



## Donna M. (Lemanski) Clough Ferguson

November 14, 1947 - September 18, 2018

RUTLAND – Donna M. (Lemanski) Clough Ferguson, 70, beloved wife of Michael J. Ferguson, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at UMass Memorial Medical Center-University Campus. Born in Worcester and raised in Westborough, she was the daughter of Joseph B. and Adell T. (Orrico) Lemanski.

Donna attended Salve Regina University and went on to further her education earning a Master's Degree in Speech Pathology from Anna Maria College as well as a Master's Degree in Child Psychology from Worcester State College. For more than 40 years, Donna was a licensed speech pathologist. Her passion for the special needs children drove her education choices and changed the lives of many children with unique needs. She worked at the Devereux School before serving children in the Worcester Public School System for 25 years. She also worked in the North Brookfield School System on a part-time basis for 5 years.

Donna's true passion was the piano. Her love for the piano began when she started piano lessons as a small child. By the age of 20, she was tutoring students and her love of piano and teaching stayed with her for more than 50 years. Her social nature fueled her passion for many things, and she was always working on a project. She was an excellent cook, having learned how to prepare many Italian dishes from her mother and grandmother. Donna was known to be somewhat of a "Soup Bible" junkie by those who knew her best. She worked side by side with her husband, Michael in their garden and loved to can the fruits of their labor. She was famous for her bread and butter pickles and her spiced peach jam was the "best in the world," according to her family. Small vases of flowers hand-picked from her garden were displayed throughout her home from springtime well into the late fall.

Donna was an avid Red Sox fan and attended as many games as she could with Michael. She also enjoyed golfing with her friends at Bedrock Country Club, the 19th hole was always her favorite. She always had a flair for the dramatic. Donna was a founding

member of the Worcester Children's Theatre and the Worcester Chapter of Very Special Arts. She was a member of the Rutland Cultural Council for 15 years and was active in Central Mass on Stage.

Donna will be lovingly missed by her husband of 26 years, Michael J. Ferguson; her two sons, Eric M. Clough and his wife, Jennifer of Lunenburg and Gregory S. Caricchio of Worcester; a brother, Joseph Lemanski and his wife, Mary Pietrowski of Framingham; and several nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather with Donna's family from 4 to 7 pm on Sunday, September 23 at the Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main Street, Holden. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 am on Monday, September 24 at St. Patrick's Church, 258 Main Street, Rutland. Burial will follow at Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to VSA Massachusetts (formerly Very Special Arts Worcester Chapter) at [vsamass.org](http://vsamass.org).

To share a memory or offer an on-line condolence, please "sign the guestbook" on this page.

# Events

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**SEP 23** **Calling Hours** 04:00PM - 07:00PM  
Miles Funeral Home  
1158 Main Street (Rte. 122A), Holden, MA, US, 01520

**SEP 24** **A Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM  
St. Patrick's Church  
258 Main Street, Rutland, MA, US, 01543

**SEP 24** **Burial** 12:30PM  
Worcester County Memorial Park  
217 Richards Avenue, Paxton, MA, US, 01612

# Comments

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“ I will most miss Donna asking me "whatcha get on this hole Marilyn?" She was truly one of the happiest person I have ever known. Definitely the life of the party and such a caring individual. She is looking down on each and every one of us singing her praises and playing her favorite music.....with her angel wings on. xoxo Marilyn Bieksha

Marilyn Bieksha - September 25, 2018 at 04:33 PM

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“ One of my earliest memories of Donna from years ago still makes me smile when I think about it. I remember her sitting next to my daughter on the piano bench during a lesson, enthusiastically singing "Gooseberry Goose" while my daughter played that beginner's song. We remained friends over the years and I will always remember her thoughtfulness and generosity. Her joyful spirit made her so much fun to be with. Now you are singing and dancing with the angels my friend. I will miss you. Love, Karen Sutkus

Karen Sutkus - September 22, 2018 at 01:13 PM

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“ To the Ferguson Family

We are so sorry for your loss. She was so wonderful with children. She was a truly gifted person. My grandchildren Paige, Luke could not wait to go for their Piano lessons. Ryleigh was beginning this year. She just made everything so wonderful. All of them loved her and will miss her just as we will. Rest in peace Donna. Play some songs in heaven so they can enjoy your beautiful music.

Linda Scott  
Andrea Pettes

Andrea Pettes - September 21, 2018 at 08:01 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Jane Ferguson - September 21, 2018 at 09:35 AM



“ Our last Ferguson Christmas eve was spent at Donna and Mike's. Her son Greg was there with us and it was a warm comfortable time. Donna has always been a gracious hostess and visiting their home has often provided an inviting and easy - going setting where family can relax and mingle. As is her usual, Donna had wonderful things for us to eat.

One year when they hosted the Christmas eve get together there was a power outage and they quickly provided candles and flash lights and it not only did not interfere with the enjoyment of our family gathering but added a special warmth! I'm glad our last Christmas eve was spent at their home with Donna as our hostess. It's a warm memory to have tucked away. Jane

**Jane Ferguson** - September 21, 2018 at 09:33 AM

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“ Donna was a wonderful soul and my beloved sister-in-law, always happy and full of fun. This does not begin to address her fantastic cooking abilities and her generous nature to share. Our family always looked forward to visits to their home as she was a kind wonderful entertainer.

Living in Pennsylvania as I do, I haven't been able to see her as often as I would like but have wonderful memories. I remember well her visit to my home in Pa. and also to times my husband and I spent with both she and Mike checking out the Worcester restaurant scene. After leaving a restaurant we'd stand talking in the parking lot forever, that is, until our husbands pulled us apart to go home.

Donna's loss will leave it's mark on our family but she'll be in our hearts forever.  
Judy Ferguson Folan

**Judy Folan** - September 20, 2018 at 08:36 PM