



## Donna Mae Bonnell

August 31, 1934 - March 25, 2012

Dateline: Godfrey

Donna Mae Freeman Burnett Bonnell, 77, of Godfrey, IL, passed away Sunday, March 25, 2012 at Missouri Baptist Medical Center.

She was born August 31, 1934 in Grandin, North Dakota, to Arthur and Hannah (Anderson) Freeman.

In 1954, she married Ronald Burnett and together they had two daughters. They divorced in 1979.

On March 25, 2006, she married Raymond Bonnell.

She is survived by her children, Lynne Burnett (Robyne O'Mara) of Godfrey, IL and Claudia Burnett (Michael Gallant) of Surf City, NC, her husband, Raymond of Godfrey, IL, six step-children, Michelle (Rich) Fischer of Knoxville, IL, Doug (Terri) Bonnell of Colorado, Cindy Bonnell of Godfrey, IL, Kimberly (Rusty) Bilbruck of Gillespie, IL, Tim (Jenny) Bonnell of Alton, IL, Jennifer (Dave) Hamlin of Wyoming, and her cat Pooh. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, step-grandchildren and five grand-dogs.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers Kenneth, William,

and Curtis Freeman.

Donna worked at the registrar's office at Principia College, then for many years as the bookkeeper for Universal Electric in Elsah, IL. While her children were in school, she completed a Bachelor's degree in History and a Master's Degree in English, both at Southern Illinois University. She later worked for E. S. Edwards construction in Alton, IL and finally retired in 2002 from Pere Marquette Youth Center in Grafton, IL where she had been a secretary and librarian.

After retirement, she joined the New Horizon's Band where she met her husband-to-be. Together, they also played with the musical ensemble Melody Lane. They were fortunate to find each other later in life and enjoyed six very happy years together.

Donna was loving, generous, smart, funny and independent. She never had an ill word to say of anyone, and many people called her their friend. Donna enjoyed working in her flower garden, reading Alexander McCall Smith books, lunching with her friends Joyce and Barb, watching the birds and squirrels in her back yard with her husband and any occasion for a cup of tea. Donna especially enjoyed spending time with her daughters whether walking on the beach in North Carolina, doing craft projects or just reminiscing about good times. She was an advocate for animal welfare, the environment, and equal rights for all people.

A memorial will be held on Thursday, March 29th at 1pm at Glazebrook Park in Godfrey. All are welcome to attend this celebration of Donna's life. Memorials to 5A's animal shelter in Godfrey, IL would honor her memory and her love of animals.

PDF Printable Version

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donna Mae Bonnell*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Donna Mae Bonnell*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Uncle Ray,*

*I'm so sorry to learn of Donna's passing. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Love,  
Ruthie*

**Ruth (Bonnell) and Sam Farmer** - April 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Our sympathy to Donna's family. Donna's father Art Freeman was my Greatuncle, and Art and Hannah lived near the Grandin farm of Charles and Vida(Freeman)Porter in the 1930's. My brother Lynn and I visited with Donna when she came to Hillsboro for a all school reunion. Thank you for putting this in the Hillsboro Banner as she had many friends here. Recently another Freeman relative asked about Art and Hannah and family as he is doing a family tree. I knew Donna, but could not find an address, so I hope you may not consider this poor timeing, but for many, family roots are important. Reply to our e-mail if possible. May God comfort and keep you as you continue with memories of Donna. Pleace and Love, Ronald Porter

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**Ronald Porter** - April 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

D)

“ We are very sad over the loss of our lovable Aunt Donna ...She was such a joy to be around - even though we didn't get to see her often we could always just pick right up where we left off just like we had seen each other the day before ...when we meet again Aunt Donna we will pick right up again where we left off.....

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**Denise Courville (niece )** - March 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ My deepest sympathies to the family of Donna Mae Bonnell. I did not know Donna, but I know she must have been a remarkable woman to have become the wife of my Uncle Ray, a man I love and deeply respect. God's comfort to you all.

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**Margie Wilson** - March 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *i was very sad to hear about aunt donna. she was such a wonderful person. she will truly be missed. my prayers to ray and daughters.*

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**barbara freeman horta** - March 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *Claudia and Mike,  
Our thought and prayers are with you and your family at this sad time. May all the good memories or your mom fill your thoughts and help you gather strength each day forward.*

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**Sara and Harry Webster** - March 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Uncle Ray,  
We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Just wanted to let you know our thoughts are with you.*

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**Chris and Robin Schlobohm** - March 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *We are so sorry. Donna was a wonderful lady. She took me under her wing when I joined the band. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Sue and Jim Simonds** - March 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *I would like to send my sincerest sympathy to Donna Mae Bonnell's family. I am glad that she found so much enjoyment in my books.  
Alexander McCall Smith.*

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**Alexander McCall Smith** - March 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Donna was a lovely lady and a pleasure to know. She had a beautiful smile and a sweet, generous spirit. It was wonderful to know her.*

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**Brynda and Willis McCoy** - March 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM