



## Sharon Kay Howard

September 27, 1948 - October 28, 2025

Sharon Kay Howard, 77, died at 12:14 p.m. Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at her home in Alton. Born September 27, 1948 in Alton, she was the daughter of Rolla O. and Margaret E. (Barr) Simmons. Sharon was a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey and retired as a checker for the Upper Alton Walgreens. Sharon loved her bird, Sarge. On October 7, 1966 she married Donald Howard in Alton. He preceded her in death on January 16, 2011. Surviving is a sister-in-law, Denise Simmons of St. Charles, MO and her daughter Karissa Simmons. Also surviving are nieces and nephews; Kenny Simmons (Jessica), Helen Graham, Paula Simmons, twin nieces, Michelle Pulaski (Scott) and Megan French (Matt Klug), and Richard French (Shannon), great nieces and nephews; Zach Stewart (Chrissy), Caty Pulaski, Colton French, Lucas Pulaski, and William Pulaski. Along with her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Dallas, Mo, Kenny S. and Roger Simmons along with special friends, Carol and Rick French. Visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. until time of funeral service at 12:00 noon Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Father Steven Janoski will officiate. Burial will be at Rose Lawn Memory Gardens in Bethalto. Memorials may be made to the St. Ambrose School Tuition Assistance Fund. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Lawn Memory Gardens

Bethalto, IL 62010

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 4. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL

## Funeral

NOV 4. 12:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ *Danny Drainer lit a candle in memory of Sharon Kay Howard*



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**Danny Drainer** - October 31, 2025 at 08:45 AM

TC

“ *Theresa O Connor sent a virtual gift in memory of Sharon Kay Howard*



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**Theresa O Connor** - October 30, 2025 at 11:05 PM

TC

“ *Sharon joined St. Matthew in hopes of becoming a full member of the Catholic Church. As the coordinator of the R.C.I.A. team of my home parish at that time, I welcomed Sharon as we walked our faith journey together toward her confirmation and reception as a neophyte at the Easter Vigil. Her special presence in my life will always be remembered with love. Rest in peace dear Sharon.*

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**Theresa O Connor** - October 30, 2025 at 11:04 PM

LS

“ Sharon and I were 14 and 13 when her brother (Moe) married my sister. I have to smile when I think of our high school years and all the time we spent together. We babysat our nephews when they were little and ate pizza and sang to Ray Charles, "I Can't Stop Loving You," using spoons for microphones. She made me laugh all the time, and I can still see her dancing with me at Jiveland. Then she found that man who she really couldn't stop loving. She found Don and she had her happily ever after. And now she is with him and her beautiful family again. RIP, sweet girl. Rest in heaven

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**LaJean (Landreth) Salzman** - October 30, 2025 at 01:34 PM

LS

“ I know you're at peace now my bestie but you will be missed by so many! I miss our lunches we used to have after Don passed away.. I'm sure you with him and both are at peace.

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**Laurie Shewmake** - October 30, 2025 at 01:28 PM

LF

“ Linda Britt, Courtney Foust, & Natalie Forge planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sharon Kay Howard.

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**Linda Britt, Courtney Foust, & Natalie Forge** - October 30, 2025 at 10:52 AM

MD

“ Rest in peace Sharon.  
My sympathies to those who loved Sharon.

*I knew her from Walgreens.*

*She always helped me when I was there and we had many a lively conversation.*

*She knew how to make a customer feel like a friend.*

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**Mary Donahue** - October 30, 2025 at 10:36 AM

CA

“ So sorry to hear about Sharon. She was such a kind, thoughtful, and caring person. She will truly be missed. Our deepest condolences and prayers are with her family.

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**Cara (Paulda) & Marty Armstead** - October 30, 2025 at 09:42 AM