



Donna M. Cootware

November 4, 1929 - September 3, 2019

Donna M. (Blomquist) Cootware, 89, of Norway, formerly of Ralph, passed away on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at ManorCare Health Services in Kingsford.

Donna was born in Amasa, MI on November 4, 1929 to Edwin and Pauline (Daniel) Blomquist. She attended schools in Amasa, Iron Mountain and graduated from the Felch High School in 1947. She then attended Northern Michigan University and taught school in Ralph, Foster City and Felch and later with the Head Start Program.

Donna married John C. "Jack" Cootware on July 31, 1954. She and her husband purchased a farm in Ralph, raising potatoes and beef cattle. They are the proud parents of six children.

Donna was very active in the 4-H programs for over 30 years, leading a community 4-H club with over 40 members. She served as Township Clerk for five years and Supervisor for 20 years. She was also a member of the Michigan Townships Association for 25 years, serving on its Board of Directors for over ten years.

Donna served as President of the Michigan Farmer's Union, with offices in her home and in Lansing, for four years. During this time she was also an active

member of the National Board of Directors for that organization. Her activities included serving as a lobbyist in Washington D.C. and Lansing on Agricultural issues. She was the first woman to be elected President of any state Farmers Union being a pioneer in that position.

Donna ran the Ralph Community Post Office as a contracted post office from May 1987 until 2007.

Donna served as a member of the North Dickinson School Board for eight years when the school districts of Felch, Breen, Sagola and West Branch were consolidated.

Donna was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Metropolitan and has remained a life-long member. She taught Sunday School, Bible School, was a member of the women's groups and sang in the choir, as well as singing many solos over the years. Donna was always proud of the family that she and Jack raised on the farm. Working together, as a family, made a very close-knit unit.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, John C. Cootware; her parents, Pauline and Edwin Blomquist; her son, John E. Cootware; a granddaughter, April Lilly Schirtzinger, brothers-in-law, Clifford (Barbara) Klefstad, Elroy Mattson, Roger Adams, Roger "Buddy" Cootware and Robert (Robin) Cootware.

Donna leaves her daughters, Deanna (Richard) Smith of Ontonagon, MI, Paulette (Michael) Holmes of Randville, MI, Donna Mae (Gregory) Stahlmann of Ishpeming, MI, Suzette (Neil) Stenfors of Norway, MI and Michelle (William) Schirtzinger of Green Bay, WI; her 2 sisters, Denyce (Elroy) Mattson of Iron Mountain, MI and Diane Adams of Mesa, AZ; her 2 brothers, Daniel (Shirley) Blomquist of Marquette, MI and David (Marylou) Blomquist of Marquette, MI; 15 grandchildren, Jaclyn Smith of Tampa, FL, Crystal Smith of Lower Central,

MI, Bridgit (Chris) Adams of Little Chute, WI, Jennifer (Chad) Kielas of Eagan, MN, Ann Cootware of Marquette, MI, Michael Cootware, Pauline Holmes of Madison, WI, Allen (Amanda) Holmes of Ralph, MI, Major M.D. Charles Stahlmann of Las Vegas, NV, Captains Samuel (Michaela) Stahlmann of Gladstone, MI, Lindsey (Troy) Drebenstedt of Gladstone, Sgt. Philip (Julie) Stenfors of Norway, MI, Alan (Molly) Stenfors of Waucedah, MI, Rebecca Brennan of Gladstone, MI and A.J. (Sarah) Schirtzinger of Green Bay, WI; great-grandchildren Van, Jax, Connor, Liam, Brendan, Samantha, Steven, Mary Grace, Savanna, Andraya, Azarya, Adaliynah, Keegan, Payzlee, Mickayla, Kristoff, Wilhelm, Heidi, Tobias, Kyle, Hunter, Cecilia, Cory, Andrea, Evan, Emily, Maya, Alex, Paige, Carter, and Lilly; great-great grandchildren Allie, Niles, Liam, and Luna; many cousins; and special “adopted by heart” friends, Lynn Norquist and family, Mat Talon and family, Lynn and Leroy Connors, Linda and Tim Snyder.

