



Donna Jean Fraase

September 29, 1958 - January 9, 2022

Donna Fraase, 63, of Fargo, North Dakota passed away Sunday, January 9, 2022 at Bethany on 42nd under the care of CHI Health at Home and Hospice, Fargo winning her 39-year journey with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Donna Jean Fraase was born September 29, 1958 to Earl and Elsie (Zick) Fraase in Fargo. Donna was baptized and confirmed at Buffalo Lutheran Church. Her Lutheran faith was always a constant leading her throughout her life. She grew up and attended school in Buffalo, North Dakota graduating from Maple Valley in 1976. Donna then attended Moorhead State University for one year and was a member of the Delta Zeta Sorority before transferring to Valley City State University obtaining a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

In 1979, Donna married John Kohler. Their daughter Brooke Fraase Kohler was born in 1982. Donna worked as a program director for people with disabilities from the mid-1980s until 2008 in Valley City, Fargo, and Alexandria, Minnesota. She also worked for a brief time at Job Service North Dakota – Fargo. The High Soaring Eagle Ranch in Valley City always held a special place in her heart as Donna worked there for nearly ten years. In 2008, MS took over Donna's physical ability to work, but she remained determined and worked for IC Systems in Fargo before retiring.

In 2014 and 2016, she was given the title “Oma”, meaning grandma. Anyone who knew Donna knew that her grandchildren brought her great joy, as did her beloved Caribou Coffee white turtle mochas.

She remained “independent” throughout her 39-year journey with MS. She taught her caregivers that being “independent” does not mean necessarily having the physical ability to do something but having your mind and directing your care in the way you choose. Which she did until the time of her death.

Donna is survived by her daughter, Brooke (Brian) Gubrud of Valley City; grandchildren, Holt Gubrud and Ree Gubrud, Valley City; sisters, Diane Smith of W. Des Moines, IA, Linda Steidl of Fargo and Cheryl (Norm) Diehl of Springfield, IL; her goddaughter Karin Vomacka of W. Des Moines, IA and her nieces and nephews.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents and brother-in-law Jim Smith.

Per Donna’s request a private family graveside service with inurnment will be held in the spring of 2022 in Buffalo Cemetery. Please no flowers. Memorials may be directed to the High Soaring Eagle Ranch, Valley City.

Thank you to all mom’s caregivers over the years, especially Sasha, Tasha, Jackie, Noreen and all her favorites at Bethany on 42nd. You are loved.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at olivernathanchapel.com

Cemetery Details

Buffalo Cemetery

Buffalo, ND

Previous Events

Coffee Time

MAY **26**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

Buffalo Community Center
Buffalo, ND

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Thinking of you Brooke as you say a final goodbye to our Mom. Treasure the memories of her, she will always be a part of you.

Chuck and Kaye Belzer - May 25, 2022 at 05:06 PM

DS

“ Brooke, Sure do miss your mom. We didn't see each other often, but she was a friend who was a friend forever... could pick up where we left off anytime and talk, solve many problems & laugh for hours. She was a very special friend and loved her very much. I also know how much you, Brooke, meant to her since you were born. Always been a proud mom. She will always hold a special place in my heart. Think of you often and how much you are like your mom! Much love & blessings to you and your family.

Diane Sommerfeld - May 24, 2022 at 11:44 PM

AT

“ Rest in peace Donna! I loved your strong, independent spirit. In your memory, I will make sure to try a Caribou White Turtle Mocha.

Anna Thomas - February 10, 2022 at 09:51 AM

AD

“ So sorry to hear of Donna's passing! Sending love from the Evergreens.
-Amanda

Amanda Dertinger - January 18, 2022 at 02:20 PM

DT

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Doris Tonneson - January 13, 2022 at 10:34 AM

LM

“ Brooke, Brian, and family, I'm so sorry to read of the passing of your mom. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Linda Miller (Kyla's mom)

Linda Miller - January 12, 2022 at 12:50 PM