



Donna J. Cocalis

January 23, 1944 - March 30, 2021

Donna Jean Cocalis, 77, of Point Marion, Pa., passed away Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at the Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. Born in Oshkosh, WI on Jan. 23, 1944, she was the first of three children to the late George and Harriet (Getlinger) Fuhs. Also deceased is a brother, Darrel Fuhs.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph C. Cocalis; two sons and their wives, Dwight and Stephany (Moody) Sisk and their children, Noah and Kiley Sisk, of Sykesville, MD, and Travis and Janelle (Barnhart) Sisk and their children Garrett and Peyton Sisk of Chesapeake, VA. Also surviving is a brother, Rich Fuhs of Beaverton, OR; sisters-in-law, Mardy Fuhs of Mason, WI, Susan Cocalis of Northampton, MA, Michele (Keith) Sharkin of Summit, NJ, brothers-in-law, Guy (Marge) Cocalis of West Allenhurst, NJ and Ralph (Kelly) Cocalis of Neptune, NJ; and a number of nieces and nephews.

After graduating from Oshkosh High School, she attended Lindenwood College in St. Charles, MO, and Stout State College (now University) in Menomonie, WI. Donna met her husband Joe when they worked in the same office at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Denver, CO, where she was a civilian employee and he was in the Army. In 1980, the Cocalis/Sisk family moved to Point Marion from Colorado when Joe accepted a Public Health Service Position at NIOSH in Morgantown. Donna transferred her years of government employment to the U.S. Department of Energy in Morgantown.

She was one of eight compilers of the book, "Point Marion – from the Beginning" which was published in 1999. Locally, she was a member of the Point Marion Progress Club, Uniontown Flower Club, the Friendship Hill Association, and a staunch supporter of the activities of the Point Marion Rotary and the Rotary Foundation, where she is a Paul Harris Fellow. In the past, she was a member of the United Methodist Women, Country Roads Cyclist, and a volunteer at the Point Marion Library. She was very proud of her German heritage. An avid genealogist, she was a long-time member of several German genealogical societies.

Donna was a collector of many things, a skilled rug braider, sewer and quilter. A talented cook, Donna excelled in the kitchen, and she received a number of awards from her recipes being published during the Herald-Standard contests. She and Joe rode road and off-road tandem bicycles and spent many enjoyable hours in the tandem kayak in this area and in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota and in Algonquin in Canada, as well as working on jigsaw puzzles in the evenings at home.

Donna had a quiet, pleasant manner about her, always willing to help in any way she could, but never seeking the spotlight. She will be dearly missed by her loving family, and by all who have had the privilege of calling her a friend.

A private service for her immediate family will be held at the Richard R. Herod Funeral Home, Philip S. Rishel, Director, on Saturday, April 3, 2021, with Pastor George Relic officiating. Interment will be in Evergreen Memorial Park, Point Marion. A public ceremony will be held at a later date when it is safer to do so.

Memorials, in lieu of flowers, may be offered to: Point Marion Public Library, 399 Ontario Avenue, Point Marion, PA 15474 for use in community projects.

Cemetery

Evergreen Memorial Park

7500 Morgantown Road

Point Marion, PA, 15474

Comments



“ In 2003 my daughter Karen and I met Donna at Jack and Joyce's home, where a wonderful group of creative and talented friends shared their skills and held 'Christmas at The Cabin.'
Lovely Donna was happy to show Karen " a bit more of the U.S.A." as it was her first (and only) visit.
Karen's outings with Donna hold very special memories, as they both enjoyed each others company.
We both send our condolences to all the family, and hope your memories of such a kind caring lady will bring you comfort.
Susan - a visitor from the UK.

Susan Roden - April 25 at 08:04 AM



“ I just learned of Donna's passing this morning. I am so sad to lose such a dear friend. We worked together for several years at the Department of Energy in Morgantown. I got to hear many stories when Dwight and Travis were growing up (ha!). She will always be in my memories as a special person that I was honored to know and spend time with all those years ago. Much love to the family!

Chris Podeszwa

Christine Podeszwa - April 21 at 11:19 AM



“ To all that posted comments about my mother. Thank you.

Dear mother,

Today, we are saying goodbye to you, but you will always be with us. I will cherish the fond memories and all the joy you brought. I will not focus on the moments that I disappointed you (i.e. Super gluing the dinning room table, flatten tires, kicking-in the front door), however I will remember the life lessons you instilled. You did a great job with Dwight and I, and also Joe. I am very proud to have called you my mom. I miss you and I will always love you.

Joe, thank you for loving my mother and allowing Dwight and I to have a father. I think you know what that means, but if you do not, I love you.

“When You Speak of Her”

Author: Unknown

When you speak of her,
speak not with tears,
for thoughts of her should not be sad.
Let memories of the times ... shared
give you comfort,
for her life was rich
because of you (were part of it)



Travis Sisk - April 03 at 05:25 PM



“ Thank you for capturing so well Donna's gentle, giving spirit. Her caring and dependable ways kept those of us in her extended family connected. Our lives are richer for having experienced her, young to old. My sincere condolences to you, Joe, and to Dwight and Travis and families.



Cordell Affeldt - April 03 at 01:21 PM



“ A few more photos of my mother. I wish I had more.



Travis Sisk - April 02 at 11:49 PM



“ Extending our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to Joe and all bereaved family members, friends, and acquaintances. May each passing day find your sorrow and sadness lessening.

PDG Gwendolyn & Rev. Louis E. Ridgley, Jr.

PDG Gwendolyn & Rev. Louis E. Ridgley, J - April 02 at 03:10 PM



“ Donna was truly a lovely person and she will be missed by all who knew her. My husband, Pete and I will certainly miss her at FestiFall. Her smile always lite up a room.

Barbara Pasqua - April 02 at 02:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donna J. Cocalis.



April 02 at 11:12 AM



“ My wife Sandy and I went on several week long cycling tours with them and other members of the CRC. We paddled on the Mon river with them. She always had a happy attitude. She and Joe came to our partys in Sakem. She was a sweet person and will be missed by many. Our deepest condolences to Joe and the family.
J&S Weaver

Jim& Sandy Weaver - April 02 at 10:50 AM



“ I am truly heartbroken over the loss of Donna. I have always thought the world of her -a person of beauty, kindness, gentleness, and so many talents. She always had a kind and encouraging word and was a joy to be around. The world was a better place with Donna in it.



Susan Pallotta - April 02 at 08:57 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donna J. Cocalis.



April 02 at 08:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donna J. Cocalis.



April 02 at 06:18 AM



“ Wanda Franks lit a candle in memory of Donna J. Cocalis



Wanda Franks - April 01 at 10:29 PM



“ My mother was a silent strong women. I will miss her.



Travis Sisk - April 01 at 08:56 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Philip - April 01 at 10:33 AM