



Deena Meyer

March 3, 1948 - March 19, 2023

Gone too soon, Deena Meyer, age 75, passed away on Sunday, March 19, 2023 at Arcadia Care of Clifton.

Born, Deena Rae Johnston on March 3, 1948, she was the second child of William & Geraldine Johnston.

Deena adored her dad, who passed away suddenly when she was just 15 years old. She was a faithful and loving daughter to her mother until her death. Deena graduated from Kankakee High School. A lifelong resident of Kankakee County, Deena was a hairdresser at the Patio Salon in her early adult life. She worked for over 30 years, advancing to a supervisory position for SBC (previously Illinois Bell), where she made many lifelong friends. After retiring from SBC, she worked for Creditors Collections and in the office at FCA, her son-in-law's business.

Deena, a divorced, hard-working mother, married Ronald "Slick" Meyer on March 16, 1973. Deena's oldest daughter, Michelle, officially became a Meyer when Ron adopted her when she was 6 years old. The couple welcomed their second daughter, Kimberly in 1978. Deena raised her daughters to be strong, independent women, encouraging them to pursue higher education and fulfilling jobs. She supported both of her girls, proud of them for the women they grew to be. Deena spent many evenings, after working all day, to care for her grandchildren, Nicole, Brandon and Justin, so Michelle could work a second job. She traveled north to care for and love on her grand dogs when Kim traveled. She and Ron loved and spoiled Jewel and Sofie, their dogs.

Deena was a loyal wife, a thoughtful and generous mother, grandmother, and friend. She was an outspoken, self-sufficient and strong-willed woman who loved her family and friends deeply. She and Ron enjoyed spending weekends at their cabin on Hog Island early in their marriage. Later in their marriage they spent many wonderful times boating with friends, going to the Covered Bridge Festival and Branson, Missouri, going on cruises, and later wintering in Florida until Ron's death in 2021. A very private person, Deena remained active until a sudden diagnosis of diverticulitis, which led to a rapid decline in her health. She chose to enter Hospice care in February, with her immediate family by her side.

Her parents, brother, Paul and husband, Ron preceded her in death. Left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Michelle Fitts of Bourbonnais and Kimberly Jawnyj of Huntley, along with her son-in-law, John Fitts, who she respected and loved; her grandchildren, Nicole, Brandon and Justin Boie and Karyn Fitts; great-grandsons, Jacob, Brody, and Ryder Brinkman; her sister-in-law, Judy Johnston; her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Carol & Jim Lustig; sister-in-law, Janice Meyer; and nieces, nephews, and many dear friends. She will be remembered on Saturday, April 1, 2023 with a memorial visitation from 10:30 a.m. until the 12:00 Noon memorial service at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Deena and her husband, Ron have each been cremated. A private family burial will be held in the Spring.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts of friendship and remembrance, memorials can be made to "Piersen Strong" (Piersen Eaker): a young family friend who was permanently injured in 2014 at the hands of his daycare provider. Memorials will be used for home renovations, including a bedroom and living area that is wheelchair accessible, a roll in shower and bath area, and a lift that will work throughout his special new spaces. Please visit piersenstrong.com for more information or to make a donation in memory of Deena.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S. 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 1. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

APR 1. 12:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
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cgfuneral@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

PZ

“ My deepest sympathy Michelle & Kimberly. I just heard the terrible news this weekend. We had so many good times at the cottage. Remember the pot luck dinners, baby and bridal showers, hobo party or just anything to have a good time. Michelle, you and Wayne grew up together on the river. So sad for your loss. I will keep you in my thought and prayers.

Patricia L Zawarus - May 08, 2023 at 01:40 AM

DG

“ Sending heartfelt sympathy to Michelle & Kimberly and all the family. We will always have great memories of camping with Deena & Ron at the State Park, Earl Park and at the Covered Bridge Festival. May your memories bring you comfort. Our thoughts are with you. Denny Goin & Donna Jerantowski

Dennis Goin - April 01, 2023 at 11:59 AM

CW


“ I met Deena thru Ron in the 70's. My husband Tom Ward and I spent many of Fun Times on the Kankakee River and at their Cabin. I haven't seen them in Many Years but the Memory of them and Good Times on the River brings a smile to my Face. My Sincere Condolences to the Family on their loss. Gone too Soon but Beautiful memories Live on in your Heart

Connie Ward - March 31, 2023 at 03:24 PM

MI

“ If you knew our mom or dad or both, we’d love to hear a word or two that you feels describes them or you think of when you think of them. For me.... Mom~Wise and brave
Dad~Opinionated and wise
❤️Michelle

Michelle - March 30, 2023 at 08:14 PM


Nicole
Boie

Strong. Balanced. Smart. Friendly. Cozy. Absolutely Beautiful , beautiful , lovely laughs & smiles.

