker enjoyed working in the kitchen and also with the youth. I don't remember her ever calling in sick. She was a pleasure to work with.*



Mary Tatum Wright - June 29, 2019 at 09:07 PM



“ *John and Leila,
I'm so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Thinking of you and your entire family at this difficult time. May she RIP.
Coleen Wise Towery*



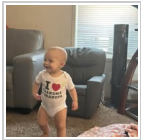
Coleen Wise Towery - June 29, 2019 at 10:45 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Doneta Mae Gifford.*



June 28, 2019 at 07:29 PM



“ *I will miss her hugs and her saying good morning neighbor. Also her smiles and waves as she drove by to take her dog for a run.*

Mandi (Shultz) Vasquez

Mandi Shultz-Vasquez - June 28, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about Doneta she was a great lady. I will pray for all her family and friends. She is in God's arms now my parents and Harriet will have a lot to talk about. Hugs and prayers. Fonda and the boys.*

Fonda Hanks - June 28, 2019 at 05:59 PM