



## Donna Martens

June 14, 1927 - December 20, 2022

On Tuesday, December 20, 2022, Donna Jean (Collinge) Martens passed away peacefully at the age of 95. Donna was currently a resident of Appledorn Care Facility in Holland, MI.

Donna was born to Gertrude and Ruben Collinge on June 14, 1927. She was the second oldest in a family of nine children. Donna grew up in Muskegon, MI where she enjoyed playing basketball and softball as a teenager. She met her husband, Don, at a cottage at Pere Marquette in Muskegon, and they were married for 62 years before Don passed in 2009. Donna was an excellent bridge player and loved sewing and knitting for her family. She researched her genealogy extensively, traveling to Europe several times. Donna followed politics closely and volunteered on several presidential campaigns. Above all, her favorite activity was large gatherings with her extended family.

Surviving Donna are her children: Leslie (Chris) Chopper, Albion, MI; Donnel (Cindy) Martens, Spirit Lake, IA; Merri Martens (Tim Nowakowski), Holland, MI; seven grandchildren: Gregg (Lisa) Chopper, Merideth (Casey) Mack, Cole Martens, Alicia (Justin) Zevenbergen, Kiel Nowakowski, Haile (Shawn) Albrecht, Emma Nowakowski; and eight great grandchildren. Also surviving are sisters: Judy (Roger) Filius, Janice Sienkiewicz, Terry (Wayne) Lobdell, Cherri Kobza, Isabel Stahl, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her brothers: James and Jared Collinge; sister, Sally Flejszar; sisters-in-law: Frances Venske, Willa Collinge; brothers-in-law: Chester Flejszar, Mike Kobza, Gary Stahl, Joe Sienkiewicz, Harold Martens, Louie Venske; nieces: Cindy, Marcia; and nephews: Steve, Jamie.

A memorial service is being planned for the summer of 2023. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Central United Methodist Church in Muskegon, 1011 2nd St, Muskegon, MI 49440.

The family would like to thank the many aides who work in the Terrace at Appledorn, who cared for Donna over the past five years and Careline Hospice, who provided end of life care. They would also like to thank Donna's special friend, Julia McConnell, who spent countless hours at her bedside making Donna laugh and Sandy Prause her dear friend, chauffeur, and caregiver.

# Tribute Wall

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“ I had written direct contact with Donna after my brother Nick, who worked as a reporter on the Bolton Evening News, shared a letter they had received from Donna trying to trace distant relatives from the Collinge clan. Donna shared family stories with me and she had brief contact with my mother Barbara who's parents were related to Donna. Donna was a wizz at email and we would always be in contact at key times of year. I of course truly deeply regret never having met Donna or speaking on the phone. I often dreamt of visiting, but life, finances and health always got in the way. After Covid, I recently looked at flights etc but it just was not possible. How I wish I had sat with Donna and chatted. Donna clearly was a lovely person loved by all of her family which I am proud to include myself.

*I loved the connection Donna gave to my wider family following the loss of my close family and also loved Donna and the obvious spirit and spunk she had. I could sense this in all our contact.*

*I became aware, through Donna, of wider family relatives some of whom I remain in contact vwith through facebook. Donna and I also had regular brief contact through Facebook and I always loved her ocassional supportive comments and shared photos of flowers and birds which interested her. Now Donna has herself become a beautiful bird and taken flight.*

*Donna told me I must call her Cuz, which I will always do until I pass myself, when we will meet and chat with all our relatives in heaven. God bless you Cuz. My distant friend and my family. God's speed Donna.* ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

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**Ben Jackson (Manchester/Bolton England)** - December 23, 2022 at 10:36 PM