



Diane Louise Nowak

March 28, 1955 - October 27, 2020

Diane Louise Nowak was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She returned home to the Lord on October 27, 2020 at the age of 65 after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease, surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honor her legacy by living their lives to the fullest. We celebrate her overwhelming joy as she is now reunited with her son, Mark, after 23 years.

Diane was born to William and Jane Brockway on March 28, 1955 in St. Louis, Missouri. After graduating from high school, Diane chased her dreams of becoming an Administrative Officer in the U.S. Army. It was in St. Louis where Diane met her husband, William, and they wed on June 16, 1978. She went on to receive her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Business from Grand Valley State University. Diane will forever be known to many as a savvy business woman, with a knack for financial management, negotiation skills, and marketing expertise. Using these skills, she took on a pivotal role in opening William's medical practice in Traverse City, Michigan in 1983, and continued to serve as office manager until 2018. Yet, her greatest accomplishment was the 3 children her and William had together: Steven, Mark, and Anna.

Diane will forever be remembered for the depth of her love for her family. Her devotion to her children, their spouses and her grandchildren was beyond measure. She would proudly boast her children's and grandchildren's accomplishments to everyone she encountered. The best years of her life were being a mother raising her loving children, driving them to endless practices and games, talking about their latest crushes, going back-to-school shopping, sending weekly care packages to college, playing board games, and making memories on many wonderful vacations. She also experienced immense joy in hearing the laughter of her four grandchildren playing together and teaching them new games on her iPad.

Diane was a friend to many throughout the community and maintained those relationships over several years. Her beautiful hair, friendly smile, and warm personality made her so approachable that she'd make a new friend everywhere she went and would be the first to strike up a conversation with a stranger, in hopes of brightening their day. In her role as a soccer, hockey, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, and football mom, Diane developed many lifelong friendships from her children's sports and will forever be

remembered by many as the “team mom.” Diane leaves behind a legacy of laughter and good times to be remembered and shared by the people she touched. She will especially be remembered for her Burger King hockey red Suburban, her volleyball tournament crockpot meals, her pink lipstick and watermelon balls at baseball games, carpooling teams to tournaments, sitting on the sidelines in the rain, never missing an away game, and being the photographer and scrapbooker for all her children’s sports teams. She also had a special love for watching the NBA and would often surprise us in her knowledge of players and Detroit Pistons team stats. In addition to having a keen interest in sports, penny slot machines, and monitoring the stock market, Diane was an avid reader, writer, and rhyme composer. She took great joy in writing poetry and helping her children with schoolwork, term papers, and even job interview preparation.

She put her entire being into raising her children, asking nothing in return. She was the strength and spirit of her family, teaching us all that life is not always fair, but God is always faithful. Most importantly, she taught us that in a world where you can be anything, be kind.

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” – Maya Angelou

She is survived by her best friend and devoted husband of 42 years, William Nowak; her loving children Steven (Christina) Nowak of Traverse City, MI; and Anna (Joseph) Lazar of Birmingham, MI.; four grandchildren, Makenna, Mark, Juliana, and Emilia; two sisters, Carol McDonald of St. Louis, MO; and Linda Moretti of Huntsville, AL; and several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her son, Mark; and parents, William and Jane.

Private family services have been held.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to be made in Diane’s honor to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation.

Kindly share thoughts and memories with Diane’s family at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

Cemetery Details

Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens

3575 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

Tribute Wall

DM

“ *Dr.Nowak and family,
May our loving Lord wrap His arms of comfort, love, peace
and strength around you. So sorry for the loss of your
loving Diane.*

Darlene A. Miller



Darlene A. Miller - November 15, 2020 at 09:41 PM

CR

“ *Diane was so thoughtful and fun! I cherish our times together.
To Bill, Steve, and Anna, my love goes out to you and your families.*

Carol Roehrich - November 14, 2020 at 04:37 PM

KB

“ *Bill, Steve, Anna, and family,
We are so very sorry to hear of Diane's passing. So hard to believe. We'll always
remember her as sweet Diane, Hockey Mom, gorgeous hair, and always smiling.
Take good care of each other, and know we are thinking of you. Warm Hugs.....
Glen and Karin Burke*

Karin Burke - November 03, 2020 at 03:59 PM

DG

“ *Bill, Steve and Anna
I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your dear wife and mother. She was a lovely
and warm person. Our family was blessed to be considered friends. Thinking of
you during these hard times.
Dick Guzowski and boys.*

Dick Guzowski - November 02, 2020 at 10:52 AM

SS

“ *There are so many memories to share about my dear friend
Di. We have been friends for over 30 years and our
experiences we share are many. Family dinners together,
game nights, adventurous trips, sports , tragedy and joy, we
shared it all. We were sisters by choice and to that I am
grateful. Her love will guide me until we meet again. RIP my
friend ❤️*



Shannon Sitek - November 01, 2020 at 06:29 PM

CM

“ I feel blessed to have known Diane over the years. Wonderful caring women, always willing to help others. She will be missed by many. Bill and the Nowak family will be in our thoughts and prayers.
Dave & Cindy Michelin

Cindy Michelin - October 30, 2020 at 09:53 AM

MS

“ May memories and her beautiful spirit bring you comfort now and forever. Blessings to her family and friends in this tender time.

Melissa Sole - October 30, 2020 at 06:55 AM

TH

“ We are saddened to hear this and send our most sincere sympathy. We have very fond memories of Diane from Anna and our daughter, Stephanie, playing on the same soccer team. Diane had a great sense of humor and was a very giving person, always ready to help. Rest in peace, Diane.

Tim and Jackie Hall - October 29, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. As an early patient of Dr. Nowak's, one who was having a VBAC, Diane was always so supportive, kind and caring when I came in for appointments. She always impressed me as being 'real'; genuinely caring. That memory has stayed with me for 35 years. Your loss saddens me. You've been blessed as a family to have had her as your bulwark.

Sherri Freels - October 29, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ The sweetest, most beautiful customer during my 15 years at the Acme Post Office. Diane always had a smile and a quiet manner. My sincerest condolences.
💕💕

Connie Leutloff - October 29, 2020 at 08:04 AM

TM

“ Our condolences.



The Mallerys - October 29, 2020 at 07:27 AM

DT

“ *Debbie Tithof-Wooters lit a candle in memory of Diane Louise Nowak*



Debbie Tithof-Wooters - October 28, 2020 at 08:25 PM

LM

She was the kindest and sweetest lady I have ever met. God bless your soul. Sincere Condolences ~ Marty & Laurie Makowski & Family ❤️

Laurie Makowski - October 29, 2020 at 08:40 AM

LD

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of Diane as we watched and cheered on our girls at their volleyball games. When I think of Diane two words come to my mind....kindness and grace. Praying for strength for your family during this difficult time* 🙏

Linda Drelles - October 28, 2020 at 04:40 PM

TS

“ *I fondly remember Mrs. Nowak during Anna's wedding festivities. She was kind, funny and generous. We enjoyed laughing with her and she made everyone feel so welcome. When I met her, I instantly felt warmth. Her generosity and kind heart is living on in her daughter, who I am lucky to have as a friend. All my love to Anna and her family.*

Theresa Smith - October 28, 2020 at 03:16 PM

EU

“ *Hard to find the words to convey my love and gratitude for Dianne and the Nowak family. The kindness and compassion you shared with me during my battle with cancer will never be forgotten. I am forever grateful and blessed.*
-Erin (Lockman) Urban



Erin Urban - October 28, 2020 at 02:58 PM