



## Donna Jane Hillard

December 9, 1951 - November 9, 2024

Donna Jane Hillard, age 72 of Ozark, Arkansas left her earthly home for her eternal home in Heaven on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 4:58 a.m. in Savannah, Georgia.

Donna was a beloved wife, mother, “D.D.,” daughter, aunt, friend, and P.E./Health teacher. She brought joy to everyone around her. Donna was known for sending heartfelt birthday and anniversary messages to not only her family and friends, but to her former students as well. She never met a stranger and her kindness was beyond measure. Everyone who knew her was touched by her genuine concern for your happiness, well-being, and struggles. You just knew you mattered to her and to quote a former student “she saw you-no matter of the circumstances of your socio-economic status or popularity”. Memories shared by former students always include learning to square dance, dance offs, physical fitness tests, and her ability to whistle louder than any man. The common denominator in all their memories was that Mrs. Hillard was fun, energetic, and caring. Many students have chosen education, in particular physical education, as their career because of the impact Donna had on their lives. Donna loved her yellow Volkswagen Beetle and if asked, would always say she would rather drive a “Beetle” than any other vehicle.

Donna was born on Dec 9, 1951 in Siloam Springs, AR and graduated from

Springdale High School in 1969; received her undergraduate degree from Arkansas Tech University and her Master's degree from Arkansas State University. Her teaching career began in Elaine, Arkansas. Donna taught at Chaffin Junior High School, then after taking a few years off to raise her boys, she finished out her career at Ozark School District, where she taught K-6 P.E. and 10-12 P.E./Health Education. She also drove a school bus for 17 years. Donna retired after 36 years of service in education.

Donna is survived by her husband of 41 years, Randy. Two sons and daughters-in-law, John and Megan of Fort Smith, AR and James and Jodie of Ozark, AR. Her biggest blessings her five grandchildren Sebastian, Sullivan, Loryn, Stratton, and Morgan; mother-in-law, Pat Hillard of Ozark, AR; her brothers Mike Stout (Connie) of Flippin, AR and Charlie Stout (Tammy) of Siloam Springs, AR; Sister in law, Paula (David) Halmes of Ozark, AR; 3 nephews and 2 nieces; several great nieces and nephews, cousins, and countless friends that she considered her extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents Ross and Fran Newton Stout; her beloved "Sookie"; Uncle Wes; and her father-in-law Jim Homer Hillard.

Visitation will be Friday, November 15 from 6-8 p.m. at the Garner Family Life Center and the memorial service will be held Saturday, November 16 at 10 a.m. at the Ozark High School Activity Center officiated by Rev. Brad Elrod.

Pallbearers will be John Hoyt, Darrell Russell, Mark Ross, George Lindley, Don Burns, Mark Young, Newt Shaffer, and David Shaffer. Honorary pallbearers will be Tammy Lindley, Kelly Burns, Susan Gibbons, Martha Smith, Terry Cannon, Peggy Bartlett, Cindy Kramer, Mary Lou Shaffer, Brenda Shaffer, Stacie Young, Kathy Jones, Dianne Ross, Julie Russell, Libby Hoyt, Sue Rakes, Connie Christianson, Margaret Davis, Terry Rothwell, Donna Parker, Malynda McCain, Carol Harvell, Paula Cornett, Sherri Wheeler, Kay Woodiel, Kathy Hubbs, Mikie Wiley, Sandy Welborn, Sharon Steele, and

Glenda Woods

In lieu of flowers, a Donna Hillard memorial scholarship has been established at BankOZK. Deposits may be made at any BankOZK location or mailed to P.O. Box 196, Ozark, AR 72949.

To leave an online memorial visit [www.shafferfuneralhomeweb.com](http://www.shafferfuneralhomeweb.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **15.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gardner Memorial Family Life  
104 S 5th St  
Ozark, AR 72949  
(479) 667-1459

## Memorial Service

NOV **16.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Ozark High School Gym/Hillbilly Activity Center  
1631 Hillbilly Drive  
Ozark, AR 72949

# Tribute Wall

QU

“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Service*



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**Quint** - November 16, 2024 at 11:20 PM

DF

“ *Debbie Faubus-Kendrick lit a candle in memory of Donna Hillard*



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**Debbie Faubus-Kendrick** - November 16, 2024 at 07:33 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.*



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November 15, 2024 at 01:54 PM

DN

“ *David Neal & Marla Neal purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.*



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**David Neal & Marla Neal** - November 15, 2024 at 11:41 AM

DN

“ David Neal & Marla Neal planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Jane Hillard.

David Neal & Marla Neal - November 15, 2024 at 11:41 AM

CA

“ Donna and I were casually linked by a family connection and a career choice-education, but I have such great respect for the gifts and service she brought to this life. I offer my heartfelt sympathy to the many who must go on without her.  
Carolyn (Thurlby) Anderson

Carolyn T Anderson - November 15, 2024 at 10:31 AM

TW

“ Taylor Moses & Natalie Wakefield purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.



