



Dona Darlene Gartner

June 19, 1933 - August 3, 2022

Dona Darlene Gartner, 89, Topeka, Kansas, passed away peacefully on August 3, 2022, at home. She was known to most people as Darlene. Darlene was born in Sharon Springs, Kansas to William and Alberta Blackwell on June 19, 1933. She married John Gartner on April 23, 1955, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. John preceded her in death on April 15, 2022.

John and Darlene lived in San Francisco and Colorado before settling in Topeka in 1974. The move back to Kansas was to be close to family again, as well as Darlene opening Dona's Gift Box in Gage Center. She operated the business from 1974 through 1987.

After closing her store, Darlene was able to spend her time sewing and crafting, which she loved. If she was awake, she had something in her hands working on it. She made countless beautiful quilts, faberge style eggs, crochet, knitting, sewing, cross stitching, embroidery, needle point.... you name it, she could do it and do it well.

John and Darlene missed their 67th Anniversary by eight days. They were devoted to each other. Darlene was always very proud of her daughters, Darla Steinlage (Keith), Pam Hook (Bill), and Theresa Dunham (Neil), all of Topeka. She dearly loved her six grandchildren, Kendal Steinlage, Carly Steinlage Yingling, Deon Hook, Cole, Kyle and Taylor Dunham. When the grandkids

were younger, she loved going to their sporting and school events. Darlene also had five great grandchildren.

Darlene was one of 11 children. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Alberta Blackwell, and nine of her siblings, Danny Blackwell, Billie Blackwell, Bobbie Blackwell, Connie Burke, Ronnie Blackwell, Terry Blackwell, Glea Ashley, Ricky Blackwell, Cindy Hope, and grandson, Taylor Dunham. Her sister, Glenda Hase lives in Rossville.

Darlene received loving care by Interim Hospice Care.

It was Darlene's wish that there be no funeral service. The family will gather at a later date for burial. Inurnment will be at Prairie Home Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Interim HealthCare of Topeka, 1251 SW Arrowhead Rd Suite 103, Topeka, KS 66604. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dona Darlene Gartner*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Our condolences to the family. Comforting to know Darla is now with John again. Their wonderful relationship on earth is now continuing in heaven.*

Greg and Linda Laird - August 09, 2022 at 08:36 AM



“ *Darla: This has been a tough year for your family and Mark and I send our deepest of sympathy to your entire family. There are just no words to make it any easier on anyone but know, you are surrounded by loving friends and family who will be close by to help. I hope the good times and memories of your mom soothe your heart and some day, I would love to hear more about her. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Mark and Becky Burghart*

Becky Hilbert Burghart - August 07, 2022 at 09:02 PM



“ *I am heartbroken! I loved Dona like a best friend and enjoyed seeing the interaction of John and Dona. They always made me smile. My sympathies to the family and to her girls. The stories she would tell of you and her grandkids! She taught me a lot and I will carry her in my heart. I am so sorry for your Loss.*

Marion Johnston - August 07, 2022 at 12:15 PM

SB

“ So sorry to hear about your Mom. I got to see some of her beautiful quilts. She was so talented! She is, once again, together with your Dad and at peace. Know you all will miss her. Your families are in our prayers.

Sally & John Brooke

Sally Brooke - August 06, 2022 at 02:47 PM

MM

“ It was Truly an Honor Getting to know Darlene and John!...Darlene was Truly an Artist. So Thankful they are together again❤️



Marilyn Munoz - August 06, 2022 at 01:18 PM

GT

“ RIP* Once again with John.



Gerry/Debbie Tinsley - August 05, 2022 at 02:50 PM

KK

I am so sorry to hear of Donna's passing. However, she is in Our Lord's good hands and with her loved one, John.

I can remember years ago when she operated her gift shop. My mother (Marion Gartner) and I would visit often as we, like Donna, were "addicted". Donna made such unique and detailed miniatures - truly amazing. When I was collecting rabbits, my beloved husband Ken would stop in every other week to see if there were any new critters he could gift me with. Donna and John were such a classy couple.

My sincere condolences to the family.

Karen (Gartner) Knox - August 07, 2022 at 10:47 AM

SC

So sorry to learn of your mother's passing Darla. May God comfort and bless you. Shirley Fager

Shirley Fager Cook - August 07, 2022 at 03:20 PM