Nicole Boie - March 31, 2023 at 01:08 AM

JJ

I loved your Mom from the first time I met her in 1952. Her Uncle Dick had asked me to go out to the farm and meet his family. Deena was the first one I met . She told me she was the waitress and she wanted to take my order. Her Uncle Dick had already warned me about her being the waitress in the family so I had my order ready which she pretended to write on the piece of paper she said was her Order Pad! Many happy times and memories! Deena was a beautiful, loving niece and I will miss her! God Bless all of you and watch over you as you walk this next path of grief.....Aunt Judy Johnston

Judith M Johnston - April 01, 2023 at 09:41 AM

SC

“ I have so many wonderful memories of the times we boated on the Kankakee river and the many boat trips to Jumers in Peoria. The many Covered Bridge festivals, trips to Branson and Sanibel Island. All the parties. We were lunch buddies, we especially loved biscuits and gravy. And now my dear friend is gone . No words can explain how much I will miss her, I loved her dearly.

Sondra Cromwelll - March 30, 2023 at 01:33 PM

JF

“ Michelle and Kim I am so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was a very special person. My prayers are with your family. Sincerely Jan Flock



Jan Flock - March 29, 2023 at 01:44 PM

SR

“ Oh my!!! It's been many years since I've seen my cousin Deena. She, Paul and Uncle Mel's twins were the “big cousins” in our Johnston clan. I'm so sorry to read of her relatively sudden illness and passing. I'm also just smiling REAL big as I read about her feisty, strong willed, smart, problem solving, get it done with the highest integrity self. She is Johnston through and through!!! All of us Johnston girls are like that!!! Super tough women, like Grandma. Love it!! I wish I had known Deena as an adult. My loss, indeed. Please accept my prayers of comfort and peace as you girls and families “do life” without your momma. She will obviously be very missed. Much love to you, second cousins! One day.....we will meet. 💕

Sue Johnston Ruiz - March 29, 2023 at 12:24 AM

JK

“ Michelle & Kim, my sincere condolences. Your Mom was a great friend to me, not only did we work together for 30 plus years but knew each other outside of work. I love her very much. I know I will always remember her smile, laugh and her great attitude. She was always thoughtful, generous and kind in every way. She was one in a million and I will miss her. May she rest in peace. May you find comfort in knowing you were the light of her life and treasure the many memories she left for you.

Jane Keltner - March 28, 2023 at 07:39 PM

MP

“Michelle and Kim, not sure if you remember me but your Dad was my late husband Keith's cousin as well as good friend. We spent a lot of time with your Mom and Dad going out to eat up near Chicago among other things. We had lots of fun with many laughs. I grew to know your Mom and loved her very much. We all became great friends. I am so sorry for your loss, I know what grief feels like. Please accept my sympathy to you both as well as the rest of the family. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers. ❤️

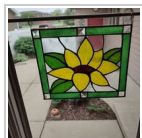
Marilyn Poitras - March 28, 2023 at 07:00 PM

TM

“Tom Mallaney lit a candle in memory of Deena Meyer



Tom Mallaney - March 28, 2023 at 01:11 PM



“Deena was one of the smartest people I've ever known. While working with her at Illinois Bell, I could always count on her to find answers and sort out problems. She also had a wicked sense of humor. We laughed a lot at "Ma Bell" and in later years when we socialized with she and Ron and other couples. Always so much fun and such a kind, caring heart. Absolutely gone too soon.

Bonnie Bergeron - March 28, 2023 at 09:22 AM

MS

“ Deena was my manager off and on during my years at Illinois Bell. She was such a wonderful manager, one of the very best in our office. I loved having her as my manager. As a manager Deena knew her stuff and if she didn't know something she admitted it and got the right answer for you. She was the epitome of class and integrity. Sending my sincere sympathies to Deena's family.

Maggie Sorg

Maggie Sorg - March 27, 2023 at 03:51 PM

RM

“ Deena was my first supervisor when I started at Illinois Bell in 1978. It wasn't for long, as she was already pregnant with Kimberly. But the knowledge and work ethic I gained from her in that time was beyond beneficial. We continued to work together until she retired. Deena was a kind soul, with a great sense of humor and she will most certainly be missed. My deepest sympathy to her daughters and their families.

Rebecca McDowell - March 27, 2023 at 02:40 PM