



Donna Beth Downer

April 26, 1929 - February 27, 2023

Torrington, Wyoming -- Donna Beth Downer, 93, died Monday, February 27, 2023, surrounded by loving friends at Community Hospital in Torrington.

Funeral services will be held at 1pm, Friday, March 3 at the United Methodist Church in Torrington with Pastor Jeff Wayland officiating. The casket will be open at the church one hour prior to services.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a contribution to the EWC Scholarship Fund and/or the Torrington United Methodist Church in Donna Beth's name.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and friends may send their condolences to the family at www.colyerfuneralhome.com.

Donna Beth was born to Arthur and Ruth Hovey, April 29, 1929. Her early years were spent in Chestnut Valley, northeast of Torrington, where her paternal grandparents homesteaded. When she was around 8 years old, her family moved to a home on Van Tassel Road, so that she and her brother Bill could catch the school bus into Torrington. She and her brother were members of the Gleaners Union 4-H Club. Donna Beth graduated from THS in 1947 and went to the University of Wyoming. She and Howard Downer were married in 1949; she graduated in 1951 with a BS in Home Economics. During Howard's service in the Navy, they lived and explored the California coast, before returning to Casper where Howard taught high school ag classes.

Donna Beth worked for Pacific Power and Light, as Polly Pacific, promoting electrical appliances as more and more of Wyoming became electrified. After

he earned his master's degree, the couple moved to Pennsylvania where Howard earned a PhD in Ag Science while Donna Beth got a MS in Home Economics. Jobs then took them to the University of Tennessee; Howard encouraged Donna Beth to pursue her PhD which she earned at Purdue University. From Tennessee, they moved to universities in Reno, NV, and Tuscaloosa, AL, where Donna Beth was the Dean of the Home Economics Department. The couple returned to Torrington in 1989, building a home on Van Tassel Road. The University of Wyoming tapped Donna Beth to serve as interim Dean in the College of Home Economics for a couple of years. She was active in community associations, including, the Order of Eastern Star, Jobs Daughters, PEO, Shriners, Gleaners Union, Banner Health Foundation, and the EWC Foundation. She served on the Goshen County Planning Commission, where she used her knowledge of Goshen County, and its history, to help where she could. Her life was indeed one of service. In 2014, Donna Beth moved into Evergreen Court, her last home. She was happy at the facility and praised the staff for their wonderful care during this time of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Bill, and her nephew Keith. She is survived by Bill's children, Brad (Peggy) Hovey of Riverview, FL, (son Derek {Melinda} Daughter Annie Uhrich (Kevin) and Lisa Hovey of Cheyenne, WY, and by Howard's nieces, Aimee (Dave) Unverzagt of Lingle, WY, (sons Ryan (Tracy) of Eaton, CO, and Willy of Lingle, WYO) and Elaine "Lani" Kroenlein Gering from Alexandria, VA. Great-great nephews include Joey Hovey, Mason Unverzagt, Ralston Unverzagt, Kaysen Uhrich, Morgan Uhrich. Great-great nieces include Sadie Hovey, and Tremson Unverzagt.

Cemetery Details

Valley View Cemetery

30th Avenue
Torrington, WY 82240

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 3. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Torrington United Methodist Church
2702 Main St
Torrington, WY 82240-1928
(307) 532-2977

Funeral Service

MAR 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Torrington United Methodist Church
2702 Main St
Torrington, WY 82240-1928
(307) 532-2977

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Donna Beth was a very caring loving person. Frank & I got to know Donna Beth at Evergreen Court where she was a table mate to our mother , Ruby Carlson. She took such good care of mom; always so thoughtful in helping mom. Now she & mom can carry on up in Heaven in Jesus' loving arms!

Jane Carlson - March 07, 2023 at 12:04 PM

PS

“ One of strongest and most vibrant people I have met and had the opportunity to be around. I only hope that a few of us can be just a little bit like Donna Beth. One of the crown jewels that went to a better place where she will be united with her love and be free to make a place for all of us that she cared about. My life is indeed so much the better for having had her in my life. I treasure the memories. Rest, Donna Beth after such a full and meaningful life.

Patty Schaneman - March 03, 2023 at 12:55 PM

KE

“ We have so many wonderful memories of Donna Beth. She was a true friend whom we both had many adventures together. Howard when he knocked on her door dressed in his bicycle gear as he headed to train at “hard hill”. She did not recognize him and certainly asked many questions with the door open a crack. Karin when they entertained together putting on fine dining experiences for many to enjoy. Ask Tina Baldwin. Then there was bridge, cribbage, and numerous other games. Picnics in the pasture & Laramie Peak trips. An amazing lady whom we held in “high regard”. Howard & Karin Eisenhauer

Karin Eisenhauer - March 03, 2023 at 12:34 PM

KE

“ *Karin Eisenhauer lit a candle in memory of Donna Downer*



Karin Eisenhauer - March 03, 2023 at 12:16 PM

L(

“ *Lisa (kelly) lit a candle in memory of Donna Downer*



Lisa Lawrence (kelly) - March 03, 2023 at 10:58 AM

MJ

“ *My husband Bruce and I got to know Donna Beth and Howard when we were all living in State College, Pennsylvania ...Bruce was from Cody and so was Howard and I grew up in Huntley - south of Torrington and knew of Donna Beth as we were both Home Economists. We spent many, many fun evenings playing bridge. We kept up our friendships when we all moved back to Wyoming. Wonderful friends. Both were such special people! We share your loss. Margie Raben Jones - now living in Cody.*

Margie R Jones - March 02, 2023 at 09:20 PM

KD

“ *Lani, Aimee and family,
Very sorry to learn of Donna Beth's passing. My thoughts and
prayers are with you.*

*With deepest sympathy,
Kathy Davis*

Kathy Davis - March 02, 2023 at 03:29 PM

CP

“ *Carol Peterson lit a candle in memory of
Donna Beth Downer*



Carol Peterson - March 01, 2023 at 06:16 PM

ME

*I met Donna Beth about 15 years ago when I stopped in the Pamida
store parking lot to help her carry a large screen TV from the Pamida
store to her car. We kept in touch over the years thru Evergreen.
Donna Beth was a LADY. Honest, credible, caring, kind and all the
wonderful adjectives you can muster. She will be missed and
remembered by all the hearts she touched.*

Marti Ernst - March 02, 2023 at 02:04 PM

BS

Rest In Peace, Lovely Lady 🌸. You were a blessing to many.

Bonnie Speidel - March 02, 2023 at 04:19 PM

BA

I am reading this because I am preparing my Christmas card list and just had a feeling that Donna Beth had passed. I knew the family when they were at the University of Tennessee at Martin. They contributed greatly to the University and were founding members of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. Wonderful people. Bill Austin

Bill Austin - December 03, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna Beth Downer.*



March 01, 2023 at 01:15 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Donna Beth Downer.*



March 01, 2023 at 12:49 PM