



Donna Jean Smith

April 16, 1961 - February 6, 2026

Donna Jean Leake Smith, 64, of Leland, North Carolina, passed away on February 6, 2026, at Lower Cape Fear LifeCare in Wilmington, North Carolina. Donna was born on April 16, 1961, in Geneva, Illinois, to the late Robert William Leake and Barbara Jean Leake.

She is survived by her son, Richard (Rick) William Smith, and his wife, Anna Skinner; and her two beloved grandchildren, Olivia and Grayson. She is also survived by the father of her children, Ricky Smith; her sister, Debby Brokaw (Guy); her brothers, David Leake (Teresa) and Dennis Leake (Lisa); her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Peggy and Mike Wilson, with whom she resided in Leland; as well as her nieces and nephews.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents and her two sons, Robert (Rob) Joseph Smith and Ryan Connor Smith.

Donna was a devoted lover of all animals, with a special and enduring affection for cats. She spent many years caring for and feeding feral cat colonies on Carolina Beach through the Friends of Felines organization, a cause close to her heart, before later moving to Leland. Her compassion for animals was a defining part of who she was and left a quiet but meaningful impact on her community.

In her final days, Donna found comfort in the presence and support of those around her.

Donna will be remembered for her kindness, her love for her family, and her unwavering care for animals. She will be deeply missed by her family and

friends.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Tribute Wall

AS

“ *praying for everyone*

Angelia Stepps - February 17 at 03:13 PM

LM

“ *Prayers for the family and loved ones. Hope she rests in peace and she is free of all pain. And suffering, she is now a guardian. Angel.*

lisa mcreless - February 14 at 02:31 PM

TG

“ *I met Donna when I was a teenager. I was close friends with her sister, Deedy. Donna was always so sweet and loving. I remember her being so proud of her boys. Ricky, was Little Rick, at that time. Those days were such happy times. As an animal lover, I always admired her dedication to taking care of her cats. My heart goes out to all her family, especially her sweet grandchildren, that she was so very proud of. You are all in my thoughts and prayers 🙏❤️*

Teresa Oldham Goodwin - February 14 at 01:01 PM

TJ

“ *It would be greatly miss, baby, I love you so much.I remember when we first met.I knew your brother and sister before I met you.I met you over our babies.Our dogs, when beau got hit by a car when we lived in long leaf park and we bonded from that day on you will be greatly missed by everyone rest in peace baby*

Teresa Clewis Jimenez - February 14 at 12:15 PM

BS

“ Donna you will be truly missed. You were a wonderful lady. You were always nice & always had a smile on your face. You loved your cats so much. I grew up with your boys. Ricky, Rob, & Ryan. You are now resting with your dad, Rob & Ryan. God Bless your family.

BORGES SILVA aka "Scooter Silva" - February 13 at 07:56 PM

WB

“ Sending prayers and hugs to family! I have known her and the boys a long time. RIP Donna.

Wendy Benson - February 13 at 07:55 PM

RH

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. We Loved our cousin Donna. She was such a kind and loving soul. May all your memories carry you all through this difficult time. Just know that she is smiling down on you all and letting you know its all ok. Love you all. RIP Donna.

Ricky Helm - February 13 at 05:59 PM