



Donna Jean Choate

July 28, 1942 - July 18, 2017

Donna Jean (Simmons) Choate went to her heavenly home just before dawn on Tuesday, July 18th, 2017. She was surrounded by loved ones.

Born on July 28th, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois, Donna was the first daughter and eldest child born to the union of Andrew “Jack” and Naomi (McHugh) Simmons. Donna spent the first six months of her life in Chicago prior to returning to Southern Illinois with her parents. Donna always considered herself a “lifelong resident of Ozark.”

On July 21st, 1961, Donna married her high school sweetheart, Bill E. Choate, in Stonefort, Illinois. They had three children and enjoyed almost 56 years of marriage.

Donna is survived by her husband Bill; daughters - Kristi Raben of Evansville, Indiana and Kara (her husband, Don) Rash of Ozark; grandchildren Jared, Baylee, Andrew, Kelsi and Trent; great grandchildren Kennedee and Kayden; 2 sisters Linda Bundren of Springfield and Kathy Murphy of Evansville, Indiana, a brother Dennis Simmons of Vienna and a brother-in-law Bob (his wife, Linda) Choate of Boaz, Kentucky. In addition, she leaves behind aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews who loved her dearly.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents and a son, Scott Eric Choate.

Donna was a 1960 graduate of the Vienna High School. Additionally, she was employed for a time as a secretary at the school. Her greatest joy, however, was being a homemaker. She devoted her entire life to her family. She was an excellent seamstress, making wedding dresses, bridal party gowns, band and cheer uniforms, as well as handcrafted parade banners used in local "Relay For Life" events.

If you were Donna's friend, family or sometimes even a casual acquaintance, you probably have been blessed with at least one handmade Christmas ornament, potholder, doll or baby blanket. Many have been fortunate to enjoy one of her delicious baked creations, particularly at a holiday dinner or family gathering. Donna enjoyed her traveling adventures with her family but found great joy in traveling the gravel roads of Johnson County.

Donna was a member of the Community of Christ (Webb) Church near Tunnel Hill.

A service honoring the life of Donna Jean Choate will be conducted Friday, July 21, 2017, at 11 AM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. The date is significant to the family as it marks Bill and Donna's 56th wedding anniversary. Dr. Glenn Webb will officiate.

Burial will be in the Wise-Robinson Cemetery near Ozark.

Following the interment at the cemetery, there will be a luncheon for family and friends at the Community of Christ Church, 5170 Tunnel Hill Road, Tunnel Hill, IL.

Visitation will be held Thursday evening, July 20, 2017, from 5 PM – 8 PM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Heather Harper Treat Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 98, Vienna, IL 62995.

Cemetery Details

Wise-Robinson Cemetery

US Rt 45 North
Ozark, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **20.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Service

JUL **21.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Luncheon

JUL **21**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Community of Christ Church
5170 Tunnel Hill Rd.
Tunnel Hill, IL 62972

Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Bailey Funeral Home - July 20, 2017 at 03:43 PM



“ *Donna Jean Choate*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss!! John Cherry*



John Cherry - July 23, 2017 at 07:42 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss Kathy.*



Bobby Rentfro - July 21, 2017 at 01:46 PM

JF

“ Jim & Ruth Flanagan lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Jim & Ruth Flanagan - July 21, 2017 at 11:03 AM

LM

“ Linda And Jeff Mathis lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Linda and Jeff Mathis - July 21, 2017 at 07:59 AM

MK

“ Melinda McCuan Kunkel lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Melinda McCuan Kunkel - July 20, 2017 at 05:41 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donna Jean Choate.



July 20, 2017 at 12:53 PM

VB

“ Vonda Burnam lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Vonda Burnam - July 20, 2017 at 11:18 AM

EC

“ emery cain purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donna Jean Choate.



emery cain - July 19, 2017 at 09:20 PM

JR

“ Jane Ross-Wright lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Jane Ross-Wright - July 19, 2017 at 08:09 PM

JR

Clearon & Jane Wright

Jane Ross-Wright - July 19, 2017 at 08:10 PM

RM

“ *Ron McBride lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Ron McBride - July 19, 2017 at 08:03 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Donna Jean Choate.*



July 19, 2017 at 05:34 PM

GM

“ *Gene And Rosie McHugh lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Gene and Rosie McHugh - July 19, 2017 at 04:17 PM

 Cathy Novakovich

“ *Cathy Novakovich lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Cathy Novakovich - July 19, 2017 at 02:53 PM

LS

“ *Linda Simmons lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Linda Simmons - July 19, 2017 at 02:12 PM

JP

“ *So sorry for your loss, Donna was a nice lady from a good family. May God bless each of you. Our sympathy, Jerry and Judy (McCuan) Phelps.*



Jerry and Judy Phelps - July 19, 2017 at 01:45 PM

RB

“ *Rich And Karen Brumley lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Rich and Karen Brumley - July 19, 2017 at 01:03 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donna Jean Choate.*



July 19, 2017 at 12:34 PM

NT

“ Remember staying all night with Donna, in grade school. Like her mom, sewing her hobby. So sorry, for your loss.

Nan Hill Tanner

Nan Hill Tanner - July 19, 2017 at 09:29 AM

RM

“ Richard And Bonnie McHugh lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Richard and Bonnie McHugh - July 19, 2017 at 09:17 AM

JO

“ Joyce lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



joyce - July 18, 2017 at 07:42 PM

DR

“ Debbie Rigsby lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Debbie Rigsby - July 18, 2017 at 07:35 PM

BW

“ *Brent And Tracy Williams lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Brent and Tracy Williams - July 18, 2017 at 03:53 PM



“ *I, along with the Girls of '60, will miss Donna at our monthly outings and the planning of our class reunions. We always managed a laugh or two even when things were so bleak. We will make sure Ruth orders the right dinner. Spread your wings and soar with the angels. Till we meet again.*

Elaine Rotan - July 18, 2017 at 02:57 PM

PS

“ *Peggy Jean Smoot lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Peggy Jean Smoot - July 18, 2017 at 02:49 PM

VM

“ *VIRGIL D., Arlene & Tim Miles lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



VIRGIL D., Arlene & Tim Miles - July 18, 2017 at 02:00 PM

VA

Bill, Kara, Baylee and the rest of the family, we are so Sorry to hear about Donna. Our prayers to your family

VIRGIL D., Arlene - July 18, 2017 at 02:02 PM

SH

“ *Steve & Jeannie Housewright lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Steve & Jeannie Housewright - July 18, 2017 at 12:53 PM

JR

“ *James And Diane Rainbolt lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



James and Diane Rainbolt - July 18, 2017 at 12:19 PM

LK

“ *Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Linda Koehler - July 18, 2017 at 12:12 PM



“ Jeannie McCall lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Jeannie McCall - July 18, 2017 at 11:52 AM



“ I'm so sad to hear the news. Donna was so kind to me growing up. Sending love and prayers to all of the family.



Glenda Taylor - July 18, 2017 at 11:30 AM



“ Micki Snelling lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Micki Snelling - July 18, 2017 at 11:03 AM



“ Tammy Werner -King lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate



Tammy Werner -King - July 18, 2017 at 10:24 AM

LM

“ *Larry And Carolyn McGill lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Larry and Carolyn McGill - July 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM

LG

“ *Lora Goddard lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Lora Goddard - July 18, 2017 at 08:58 AM

JN

“ *Judy Nutty lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Judy Nutty - July 18, 2017 at 08:51 AM

BT

“ *Becky Turley lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Choate*



Becky Turley - July 18, 2017 at 08:50 AM