



Donna L. Bard

APR 28, 1964 - FEB 21, 2022



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Donna L. Bard

APR 28, 1964 - FEB 21, 2022

On the morning of February 21, 2022, Donna Lucille Bard (nee Dunkins) transitioned from this life to be with the Lord, at the age of 57. Donna was born on April 28, 1964 to Lucille G. Dunkins and the late James H. Dunkins, in Bridgeton N.J.

During her early life, Donna was a resident of Bridgeton, NJ where she attended the Bridgeton Public Schools until the family moved to Hopewell, NJ and she attended Cumberland Regional High School graduating with the class of 1982. During her early years, Donna was an avid softball player at the West Cumberland Girls Softball League winning several honors during this time. Even from an early age, Donna loved to be in charge and usually was the organizer when she was out playing with her friends. In high school, she participated in field hockey, she served on Student Government, and she also served on her Class Reunion Planning Committee. Donna attended and graduated from Cumberland County College in 2002 with an Associate Degree in Education and she had several other college credits and additional certifications. Donna began working for the Bridgeton Public School System on October 15, 1997 and was employed in several positions over the years. She worked as a Teacher's Aide, an Attendance Officer, a substitute teacher, a Parent Liaison and she worked in the after-school programs. Donna applied for and received early retirement on December 1, 2021, due to her failing health.

In 1984, Donna married the love of her life, Gilbert Charles Bard, Jr. From this union was born a son, Gilbert C. Bard III. Gilbert and Donna were remarkably compatible and enjoyed a lot of the same activities. They attended Antique and Classic car shows, Monster Truck Rallies, and the entire family would gather to watch WWF Championship Wrestling. Her husband Gilbert's heritage included the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation. He and Donna attended and supported the annual pow-wow's. Donna was a passionate, faithful Dallas Cowboys fan and she cheered for her team no matter what. You could always see her wearing her Cowboy gear with pride.



Obituary

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Bowling and bowling in leagues were one of her greatest passions with Donna and Gilbert both being very accomplished bowlers. They were members of several traveling teams and traveled all over bowling. As an adult, Donna continued to play softball and she supported her husband Gilbert who played softball in several local leagues and for the Shiloh Baptist Church softball team. They were very devoted parents supporting their son Gilbert in all of his activities.

Donna and Gilbert were committed members of Shiloh Baptist Church where they served in the offices of Deacon and Deaconess. Donna's relationship with the Lord was the priority of her life and she was a part of several ministries in the church. She sang on the Mass Choir, the Women's Choir, the Praise Team, she was one of the leaders of the Annual Youth Gospel Quake, Pastoral Relations, Women's Ministry, the Stephanie C. Brown Scholarship Committee, Munchkins Ministry, Clerks Ministry and the Building New Lives Inc. CDC Pantry.

Donna was also active in many organizations outside of church. She worked with the Bridgeton Municipal Alliance Youth-to-Youth, she was a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and she served on the Greater Bridgeton Women's Club. One of her major activities came after she was diagnosed with Cancer. Donna had a fighting spirit that would not allow her to just sit back and be sick. She became an active organizer with the American Cancer Society. Working on many fronts, she always had a team entered in the Cumberland County Relay for Life Cancer fundraiser. Each year Donna would walk in the Susan B Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Cancer Walk in Cumberland County, in Ocean City, N.J. and in Philadelphia. Donna loved to travel and did not let the cancer slow her down. Whatever Donna wanted to do, she did and never complained about any discomfort or the pain.

Donna was pre-deceased by her husband, Gilbert C. Bard Jr., father, James H. Dunkins, and her sisters, Diane Lee Dunkins, Naomi Haughton and Jeanette Rowe. Donna leaves to cherish her memory, her devoted son and daughter in law, Gilbert C. Bard III, (Jamie M.); her mother, Lucille G. Dunkins, her siblings: sisters, Jacqueline Johnson (Ardes) and Carolyn Hughes, brothers, James A. (Marsha) Dunkins, and Dennis H. (Anita) Dunkins; four grandchildren, Jahmia A., Ramon A, Janiya M., Ranayisha; one uncle, Willie Sease, Jr., and a host of aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews and Godchildren that love her dearly.

Sorrowfully submitted, The Family



Events

Donna L. Bard

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Visitation

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Shiloh Baptist Church
2411 Memorial Ave., Port Norris NJ 08349



Service

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

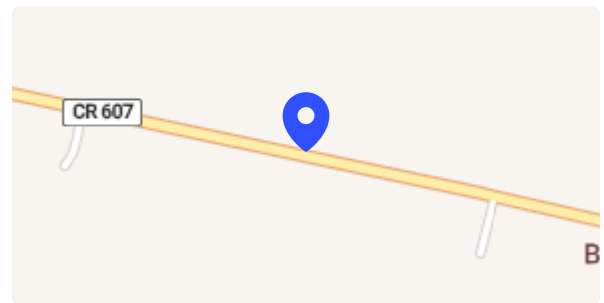
11:00 AM ET

Shiloh Baptist Church
2411 Memorial Ave., Port Norris NJ 08349



Cemetery Details

Cedar Hill Memorial Park
Greenwich Road, Hopewell Township NJ





Tribute Wall

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SW

Shekia Logan-Wilder posted:

I am saddened to hear of Mrs. Bard's passing. I worked for her many years as a peer leader with Bridgeton Youth to Youth. God bless.