Taylor Moses & Natalie Wakefield - November 15, 2024 at 09:44 AM



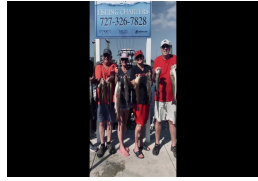
“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.



November 14, 2024 at 09:16 PM

BV

“ 1 file added to the album Slideshow



Byron Lasater V - November 14, 2024 at 06:18 PM

LS

*She was a beautiful person inside and out! I was proud and still am that she is my cousin. Love and will miss you Donna. Love and prayers to her family!*

Lana Symonds - November 16, 2024 at 07:57 PM

GG

“ George G. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.



George G. - November 14, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.



November 14, 2024 at 12:57 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donna Jane Hillard.

November 14, 2024 at 12:57 AM



“ I am going to miss my cousin Donna.>She was always a joy to be around. She was a very loving person in so many ways. No one was a strange for very long. I was proud she was a teacher and loved students. She always had a smile to give. I am happy because because of Jesus we can see each other again in our forever home.



Lana Symonds - November 13, 2024 at 07:50 PM



“ Chris Barr lit a candle in memory of Donna Hillard



Chris Barr - November 13, 2024 at 09:46 AM

KF

“ Donna entered my life as Coach Stout at Chaffin Jr High. She and Coach Kincannon where the best leaders, coaches and friends to all of us who were fortunate enough to be on a team, Drill, Cheer or Pep squad or gymnastics! Donna was a happy, loving, understanding teacher who always made us feel loved and understood. I personally learned so much from her. I loved her dearly!! Life goes on and people lose touch, but even if only through Facebook, Donna always kept in touch with me! She always shared her love and support throughout all the years. I feel so truly blessed to have known, loved and been only one of countless lives that she enriched and impacted with her beautiful soul!! Her shoes can never be filled. Peace and comfort for all of her family and loved ones during this devastating time. Blessings to all.



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**Kathy Flanders** - November 12, 2024 at 11:43 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.



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November 12, 2024 at 09:30 PM

BN

“ One of the best if not the best teacher I've ever had. She always went out of her way to make sure you were ok and that you had everything you needed. I'll definitely miss her.

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**Bradley Nelms** - November 12, 2024 at 08:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.*



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November 12, 2024 at 07:38 PM



“ *She will be missed by many. Through all of life's ups and downs. I knew she would share kind words. Never missed saying happy birthday. It may sound silly to say that. Despite having not seen her in years, she always, always made everyone feel special and loved.*

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**Sheila Hiatt** - November 12, 2024 at 07:09 PM



“ *My heart is so sad to learn of Donna's passing. I met her many years ago when I lived in Altus. Such a fun-loving friend that made you feel welcome the second you were introduced! I've smiled several times when I see a mutual friend on FB that Donna was friends with also. Friends from being one of my fellow co-worker's In Ft Smith, other Ft Smith friends, church, Paris, Fayetteville. Seems every time I turned around I saw her name and would ask, how do you know Donna?  
Please accept my deepest condolences, Heaven sure gained a mighty fine Angel.*

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**Lindee Colburn** - November 12, 2024 at 03:09 PM



*I graduated with Donna from Springdale High School in 1969. She was the sweetest person and nice to everyone. I got to talk with her at our 55th class reunion a few weeks ago. I'll remember that for a long time. My prayers are with her family and friends. I know she will be missed.*

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**Dorcus Johnson** - November 12, 2024 at 09:59 PM

SL

“ I haven't seen Donna in years. We lived in Ozark for only 3 years. As new comers she always made us feel like we were always there and a part of that sweet town. Donna didn't touch lives, she changed lives! What a beautiful light she was!

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**Sheila Ledford** - November 12, 2024 at 02:10 PM

TR

“ Tommy and Sara Roberson purchased the Laven der Reflections Spray for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.



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**Tommy and Sara Roberson** - November 12, 2024 at 01:31 PM

JB

“ May the Peace of Christ be with you!

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**Jim Bilgischer** - November 12, 2024 at 12:40 PM

CB

“ I still remember my first time meeting Miss Hillard. She was my PE teacher my senior year at Ozark, which was the class of 2008. She was a phenomenal teacher. I miss her very much. It is a very true statement. She can whistle a lot louder than men Without a whistle. You always saw at hillbilly football games, basketball games almost the sporting events for the hillbillies, she was a true hillbilly fan I know for a fact, she always put a smile on my face every day hillbilly nation has lost a great one she will be missed, but she will never be forgotten .. this is coming from San Diego California from Chris Barr aka Sports information Director for the Ozark hillbillies. May Miss Hillard rest in peace. She will not be forgotten by me. I did not notice about Miss Hillard. She was born the same day as my grandmother December 9.

Chris Barr - November 12, 2024 at 12:13 PM

LF

“ Love from the Chrysakis Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Jane Hillard.

Love from the Chrysakis Family - November 12, 2024 at 11:49 AM

LF

“ Love from the Chrysakis Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.



Love from the Chrysakis Family - November 12, 2024 at 11:49 AM

BP

“ Bhavin(Bryan) and Mohini Patel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Jane Hillard.

