

Donelle Nitzkowski – AD 1986 Nursing

Donelle Norma (Paulsen) Nitzkowski, age 59, of West Fargo, ND died Friday October 29, 2021, after a lengthy illness.

Donelle was born on September 17th, 1962 in San Diego, CA to Donald and Rita (Skauge) Paulsen. She graduated from West Fargo High School in 1980. After high school, Donelle asked her father for input on what career choice she should focus on and her father pointed her towards becoming a nurse, as Donelle had a huge heart for taking care of other people.

Taking her father's advice, she continued her education at Wahpeton, NDSU, and UND. Donelle started her career at St. Lukes in 1982 and after 35+ years of doing what she loved, she retired, while making a huge impact on many lives throughout her career.

Donelle married Barry Nitzkowski on April 25, 2009. She and Barry shared many beautiful vacations over the years and were blessed to enjoy traveling together. Whenever Donelle wanted to travel she would pick a destination and Barry would never hesitate to make it happen. They also attended many NDSU football and basketball games together.

"Nelle" played softball, bowled, crocheted and loved to do crafts. She also loved gardening and canning many of her vegetables right up the end, nothing was stopping her.

Nelle also spent a lot of time entertaining friends at her home and planned many 'girls' weekends and road trips. She always made the best out of a themed party. "Nelle" was known for her kindness, generosity and beautiful smile. She had a zest for life.

Proceeded by her parents Donald and Rita Paulsen, Brother-in-law Bradley Nitzkowski and Sister-in-law Beverly Shorten. Donelle is survived by her husband, Barry, his two sons Blake and Brandon (Kelsey) Nitzkowski, grandson Tucker and twin granddaughters Kassidey and Paisley. Sisters Denise Varriano and Dawn (Steve) Ruff, brothers Kevin (Lori) Ellenson, and Michael (Jamie) Paulsen. Barry's sisters Bonnie (Rick) Kraemer, Becky (Tom) Shanley and Belinda (Jim) Muehlbauer.

Donelle was honored to share her love and home with Barry's sons Blake and Brandon for many years. She had the greatest love for her nieces and nephews. She made each one of them feel special.

Joey Maniglia, Andrea Jackson, Zachary Ellenson, Cassidy Williams, Carmella and Cosmo Varriano, Giuliana Houchin, Rita Varriano Bornholt, Marshall, Mikey and Michaela Paulsen, Matthew and Allison Ruff - and numerous great nieces and nephews and one great-great nephew.

At the end of Donelle's time on earth, she said to Barry, "All I want to do is go to sleep and wake up normal." Donelle then asked Barry to hold her hand, give her a kiss and just hold her hand before she left. Rest in Peace my love, you deserve to rest now. God has called another angel home.

Visitation: 5 to 7 PM with prayer service at 7 PM, Thursday, November 4, 2021 at West Funeral Home, West Fargo, ND.

Funeral: 11:00 AM, Friday, November 5, 2021 at Faith - Journey Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, with visitation one hour before the service.