



Donna Iler Neidhardt

May 31, 2012

Donna Iler Neidhardt, born in Paulding County, Ohio, on July 16, 1930, passed from this life on Thursday, May 31, 2012. She was preceded in death by both parents Charles and Thelma Iler and her brother Jack. Survived by brother, William; and sister, Gaynell; and by loving husband of 57 years, Walter Joe Neidhardt, and their four children, Neil (Nanette), Laurie (John), Lisa, Linda, and Ned (Lisa); and four grandchildren, Lauren, John, Daniel, and Jessica. Donna graduated from Paulding High School and pursued music studies at Morehead State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Music, followed by graduate studies at The Ohio State University. Donna met Joe, her husband-to-be, while she was employed teaching music in Spencerville, Ohio. Donna was teaching music in the public schools and Joe had returned to his hometown after serving in the United States Air Force. Donna and Joe were married on June 26, 1955. The young couple lived in Lima, Xenia, Mount Gilead and Columbus, before settling in the Dublin area, while Joe built highways and bridges and Donna began giving piano lessons and working as a substitute teacher. In addition to private music lessons, Donna was also Director of Music for Dublin Community Church for eighteen years, Assistant Director of the Columbus Damenchor, Secretary of the Washington Township Zoning Board of Appeals, a charter member of the Dublin AM Rotary Club, formed a small group known as the Dublin Folk Singers, was a member of the Auxiliary to the Franklin County Chapter of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers, and for eight years owned and operated the Dublin office of

UNIGLOBE Travel Unlimited. In addition, Donna served the wider community as an active servant on the Columbus Interfaith Council, The International Visitors Council, the Open Church, Bethlehem on Broad on Broad Street, and as Grand Marshall of Dublin's St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1984. Donna's work in music ministry compelled her to pursue theological education at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, completing a Masters degree in Divinity in 1987. Ordination by the United Church of Christ soon followed, allowing Donna to serve the faith community through work in HIV/AIDS education, as an Interim Minister, as a leader of grief support groups. Working with support from the Columbus AIDS Task Force, Donna made many presentations in churches, schools, prisons, and civic organizations to educate persons about the causes, prevention, and caregiving related to HIV/AIDS, and to remove the stigma attached to the disease. Donna's involvement with the Columbus Cursillo/Cum Christo Community as a Spiritual Director led to her being part of the first Kairos Prison Ministry at the Ohio Reformatory for Women. (ORW) She also served on many Kairos teams at ORW, and was a volunteer chaplain at Marion Correctional Institution, ministering to incarcerated men. At the closing of the church service, Donna liked to use the following benediction, which was authored by Bob Benson: Wherever God takes you-go; Whichever the task -do it; Wherever the challenge - accept it; Wherever the call answer it; Whichever the lesson- learn it; However dark the path - follow it; Because wherever God takes you It is worth it. Amen. The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, June 2, 2012 at the RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High Street, Worthington 43085. A Celebration of Donna's Life will be held 1:30 p.m. Monday, June 4, 2012 at Dublin Community Church, 81 West Bridge Street, Dublin, OH 43017 with Reverend Robert Tussing officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Rotary International "End Polio Now", <http://www.rotary.org/en/EndPolio>.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donna Iler Neidhardt*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *To Joe and the family, our sympathy and our celebration of the wonderful life shared with us. Thank you! Peace and joy to you.*

Paul and Jan Baumer - June 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Joe and family: we are so sad to hear about Donna. She was a great servant of God on this earth and in the next life. She will be missed by many, many folks in Columbus and Dublin. God bless the Neidhardt family. Ed and Kathy Dowd Etowah, NC*

Ed and Kathy Dowd - June 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Guvner, You know I am there for you. I never practiced my piano but Donna always found a way to guide me and give me success. What a shining light she was. Her light lives on in all of you!*

Liz Walters Essig - June 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Joe, I was saddened to see that Donna passed. As a charter member of Dublin A M Rotary, I enjoyed getting to know her (and you). She was a warm, caring person. With Sympathy, Jerry Borin*

Jerry Borin - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Please accept our most sincere condolences on Donna's passing. We will always treasure her wonderful contributions to the Damenchor. She will always remain in our hearts!

Ron & Elisabeth Markle - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Joe, my deepest sympathy in the loss of Donna. Our paths crossed in various activities, and she was always such a witness to her faith, besides being a lovely person to know. She will long be remembered by all her accomplishments for the Lord. Genie Craven (Don's widow)

Genie Craven - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

N(

“ Dear Joe and family, I was sorry to hear of Donna's passing, altho I know she is in a better place. We had many good times in the choir, and as neighbors, too. Bless you all, you have my upmost sympathy and love.

Nancy Curry (Foster) - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ We are so saddened to learn of the loss of your darling Donna. What a special lady... You and the kids are in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you and keep you always and give you strength. Much love...

Susan & Richard Hocking - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ We are saddened by your loss. Your mom will be missed by all of us. God Bless you. Melinda, Susie and Artie

The Curatti family - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Joe and family. Saddened to read of Donna's passing. I will always remember your kindness to me and my family before and after we all came to Dublin. Your loss is shared by all of us who were members of the Holderman construction family. Jeff

Jeff Wright - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ The Neidhardt Family, I deeply appreciated Donna's ministry to those in great need of a caring Pastor. She was an outstanding Rotarian for several years. Rev. Ron Hooker Long-time Pastor & Rotary Member (Whitehall-Bexley)

Rev. Ron Hooker - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Donna was a good friend to have. I will always have good memories about our past friendship. My sympathies to Joe and her family.

Joe McDaniel - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Joe and family, I deeply share your sorrows in Donna's passing. May God's love give you strength and peace. Donna has fulfilled her earthly missions with great success and humility. She has gone home to the loving arms of God. But her life will go on forever in the hearts of so many whose lives she touched. Donna held me close during the most painful times of my life. I will always hold her in my heart.

Aida Montano - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HP

“ Joe, I am so sorry about your loss of Donna. Her smile was infectious and that is what I remember most about Donna and her concern for others. She was a remarkable lady and will be a loss to us all. Heather Parker a Uniglobe friend

Heather Parker - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Lisa and family, We are so sorry to hear that your mom died. She was always so nice. Take care, Jan and Keith Christman

Jan Christman - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ My sympathy.

Mike Bashore - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM