



Donna Jean Belknap

May 25, 1932 - July 6, 2025

Donna Jean Belknap, 93, of Rockford, formerly of Haines City, FL, passed away peacefully on July 6, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family. Born May 25, 1932, in Janesville, WI, Donna was the cherished daughter of Walter and Margaret (Beyer) Utzig. From a young age, Donna had a heart for helping others. She followed her calling into nursing, graduating from Parker High School in Janesville and SwedishAmerican Hospital Nursing School in 1953, where she earned her nursing degree. For over 30 years, she served as a dedicated Registered Nurse at SwedishAmerican Hospital, bringing compassion, calm, and kindness to every patient she cared for. Later, she continued her service to the community through her work with the Winnebago County Health Department, always giving her best and never losing her gentle touch.

On September 25, 1954, she married the love of her life, Monral "Monty" "Red" Jerome Belknap, in Janesville. Together they built a beautiful life rooted in faith, family, and friendship. Donna was the heart of her family—an endlessly loving wife, a devoted mother, and a proud grandmother and great-grandmother. Her home was a place of warmth, good food, laughter, and unconditional love.

After retirement, Donna and Monty enjoyed 17 wonderful years in Haines City, Florida, soaking up the sun and creating more cherished memories. They returned to Rockford seven years ago to be closer to the family that meant everything to her.

Donna's legacy lives on in the lives of her children, Connie (John) Jerfita, and Jeff (Sandy) Belknap; son-in-law, Steve Reilly; 11 beloved grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren who brought her so much joy. She was preceded in death by her infant twin sister, Doris Utzig; parents, siblings, David Utzig and Fern Myers, husband and daughter, Sandy Reilly. Memorial Visitation on Friday, July 18, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., followed by memorial service at 10 a.m. at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 4301 N. Main St. Rockford.

Pastor Janet Wold will officiate. Live Stream of the service can be viewed here: <https://my.gather.app/remember/donna-jean-belknap> Private interment in Sunset Memorial Gardens. To share a memory or condolence, please visit www.graceFH.com

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUL 18. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Funeral Service

JUL 18. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

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4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103