



Donna Mae Koegel

September 5, 1935 - June 15, 2012

Donna Mae Koegel, Age 76, September 5, 1935 – June 15, 2012

Beloved mother and grandmother died quietly and peacefully the morning of Friday, June 15, 2012 in Richland Center Wisconsin. She was born to parents John and Julia Altmann the third oldest daughter of six children. In Donna's earlier years she enjoyed camping, canoeing, snow skiing. She loved movie night with her girlfriends and visiting with friends and family. Some of her true passions were flowers, gardening, arts and crafts, and listening to music (Frank Sinatra was one of her favorites!) She worked as a Court Reporter for Hennepin and Dakota County in Minnesota until retiring at the age of sixty. Donna was fun, energetic, smart, and creative and had a very special bond with her close friends who enjoyed her companionship. She was a wonderful woman and the best mother her children could have had. She held our family close and we will miss her so much.

Survivors include 4 children; Kurt (Maciko) Koegel of Germany, Eric (Rachel) Koegel of Richland Center Wisconsin, Beth (Dan) Parra of Eagan Minnesota and Mary Koegel of Hawaii. She was blessed with 4 Grandchildren; Jeremy and Maggie Parra, Jadon and Summit Koegel.

She was preceded in death by her husband and soul mate David Allen Koegel.

A Memorial service will be held at Fort Snelling Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota on August 6, 2012 at 9:30 a.m., followed by a gathering at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center in Hastings, MN <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/LeisureRecreation/CountyParks/UseOurFacilities/Indoor/GatheringRoom.htm> for all family and friends. For additional information contact Eric Koegel at 608-604-9160".

"Donna's family kindly asks those who will attend the gathering at Schaar's Bluff to RSVP to Beth Parra at mparras@comcast.net or by calling Eric Koegel." to the obituary.

Thank you,
Eric Koegel

Tribute Wall

NL

“ Donna and I went to the same high school, we were in the same grade. In our senior year Donna met my brother David and soon after they were married. We always seemed to be in different places throughout the years, busy having and raising our children, but the one place we would always come together was at my mom and dads cottage on Waubee Lake in Wisconsin. It is there that we made many of our family memories. My brother David died at a very young age leaving Donna alone to raise their four children. She had a tough life as a single mom and I pray she that she is resting peacefully now. My husband Mike and I and our three children, Doug, Craig and Laura and their spouses and children send our heartfelt sympathy to Kurt, Eric, Beth and Mary and their spouses and children. We will be thinking of you always. Your Aunt Nancy.

Nancy Maloy and family - Reno, NV - Sister in law - August 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ Aunt Donna will always be one of my favorite people. I always looked forward to her visits to Wisconsin and LOVED those rare occasions when we would go up north to see her. She would always take us to her favorite cafe to look at the dessert case. I so looked forward to that and seeing all the interesting people who hung out there. She was so fun and always made me feel very special and important to her. She had a great spark in her eyes and was so witty. I could listen to her and my dad talk (LOUDLY) for hours. It was so entertaining. She said what she felt no matter what anyone thought and that is the main thing I remember and most admire about her. She was such a cool and kind lady. Im so happy to have known her.

I love you Aunt Donna!!

xoxo!!

Laura Altmann - Los Angeles, CA - Niece - August 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JI

“ Donna was truly a special person. Fun, full of life, smart, and real. Even with the challenge of losing her young husband, and then, single handedly raising four kids alone at a young age, she always seemed strong and upbeat. It was always fun to be around her. We have many good memories of taking the long trek going up to see her and the kids, as she was always welcoming. We had good times just being together, just talking and doing simple things.

Donna has a special place in Laddy's heart too. Before I met her he would always tell me about her and how she used to drive him around here and there in his younger years and took the opportunity to give him life tips. She was a very caring and very good big sis! She told us how it was one of her jobs to rock him to sleep on a rocking chair when he was a baby.....a very huge and heavy baby. After he finally fell asleep she would struggle to get up with him and the rocking chair would creak, waking him up and she would have to start all over again!

