



Dona Ruth Dunkovich

November 9, 1943 - January 26, 2024

Hurricane, UT – Dona Dunkovich, 80, passed away on Friday, January 26, 2024, in St. George, UT. She was born on November 9, 1943, in Santa Monica, CA to Alan Brandau Carpenter and Ruth Alleman Carpenter. She was married to Leonard Dunkovich in Yorba Linda, CA on January 27, 1972.

Dona was raised in Southern California, in the cities of Brea and Yorba Linda, the first child born in her family. She was a very smart child and excelled in academics. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Journalism from BYU, and while working in Marketing Research at North American Rockwell Corporation, completed two Master's degrees in Communication and Journalism from Cal State Fullerton. It was also at work where she met Leonard Dunkovich, an aerospace engineer in 1971.

Dona was an active member in the Hurricane 17th Ward, serving in many callings including Relief Society President and Gospel Doctrine Teacher. She made many friends and loved to work as a substitute teacher for special needs children in the local school district.

Dona enjoyed baking cookies, gardening, reading, and journaling. She was a cat-lover, taking care of numerous pets and feeding strays over the years, including a wild baby bunny, named Bugsy. Always concerned with keeping in touch, she never forgot a birthday or special occasion, faithfully sending thoughtful cards to relatives and friends.

Dona is survived by her husband, Leonard Dunkovich of Hurricane, UT; brother, Tom Carpenter (wife Christine) of St. George, UT; brother, Jerry

Carpenter (wife Debi) of Yorba Linda, CA; niece, Elise Carpenter of Raleigh, NC; niece Ashleigh Campbell (husband Brett) of Phoenix, AZ; niece, Amanda Bethel (husband Corby) of Norco, CA; niece Tara Bishop (husband Gordon) of Pleasant Grove, UT; and nephew, David Ullah of Windsor, CO. She is also survived by eight great nieces and nephews: Luke, Kelsey, Camden, Kayleigh and Mackenzie Campbell; Corby "Junior" Bethel; Jasmine Hinton (husband Joel) of Las Vegas, NV; and Jaden Bishop of Salt Lake City, UT.

She is preceded in death by parents, Alan and Ruth Carpenter, and sister, Lori Noble.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, January 31 at 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the LDS Stake Center at 677 S 700 W, Hurricane, UT 84737, with the viewing and family visitation from 9:30 – 10:30 AM. Interment will be held at the Hurricane City Cemetery at 255 E 600 N, Hurricane, UT 84737.

Services will be available live streaming via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/92593364523?pwd=Sy9OZVNVYk5tU0V5aTFXSIRQL1hqZz09>

Meeting ID: 925 9336 4523 Passcode: 574624

Family and friends are invited to share tributes online at www.SerenityStG.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, 435-986-9100.

Cemetery Details

Hurricane City Cemetery

200 E. 600 N.
Hurricane, UT 84737

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN **31**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Hurricane Stake Center
677 S 700 W
Hurricane, UT 84737

Funeral Service

JAN **31**. 11:00 AM (MT)

Hurricane Stake Center
677 S 700 W
Hurricane, UT 84737

Tribute Wall



“ *Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah created a Live Streaming Funeral Service in memory of Dona Ruth Dunkovich*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - January 29, 2024 at 03:09 PM

LP

“ *A good friend, told me years ago that there are two kinds of people- the ones you love and the ones you don't know. How true that was with my neighbor, Dona Dunkovich. I'm grateful for the last couple of years that I got to know her, even though she has been my neighbor for over twenty years. I'm so sad that she passed, she was an awesome lady, who genuinely cared about everyone. She was a staple in our neighborhood, making and delivering her homemade jam and cookies, working side by side with her husband in their yard. Dona was always willing to help others. She loved roses, ice cream, and Del Taco. She was truly a light in our ward and will be missed tremendously. I'll miss her visits and the example she was to me. Dona inspired me to be a better person, and always shared her love of the gospel. She will never know the huge impact she had on me, this neighborhood, church and community. Rest In Peace my friend. ❤️😭*

Lyn Pratt - February 05, 2024 at 11:40 AM

KA

“ I met Donna many years ago through my mother and father who lived a few houses down from her. Donna always had a beautiful smile and always showed interest in how my family was doing when we would come and visit. Throughout the years, she would have cookies for us when we came to visit. Once, she sent us back home with cookies for the airplane ride. I always looked forward to seeing her at church when I visited my family ward. I knew she would be on the back row in her same spot with Leonard and greet me with enthusiasm and a warm smile. Last year after an injury, I found a card in my mailbox wishing me well and letting me know she was thinking of me. It really touched me that she would take the time to think of me and send a card because I had been hurt. She was an amazing lady, and I will miss seeing her when I come to Southern Utah.

Kathryn Ballard Anderson 2-4-24

KATHRYN ANDERSON - February 04, 2024 at 01:17 PM

DW

“ Dona was a good friend of my in-laws, John and Jeri Goettsche. It was a great friendship and much fun was shared between the couples.
Many years later, my daughter came home from school stating the sub pronounced our last name perfectly. Inquiring how she knew it, Donna responded with “I’m a good friend of your Grandma. My son enjoyed her sub visits as well at Desert Hills High School. We loved seeing her every now and then.
Diane Goettsche Wallace, St George.

Diane Wallace - February 02, 2024 at 12:23 PM



“ *Dona and I had a 67 year friendship meeting in 8th grade. We attended the same high school and college. During those years I went with her and her family on many trips to Wildwood; sweet memories. She was a bridesmaid at my wedding 57 years ago. Over the years our physical locations changed but the close friendship endured.*

As mentioned at Dona’s service, she was diligent and faithful in sending notes and cards. I treasure the last conversation we had when she was in the hospital. We shared our faith in Jesus Christ and our assurance of an eternal life. Praise that Dona is now with Him.

Vivian Lewellyn Gross - January 31, 2024 at 08:07 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Funeral Audio Recording*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - January 31, 2024 at 05:22 PM



“ I’ve only known Dona for 6 1/2 years, but what a sweetheart she has been from the first time we met. She always had a kind word and sweet smile for me, and many times, she also shared goodies from her garden and kitchen with James and I. Before we met, Dona was like a second mother to James, my now-husband. She and Leonard were his landlord after his divorce and she was always checking in on him to visit, bring him treats, and to make sure he was ok. That alone makes my heart so full when I think of Dona. He needed that more than she knows. I can’t say enough good about Dona and Leonard. What wonderful friends they have been to us. We both miss and love her so much.

Shelly Housley - January 30, 2024 at 10:06 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Dona Ruth Dunkovich.



January 30, 2024 at 07:22 AM



“ Hurricane City Mayor, Council & Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dona Ruth Dunkovich.

Hurricane City Mayor, Council & Staff - January 29, 2024 at 03:50 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Dona Ruth Dunkovich.* ”



January 29, 2024 at 03:50 PM