



Mrs. Donna Jean Cornelius

February 25, 1936 - December 20, 2012

Donna Jean Cornelius, age 76, of Dayton, went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Thursday, December 20, 2012 at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga. She was born February 25, 1936 in Pratt, Kansas to the late Roe and Zelma (Crocker) Black.

A resident of Dayton for over 45 years, she was a member of Grace Bible Church. She attended Rockmont College (now Colorado Christian College), Bryan College and completed her B.A. in music at University of Northern Colorado at Greeley. Her M.A. in music is from University of Tennessee Knoxville. She taught music at Bryan College years ago, was a church musician and also gave music lessons.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Dr. Richard Cornelius of Dayton, daughter Crista Cornelius of Caronport, Saskatchewan, Canada, son Craig (Michele) Cornelius and grandchildren Nathan Cornelius and Heather Cornelius, all of Paynesville, MN.

Funeral services for Donna will be held Tuesday, New Year's Day at 12:00 noon at Grace Bible Church with Dr. Doug Russell and Rev. David Snyder officiating. The family will receive friends at the church one hour prior to the funeral. She will be laid to rest in Rhea Memory Gardens.

Please share your memories of Donna on her on-line guest register at www.vanderwallfh.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bryan College Scholarship Fund or to the Roe F. and Zelma I. Black Memorial Music Scholarship Fund at

Bryan College.

The family is being served by the Vanderwall Funeral Home in Dayton.

Cemetery Details

Rhea Memory Gardens

Hwy 27
Dayton, TN

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Grace Bible Church
2809 Old Washington Hwy.
Dayton, TN

Service

JAN 1 (ET)

Grace Bible Church
2809 Old Washington Hwy.
Dayton, TN

Tribute Wall

LH

“ I have known Donna Jean since we were kids together at elementary school in Englewood, Colorado....then through high school and beyond, we were friends. She had such a gentle and loving soul. My sympathy to all her family.

Lucy Hoffhines

Lucy A. Hoffhines - January 05, 2013 at 06:29 PM

MA

“ Dick and Donna were teaching at Bryan when we met them, and they were a half generation older than we; so it was difficult learning to call them Dick and Donna after we graduated and became members of the same alumni group. One of my recollections was after Craig was born and we were attending a meeting at the S&W cafeteria in Knoxville. Craig was just a little toddler and became noisy and restless. But Donna just whispered in his little ear and all noise stopped. I have often wondered what she whispered. It may have come in handy when we had children. I learned something else about Donna when I brought brownies to a meeting. She kept going back for seconds. Someone told me that she loved chocolate, especially brownies. So I sent all the leftover brownies home with her.

Over the years I learned to admire her for using her talents to serve whenever she could while still being a dedicated mom, and wife.
Katie Ashworth

Mary Kate McCroskey Ashworth - January 03, 2013 at 10:21 AM

EB

“ I met Mrs. Cornelius several years ago through her daughter, Crista, my friend and colleague for many years overseas. When I met Mrs. Cornelius I understood more of Crista's own gracious and gentle nature. A mother's love and spiritual influence reaches many through her children. What a sweet tribute to a woman who was one of the Lord's faithful servants. My prayers and thoughts continue for the family during this difficult time.

Emily Barham - January 02, 2013 at 05:28 AM

MY

“ Donna is a gentle mum, and she cares not only her children, but also cares for her chilfren's friend. She is a women whose heart is full of love from God.

Miao Yu - January 01, 2013 at 10:40 PM



“ I first met Donna in 1971 when she and Dick visited to welcome us as new faculty members at Bryan College. She was gracious and encouraging as she remaind during the next 21 year of our time at Bryan. I came to appreciate her even more as a woman relying on the power of prayer. She has left me a legacy of faithful loving care for her husband. I think she would join with King David in his prayer to God "Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children." Psalm 90:16 It brings great comfort today to know she is in the presence of her Savior rejoicing

Sharon Richardson - January 01, 2013 at 12:24 PM

CR

“ "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15)
Charles Robinson

Charles H. Robinson - January 01, 2013 at 09:25 AM

JM

“Mrs. Cornelius was my piano teacher from 1963 to 1968. She taught me most of what I know about music. She was an accomplished musician who set a high standard of excellence for all her students. She provided opportunities for us to participate in local, state, and national musical activities. She carried herself with dignity and grace. Her death is a profound loss.

John Mercer

John Mercer - December 30, 2012 at 09:23 PM

RD

“My prayers and condolences to the Cornelius Family.
Richard Daugherty

Richard Daugherty - December 30, 2012 at 01:51 AM

DH

“It has been a special two years to come alongside Donna in ministry to her and Dr. Cornelius. She was Christlike in her humble dignity, graciousness, and loyal love to her husband. I miss her and praise God for her.

David Hobbs - December 29, 2012 at 04:37 AM

VT

“Mrs. C. was a real lady who made a quiet impression upon all those who had the honor of coming in contact with her. She walked in integrity, and deserves every accolade that is spoken of her.

Vicki Hentz Gould, Dayton TN - December 28, 2012 at 07:05 PM



“ *When I was on the quiz team with Craig we would sometimes meet at his house. Mrs. Cornelius was always a gracious hostess. Imagine allowing a horde of teenagers to invade your house!*

You have my deepest sympathies and prayers.

Lisa McClellan - December 28, 2012 at 06:58 PM

NE

“ *Nancy Lieb Eldert lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Donna Jean Cornelius*



Nancy Lieb Eldert - December 28, 2012 at 04:12 PM

RR

I was thinking about when I first met Donna--at church and as my piano teacher. She was always so kind and patient. Praying that the Lord will give you His strength as you celebrate her life.
Ruth Ross

Ruth Ross - December 30, 2012 at 12:56 PM

MP

“ *Mary Morrison Pendergrass lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Donna Jean Cornelius*



Mary Morrison Pendergrass - December 28, 2012 at 03:15 PM



“ *William Ketchersid lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Donna Jean Cornelius*



William Ketchersid - December 28, 2012 at 12:13 PM



“ *Miao Yu purchased the Let It Snow for the family of Mrs. Donna Jean Cornelius.*



Miao Yu - December 28, 2012 at 11:31 AM