April 19 at 10:42 AM

SR

Shari Rupertus posted:

I only just heard with great sorrow of Donna's passing. I cherish the memories of playing softball with and against her in the Bridgeton Women's League. I also have fond memories of working with her at the Bridgeton Invitational Tournament. My heart goes out to her family and friends. Rest in peace, Donna.

March 24 at 11:45 AM

AL

Arletha Lane posted:

Donna was a true sister friend to me. I can't put into words how much her friendship meant to me. Donna was so much fun to be around, but she also wasn't about foolishness either. Lol Our shopping trips, eating out, cheering for the Dallas Cowboys and going to all the Bridgeton football games won't be the same without her. Donna was my friend but best of all she was my sister in Christ. Until we meet again ...

March 13 at 3:58 AM

JB

Jen Boyd lit a candle in honor of Donna.

Rest in Power my friend.

March 3 at 12:24 PM





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Tarrah Bowick posted:

Mrs. Bard was a part of my village, guiding me into womanhood. She shared so much advice, and truly knew how to navigate people with grace. She has a special place in my heart. And her laugh will be everlasting in my memories. With love and prayers

March 2 at 9:35 PM



Sheila Sales March 3 at 5:56 PM

Donna was a very caring and loving person to all who knew her. She showed love and compassion. I met her at Cancer Walks at Cumberland College and enjoyed the friendship we shared.



KD

Kevin Danna posted:

Rev. James Dunkins and Family;Jim,Our sincerest sympathies and condolences on your loss. May your memories and God's love console and comfort you all.God Bless,Kevin and Debbie Danna

March 1 at 7:41 PM



EC

Esther Carter posted:

I will truly miss Donna. She was wonderful to work with & fun to be around. We'd joke about our Cowboys & Eagles' teams, but it was all in fun. My condolences/prayers to Donna's family & friends.

March 1 at 3:02 AM



Heather Zoyac posted:

I will always remember Donna playing field hockey at Hopewell. Till we meet again.

February 28 at 6:23 PM



JF

Julie Flournoy lit a candle in honor of Donna.



February 28 at 1:39 PM



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Pat Borgese lit a candle in honor of Donna.



February 28 at 12:02 PM



Teresa Brown posted:

Thoughts and prayers are with the Bard, Dunkins and extended family. I met Donna at Hopewell Place, where she faithfully came every day to be with her Mother Lucille, smile on her face and greeting everyone as she entered! Now Donna is at peace, with her husband, with no more pain and resting in the arms of Jesus! Well done Gods good and faithful servant! ❤️

February 26 at 5:56 PM



Chevelle Williams lit a candle in honor of Donna.

Donna and I go way back since childhood, we stayed the night with our god-sisters all the time, we got in a lot of trouble together and got on our older siblings nerves. My most fondest moment was in college, we had a night class together and every class we got in trouble because all we did was crack on our professor and laugh. Donna you are truly missed and the memories will live on forever. To my Dunkins family you all are in my prayers. Rest In Paradise my dear friend, sister, cuz...much love.Chevelle



February 26 at 1:30 PM



Carol Weaver March 1 at 7:38 AM

Sorry you left us so soon.You were a wonderful lady and will be sadly missed.Loved working with you in Relay for Life for the Cancer Society.WE enjoyed it so much there together.See you on the other side someday.



Sterling Rainier lit a candle in honor of Donna.



February 26 at 9:19 AM



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SR

Sterling Rainier lit a candle in honor of Donna.

Donna and I grew up together and went to school together. It was an honor to be called her friend. I also had the privilege of working with Donna and both Cherry Street School, and currently Indian Avenue School. Donna was beautiful inside and out. Donna did not allow cancer to defeat her. She defied what cancer could not do, steal her joy, and love others. Donna I love you and will truly miss you and that cowboy blue.



February 26 at 9:17 AM

JL

Jo Ann K Imamura-Lore lit a candle in honor of Donna.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Dunkins and Bard family during this difficult time.. Donna was a very loving person from the inside to the out with a golden heart.. We were friends in high school and served the class reunion committee together.. I along with many will miss her dearly!! ❤️👤😊 to all those lives she touched..



February 26 at 8:46 AM

WB

Warren Buirch lit a candle in honor of Donna.

February 26 at 3:19 AM



LM

Lauretta Minor lit a candle in honor of Donna.

I meet Donna at CRHS 9th grade and have been friends every since. She will be missed.

February 25 at 4:51 PM



SA

Stella Adkins lit a candle in honor of Donna.

February 25 at 3:21 PM





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Alan, Tina lit a candle in honor of Donna.



February 25 at 3:09 PM



Cheryl Trawick February 28 at 7:57 AM
May God give you comfort during this time. Lumpy



Alan, Tina February 25 at 3:10 PM
R.I.P From Pierce Family



Joyce Allen posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Dunkins and Bard family during this difficult time. Donna was a very loving person always smiling!!Joyce and Ellis Allen

February 25 at 3:09 PM



Melody Pierce -Loatman posted:

Godspeed my dear friend! My deepest condolences for the family. Every one love Donna! She was my kinder sister for sure! What we share I will treasure. She was a true gem! Rest easy my friend! I will miss you is an huge under statement!

February 25 at 3:04 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donna by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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