We adored you Donna. May you rest in peace. -Auntie Joan and Uncle Laddy

j. Altmann - E. Troy, WI - sister inlaw - July 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ I enjoyed our time working together in the First Judicial District here in Minnesota. She had a great sense of humor, certainly appreciated by me. She and Judge Kalina made a great team. Her pictures look just like her, just a little more gray. I enjoyed seeing them My best to you. Thanks

Paul Lyndgaard - Le Sueur, MN - Fellwo court reporter - July 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ I loved Aunt Donna. Growing up in WI, whenever my dad (Donna's brother, Lane) told me that Aunt Donna was coming to visit, I was elated. It felt like you felt when you heard the ice cream truck coming down the street. When she would finally get here, I remember just wanting to sit by the adults so i could listen to what she was saying. I didn't understand most of what they were talking about, but it was so fun to just LISTEN to her. She had the perfect words for everything she wanted to say and she said them all with such energy...it was contagious and I just wanted to hang out with her.

Then when I grew up and had kids of my own, she would sit near them and observe them with a smile on her face, and later give me a little personality analysis. Sometimes she would bring them a toy or a book, but it wasn't 'things' that got you excited...it was her vibrant personality. One time she got in the little wading pool and played with them. She was great.

Probably the most important thing though, is the raising of her four children on her own. Wow. What a blessing to her kids and what total dedication.

I LOVE YOU, AUNT DONNA!!! I AM SO THANKFUL I HAD AN AUNT LIKE YOU!!! XOXOXOXOXO!!!!

Linda

Linda (Altmann) Ouweneel - Watertown, WI - niece - July 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I was very graciously welcomed to the Altmann family by Dave and Donna. John has shared how supportive they were of him as a teen-ager when he was injured in an industrial accident. She loved babies and you could always count on her to give them the best of attention and pampering. --so much more will forever be in my memory.

Diane Altmann

Diane Altmann - Chippewa Falls, WI - sister-in-law - July 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Sadly, I have now lost my two favorites of the original Altmann sisters. My dear wife of 58 years, Joan, and now Donna. I have been out of touch with Donna for many years, but still have fond memories of the past from Greendale to Minnesota. She was a great person, lot's of fun and nice to know.

My deep sympathy goes out to all of her loved ones.

Don Kullmann - Marietta, GA - Brother-in-law - July 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dear Eric,

I was deeply saddened by the news of Donna's passing and wanted to let you know how much she meant to our family. Of course she and Mom we were best of friends as we grew up before their very eyes. Donna and Mom were inseparable for many years. I remember one time when you and I walked into your house and our Moms were just giddy about something...laughing, making jokes (probably about us) and we thought they were high on something.

I have wonderful memories of hanging out at the Koegels eating fried bologna sandwiches, mowing your lawn, waking up at 5am to help you deliver newspapers at the apartments on the hill, or listening to music, including your Mom's favorite song at the time. To this day "Brandy" (by Looking Glass) reminds me of Donna. Appropriately enough I heard it JUST yesterday!

The Rausches learned to ski on your family's lake in WI. Mark even performed a deep water start after falling in the middle of the lake. I remember someone getting stung by a wasp, and you and I arguing over who could dub a particular song their favorite. (I think it was "One" performed by Three Dog Night, although I it may have been a Ringo Starr song...?)

At BHS we won co-rookie of the year honors for the gymnastics team. Every Saturday night the team would get together (usually at Jim Aaron's) and laugh at George Carlin videos, SNL skits and rock out to the team song, "Freebird." What a great bunch of guys and what great memories!

Again, the Koegels were a significant part of our family's history and memories. I hope you, Kurt, Beth and Mary are also able to draw comfort and calm from similar memories of Donna and how, as a single mother, she gave it her all for her kids. She will live on in my memory.

Love you, Eric. May God bless.

Your best childhood chum,

John Rausch

John Rausch - AZ - friend - July 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Donna was a fun person to be around. We also admired her strength for having 4 children to raise on her own. She is now at peace. T

Al and Bev Parra - Pharr, TX - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM