



## Donna Jean Graff

January 8, 2021

Donna Jean Graff

June 9, 1928- January 8, 2021

Donna Jean Graff, 92, formerly of Breckenridge/Denver, CO passed away on January 8, 2021.

Donna Jean was born on June 9, 1928 in Denver, CO from the union of William and Thelma Downing.

She spent her high school years in Chicago. After high school, she returned to Denver and attended nursing school at Denver Presbyterian School of Nursing. Upon graduating from nursing school, Donna Jean then stayed on as a nurse at Presbyterian Hospital.

In May 1950 she married her husband Ruben Graff, also of Denver. In 1955 Ruben and Donna Jean built a home in Wheat Ridge where they both worked and raised their 4 daughters. Donna Jean stayed at Presbyterian until the early 1960's when she then took a nursing position at Lutheran Hospital in Wheat Ridge.

Ruben and Donna Jean had a passion to live in the mountains, so in 1976 that dream came true when they left Wheat Ridge and built their home in Breckenridge. Donna Jean continued to work at Lutheran until her retirement. While living in Breckenridge, Donna often enjoyed entertaining family and friends. One of her biggest pleasures was having Christmas in Breckenridge. In addition, she loved to ski, swim, hike, fish and golf. Donna Jean and Ruben also enjoyed a second home in Arizona which got them out of the cold for a few months each year.

Donna Jean was very grateful for everything she had and everyone that she had in her life. Being happy and making others happy was her true gift. She enjoyed her life and will definitely be missed by many.

Donna Jean was preceded in death by her beloved husband Ruben. She is survived by her 4 daughters, Karen (Dan), Debbie (Denis), Sherry (Corky) and Cindy (Scott), 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held in Breckenridge in late Spring. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Donna Jean's name to Alta Vita Memory Care at 800 S. Fordham St., Longmont, CO 80503.

# Comments

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“ Hi My name is Charmaine Makatura. My mom Claire Bonneau and Donna Jean work at Lutheran Hospital for years and were very good friends. My dad worked for Jeffco schools was we a teacher to Donna Jean's girls RIP Mt other mom. Love and Miss you lots Always char



**Charmaine Makatura** - February 19 at 09:51 PM

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“ Donna Jean was my sister as we had the same dad, William Downing. We had different mothers, were both only children and we did not know each other as children. Even though we were half-sisters, I considered her my dear sister and friend. I loved her very much. We were able to nurture being sisters as adults and over the years we spent cherished time together in Colorado, California, Oregon and especially Arizona where we both lived briefly. She and Ruben were always so welcoming and opened their home to us whenever we were together. She was a fine cook and there was always a fun game to play! I can still hear her laugh and see her smile. Only once we played golf together and how we laughed until our sides hurt at the "Dolly Pardon" hole! DJ, you will forever be in our memories and I miss our "sister talks."

To each of Donna Jean's daughters and their respective families, we send our love and prayers. May our Lord lift you up and bring peace to your hearts.

To quote DJ, "Love You, Mean It!" Mardena "Downing" Skvarka and Henry Skvarka, Mardena's Husband



**Henry Skvarka** - January 14 at 04:31 PM

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“ My mother Claire Hesse was a co worker and close friend of Donna. They were both great nurses at both Pres and Lutheran hospitals. We share many great memories when your family when you lived on Pierce Street.. From the many work related funny stories to the many hours of baby sitting Donna’s daughters provided us we thank you! Thank for your friendship. Donna and Rueben RIP

Michael Hesse

michael hesse - January 13 at 04:58 PM

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“ Dan And Karen lit a candle in memory of Donna Jean Graff



Dan and Karen - January 13 at 01:00 PM