Donna enjoyed life and spent her time trying to fight for improvements in the north end of the county for the benefit of those who live here. She liked to carve wood, paint, write poetry and read, spend winter in Florida with many friends. Singing solos was her greatest joy from the early age of 12 throughout her life.

Visitation will be on Saturday, September 14 from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 11:00 am at the funeral home. Rev. Michael Langlais will officiate. Burial will be in the Ralph Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Alan Stenfors, Sam Stahlmann, Charles Stahlmann, A.J. Schirtzinger, Neil Stenfors, Gregory Stahlmann, Troy Drebenstedt and Rev. Michael Langlais.

Honorary pallbearers will be Richard Smith, Michael Holmes, Bill Schirtzinger and Teddy Mattson.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Donna Cootware online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Ralph Cemetery

Ralph, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 14. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Funeral Service

SEP 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Donna M. Cootware.*



September 12, 2019 at 06:23 PM



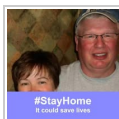
“ *Although Donna and I have not been in touch for several years, whenever my thoughts turned to the wonderful winters at the Hide Away, Donna came to mind. Her faith and trust in the Lord, Her loyal friendship, her encouragement and her genuine kindness drew me to her. I have no doubt she has earned her place in Heaven reunited with her loved ones. I look forward to seeing her again. God bless you all with His healing, mercy and grace. Ida T. Lovell, Marion, NC,*

Ida Lovell - September 12, 2019 at 10:51 AM



“ *Our sympathy to your family. I remember Donna blessing many weddings by singing (beautifully) "The Lord's Prayer" at Zion Lutheran; and also remember her being part of Bible school each summer. She blessed many people and will be remembered for many years to come.*

Valerie Lucas - September 10, 2019 at 04:43 PM



Thank you

Suz Sten - September 19, 2019 at 09:45 PM

SS

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Suzette Stenfors - September 09, 2019 at 08:35 PM

SS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall

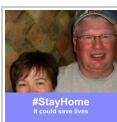


Suzette Stenfors - September 09, 2019 at 08:27 PM

LH

“ A person did not need to be around this wonderful lady to know she loved the Lord. She made that obvious. That is what made her such a great person and I take comfort in knowing that the same Lord she loved is also the one I love. I have great joy in knowing we will one day spend eternity together in the new heaven and the new earth that our Lord has promised to those that love Him.

LARRY HIGLEY - September 09, 2019 at 02:18 PM



Thank you

Suz Sten - September 19, 2019 at 09:46 PM

JJ

“ *My condolences to the family on Donna’s passing. She was always positive and encouraging to others. I’ll miss her.*

Jason Julian - September 09, 2019 at 10:05 AM

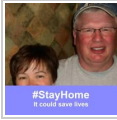
AB

“ *To all in your extended family:*

*The world will be a bit darker without her smile.
May you find comfort in your treasured memories, and God's peace
and faithfulness.*

*With love from Alene Blomquist, on behalf of our family of Olaf and
Beatrice Blomquist.*

Alene Blomquist - September 07, 2019 at 07:59 PM



Thank you

Suz Sten - September 19, 2019 at 09:47 PM

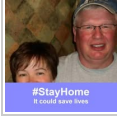
CS

“ *Words cannot express how saddened we are to hear of Donna’s passing. May our Lord bless and comfort your family during this time of grief. It was an honor to have known such a remarkable person and we will truly miss her.*

Love,

Frank and Cindy Schwab

C. Schwab - September 07, 2019 at 03:05 PM



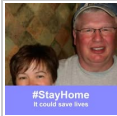
Your love and support have meant so much to us over the years. You have blessed our lives in so many ways. Mom and Dad thought of you as family.

Suz Sten - September 19, 2019 at 09:50 PM

VB

“ *Our Deepest sympathy . Donna was a great person. She will be missed* ❤️🙏 *Brian, violet and Jennifer Bongi* 🌹

violet bongi - September 06, 2019 at 10:05 PM



Thank you

Suz Sten - September 19, 2019 at 09:50 PM