



## Donna Lorraine Shelenhamer

May 6, 1943 - July 26, 2024

Donna Lorraine (Shuler) Shelenhamer, Bolivar, MO, passed away on July 26, 2024, at 9:10 am.

She was 81 years old.

Donna was born May 6th, 1943, at 8:43 AM, at Saginaw General Hospital to the late Charles A. and Catherine (Gunderman) Shuler.

She was the youngest of 7 and weighed 4 lbs., 8 ounces.

She married James R. Shelenhamer on March 13, 1963, and they had four children, then divorced on November 11, 1977.

She is survived by her children: Lori (Kevin) Fullbright, Jeff (Renee') Shelenhamer, Jody (Robin) Shelenhamer and grandchildren: Brittaney Carr, Garret Shelenhamer, Kayla (Chandler) Steward, Mariah (Sam) Lewright and Jacob Shelenhamer; a great-granddaughter, Hallie Jane Steward, Donna's sister, Betty Jean Tucker; many nieces and nephews, extended family and dear friends.

Donna was preceded in death by her eldest son, James Charles Shelenhamer (1984), her parents, Charles and Catherine Shuler, her step-mother, Helen (Weber) Shuler, her twin brother, Donald Shuler and siblings, Richard Shuler, Norma Herweyer, Clara Vlassis and Walter Shuler, and other loved ones.

Donna worked in her parent's greenhouse for \$1 a week, was saved and

became a Christian at the age of 12, graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 1961 in Saginaw, then attended United Airlines School in Kansas City, MO before getting a job with the Secret Service in Washington, DC.

That's where she met a young U.S. Navy sailor she described as handsome and a little cocky and said yes, to his third marriage proposal and moved with him to Bolivar, MO.

Even though her marriage did not work out as planned, she always said she never regretted it, because it gave her the four greatest blessings of her life, her children.

Donna was a stay at home mother until 1977 when she went to work as an executive assistant at Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, then became a paralegal for Douglas, Haun and Heideman.

She devoted her life to serving others, through her church and community activities.

She was called to teach 1st and 2nd grade GA's (Girls in Action) every Wednesday night and teach 5th grade Sunday school boys every Sunday and did both for 55 years.

In addition, she held numerous leadership positions at the local and state level for WMU and for decades, was in charge of the Senior Trip ministry, packing snacks for all the BHS seniors for their senior trip.

She also delivered Thanksgiving Day meals for families in Polk County and often portrayed and told the life stories of her favorite missionaries, Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong, at various church functions and events.

In 2013, she was voted as one of Polk County's kindest citizens.

Her first love was spending time with her family and friends.

She also loved doing wedding flowers, swimming, playing in the snow, scrapbooking, watching westerns, the Detroit Lions and was well known for

baking delicious cookies and Sunday dinners.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Miss Donna's memory to the Lottie Moon or Annie Armstrong Mission funds.

<https://www.imb.org/generosity/give-now/lottie-moon/>

Your Gifts at Work - Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Celebration of Life Service;

Wednesday, July 31st at 10 am at First Baptist Church, 316 N. Main Street, Bolivar, MO

Pastor Adam Hughes and Pastor Billy Russell will officiate.

The family will visit with guests at the church Tuesday, July 30 from 5 to 7 PM.

Gravesite service at Crestview Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 1529 State Hwy 32, Bolivar, to follow.

Arrangements have been made by Butler Funeral Home, Bolivar.

# Cemetery Details

## Crestview Memorial Gardens

1529 Missouri 32  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

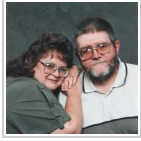
First Baptist Church  
316 N. Main  
Bolivar, MO 65613

## Celebration Of Life

JUL 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
316 N. Main  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Tribute Wall



“ I can not properly express the thankfulness,gratitude that my husband and I have for Donna.. What a joy she has been for us and many others... May God wrap you in His arms of peace and comfort..

Sandy Miller - July 30, 2024 at 01:08 PM

KS

“ Words cannot express how much we loved and admired our Miss Donna. Her influence on our children and the hundreds of children who passed through her Sunday School classes and G.A.'s has had an impact we will celebrate for eternity.  
Tom & Jean Stark

Karen Jean Stark - July 30, 2024 at 09:39 AM

KI

“ Kirchoff's purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donna Lorraine Shelenhamer.



Kirchoff's - July 29, 2024 at 03:47 PM

KI

“ Kirchoff's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Lorraine Shelenhamer.

Kirchoff's - July 29, 2024 at 03:47 PM

PC

“ Shirley and I are so sorry to hear the news of Donna’s passing. Thankful that she resides and rests in the arms of her Saviour Jesus Christ.

You all are in our prayers and thoughts !

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you and let us know how you all are doing!

May God of All Comfort and Everlasting Peace Guide, Comfort Embrace You All In His Grace Mercy And Love.

Paul And Shirley Cofer

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paul Cofer - July 29, 2024 at 12:01 PM

YF

“ Your News On 6 Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Donna Lorraine Shelenhamer.



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Your News On 6 Family - July 29, 2024 at 11:04 AM

PB

“ I am so very sorry for the loss of your momma. I can remember seeing her every Wednesday night at church. She was so very kind to me even when others weren’t. Thank you for sharing her with us. She made such a difference in so many lives.



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patti butler - July 28, 2024 at 02:52 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donna Lorraine Shelenhamer.*



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July 27, 2024 at 04:56 PM



“ *Friends at Wheeler Livestock Auction planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Lorraine Shelenhamer.*

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**Friends at Wheeler Livestock Auction** - July 27, 2024 at 04:56 PM



“ *You have my heart felt sympathy. Donna was a great friend. I loved scrap booking with her, attending the same church and many other times being together. She will be greatly missed. She is at peace with the Lord.*



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**Nancy Gallatin** - July 27, 2024 at 12:28 PM

FK

“ If one is lucky in life one gets to be part of one strong family. I was but Donna was the force behind a family I was adopted into - welcomed, loved, fed always and taught. She knew how to teach, laugh, be strong, cry and then laugh some more. She taught me what a snickerdoodle was and to revere it always. When I wrote stories for the news it was Donna I had in mind. I knew she would listen and give me a chance to explain. She made a life out of doing just that - for all her children - both biological and spiritual. I was in the latter category. For me, she and her amazing kids showed grace to a city boy who was away from home and who had need of a family close by. Donna - Gert - you will always be close by. Thank you for teaching, leading and showing the limitless love of Christ in all you did. We will see you again. Can't wait to hear that laugh.

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**Friend Ken** - July 27, 2024 at 01:25 AM

SJ

“ Donna was one of the most "pure" Christians I have ever known. Her years of dedication to the Girls Auxiliary (GAs) at First Baptist Church has been such a blessing to those young women whose lives she has touched. She was one of a kind, truly to be admired and now in the arms of our blessed Savior. We will miss her.

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**Sandy Jones** - July 26, 2024 at 07:02 PM