



Donna Stanley

August 26, 1931 - November 1, 2025

Donna Fae (Arndt) Stanley, 94, peacefully passed away at home on November 1, 2025. She will forever be remembered by family as a lifelong learner, devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and a diehard St. Louis Cardinals fan.

Donna was born on August 26, 1931, in Wichita, Kansas, to her parents Frank and Gertrude (Carlton) Arndt. She grew up a happy child surrounded by Shirley Temple dolls and three brothers to keep her on her toes. As a teenager, she was forced to end her education early to work and help the family meet financial needs. But that didn't stop her from finishing her high school diploma, attending business school, and then nursing training later.

In 1953, Donna met a handsome man in an Army uniform, and she married Roy Dale Stanley within just a few months on March 6 of that year. She followed her husband into the radio broadcasting industry, including owning and operating a radio station in Rolla, Missouri, for 16 years. They were happily married for over 40 years.

Donna moved to Cape Girardeau in the 1970s and continued supporting the radio industry, while also stepping head-on into her role as grandmother and being affectionately known as "Nanie". She loved to travel taking grandkids on adventures and fulfilling her creative outlet as a talented quilter.

Donna also was a master puzzle solver who could beat any opponent at a crossword or game of Scrabble. She also extensively researched her family's genealogy and kept that connection to the past alive for future generations.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband and infant son, Timothy Dale.

She is survived by her daughter, Julia Anne Grider (and son-in-law Raymond) of Dutchtown, Missouri; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The family expresses gratitude to Denise Egbuka, Naomi Dietzel and Crown Hospice for providing compassionate care at the end of her life's journey.

Funeral Mass will be 11:00 am Thursday, November 6, 2025 at St. Ambrose Parish in Chaffee, Missouri with the Rev. Joseph Kelly officiating.

Burial will be at St. Mary Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

1101 Perry Avenue
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

NOV 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ambrose Parish
?418 South Third Street
Chaffee, MO 63740

Tribute Wall

JO

“ *Thinking of you*



Jon - April 30 at 04:58 AM

JO

“ *Missed you at Christmas. Love you.*



Jon - January 16 at 07:13 PM

MA

“ *Marissa lit a candle in memory of Donna Stanley*



Marissa - November 17, 2025 at 01:27 PM

JO

“ *Jon sent a virtual gift in memory of Donna Stanley*



Jon - November 15, 2025 at 01:31 AM

JO

“ *Miss you so much Nanie*



Jon - November 10, 2025 at 01:30 PM

JG

“ *Julia A. Grider lit a candle in memory of Donna Stanley*



Julia A. Grider - November 05, 2025 at 09:27 PM

JG

A day will never go by I will not miss her. 😭

Julia A. Grider - November 05, 2025 at 09:28 PM

CA

“ I will miss her forever, rest in peace nanie.



Cayleanne - November 05, 2025 at 04:45 PM

TB

“ The Girls at Bonniebrook purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Donna Stanley.



The Girls at Bonniebrook - November 04, 2025 at 08:32 PM

JG

“ My mother as a teenager with her dog Major. Life goes to fast. I miss you mother more than words can say.💔💔



Julia A. Grider - November 04, 2025 at 10:22 AM

JG

My mother with her Dog Major. Life goes too fast. I miss you mother more than words can say.💔💔

Julia A. Grider - November 04, 2025 at 10:23 AM

JO

“ Jon lit a candle in memory of Donna Stanley



Jon - November 03, 2025 at 11:16 PM

JO

“ 94th, I love you Nanie



Jon - November 03, 2025 at 11:13 PM

JG

I miss you my sweet mother. 😭

Julia A. Grider - November 04, 2025 at 04:01 PM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album Nanie



Marissa - November 03, 2025 at 06:39 PM

JG

Thank you for posting Marissa. I miss her so much already.

Julia A. Grider - November 03, 2025 at 07:19 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donna Stanley.*



November 03, 2025 at 05:31 PM



“ *The Finns & Memaw (For Ethan and Sarah) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Stanley.*

The Finns & Memaw (For Ethan and Sarah) - November 03, 2025 at 05:31 PM