Bhavin(Bryan) and Mohini Patel - November 12, 2024 at 09:39 AM

BP

“ Bhavin(Bryan) and Mohini Patel purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.



Bhavin(Bryan) and Mohini Patel - November 12, 2024 at 09:39 AM

LR

“ Liz Reading lit a candle in memory of Donna Hillard



Liz Reading - November 12, 2024 at 05:55 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donna Jane Hillard.

November 12, 2024 at 12:16 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donna Jane Hillard.*



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November 12, 2024 at 12:16 AM



“ *Mrs Donna was a Beautiful human being who was loved and respected by everyone who knew her. Donna always made the kids a priority and special, they felt her love and knew she cared about them unconditionally.*



*Donna was such a joy to be around with her infectious smile, her wit, her love of family, friends, and life in general. Donna was a rock! She never met a stranger and loved to have great conversations. We know God always has a plan and Donna's legacy will be instrumental in many lives to come. May God's love sustain Randy, John, James and family through this difficult time. I know Donna will be one of the gate greeters in heaven with a big smile and hug! Love you all and will continue to pray.*

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**Vicki Brown King** - November 11, 2024 at 10:00 PM



“ *When I moved here from California in 2009, I got a job as a traveling health teacher. I called a lot of schools to offer my services and donna was one of the first teachers to have me come in and talk to her classes. It was an honor to work with her off and on for the next 5 years. She is/was a great person inside and out. I learned a lot about what it meant to be a teacher from her. You could see and hear the love she had for her family and students. Donna will greatly be missed.*

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**Tammy Trouillon** - November 11, 2024 at 09:39 PM

CE

“ Candace Ervin lit a candle in memory of Donna Hillard



Candace Ervin - November 11, 2024 at 08:33 PM

RL

“ Donna has been a friend since college days and would even come with some of her girlfriends to an event we had with the cavalier group. She has always been a very positive person smiling all the time. She will be missed by so many people!

Roy Loris - November 11, 2024 at 07:19 PM

SL

“ So sad, will miss that smile and laugh at Tech Reunions.

Steven “Lumpy” Lunsford - November 11, 2024 at 06:23 PM

SW

“ I was fortunate enough to attend college with Donna to my great great joy. Donna was always kind always smiling and always recognizing others in a genuine and loving way. She was the rare person who only had good things to say about others. The world is definitely a better place because this beautiful human being was in it.

Scott Williams - November 11, 2024 at 05:15 PM

CK

*Donna was one of the most pleasant persons to work with at school. She was always concerned about others and cared about them with good things to say. She and Randy are my neighbors and friends. She is a wonderful person that will be missed.*

Clinton King - November 11, 2024 at 07:51 PM

SF

“ *She was one of the sweetest person I know she will forever missed prayers Randy and her sons and her family 🙏❤️☐*

Sharon Farnam - November 11, 2024 at 04:25 PM

MC

“ *She was a blessing to our family. She would come by and do my mom's , Ruby Baskin, nails and hair in her last days. When she passed she did her nails and hair. She looked how I remember my mom. Heaven has got another Angel and I know my mom is welcome her. Prayers for family and good friends.*

Molly Campbell - November 11, 2024 at 04:13 PM

NC

“ *I didn't know Donna really well but when you hear past students talk about her you know that she wore a halo for all those kids. They loved her and they knew that she loved them. I have heard so many say she always gave the best hugs especially when you were down. What a wonderful person she was.*

Nancy Campbell - November 11, 2024 at 04:00 PM

KB

“ Mrs. Hillard was one of my favorite teachers in school. She had the most contagious laugh. You talk about a class that I looked forward to; it was hers. I saw her quite a bit at school activities as I graduated with John Wesley. She was always active and involved and such a committed momma. She was so loving and gave such big hugs. You can't think of Ozark without thinking of Donna Hillard. She will be so missed. I still cannot believe she's gone. I know one thing for sure. She's up in heaven now and everyone is up there enjoying her laugh and her presence and she's looking down here with such pride in her kids, grandkids and family. - Miss you! — Kelley (Whitson) Bell <3

Kelley (Whitson) Bell - November 11, 2024 at 03:34 PM

SW

Donna has been a dear friend since attending Arkansas Tech. All us Zetas loved her smile and loving personality. She never met a stranger and always made everyone welcome around her. It is going to be sad here on earth without her but I know she will be a Shining Angel in Heaven. Sending my comforting prayers to Randy, her family and abundance of caring friends. Love, Sandy Welborn

Sandy Welborn - November 11, 2024 at 06:02 PM

VM

Donna was a unique individual who helped make this world a better place.

Vernon McDaniel - November 12, 2024 at 10:21 AM

SH

Randy and family. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Donna was a very special person. She was very kind and will be missed by many. Praying for this time of grief.

Sherry D House-Jones - November 12, 2024 at 11:44 AM

CJ

*Randy, John, James, Pat, and all the wonderful grandkids, I am so sorry for your loss. These sudden things are so hard to deal with. I know she will be remembered for Generations. The family and grandkids will all have stories to share about this wonderful lady. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

*-- Cathy Jones*

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**Cathy Jones** - November 14, 2024 at 01:01 AM