



Donna Kay Smallwood

January 3, 1956 - August 22, 2025

Donna Kay Smallwood, 69, of Harveyville, Kansas, passed away peacefully on August 22, 2025. A visitation will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 29, 2025, at Maple Hill Funeral Home, with a funeral service beginning at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Born Donna Kay Cooper on January 3, 1956, in Lamar, Missouri, she was the daughter of Frank Gene and Reba Lee Cooper. She grew up with her brother, John Douglas Cooper, and sisters, Judy Broughton and Pam Johnson.

In March of 1971, Donna met the love of her life, Buddy Earl Smallwood, at a church function. Just a few months later, on October 29, 1971, they were married and began building a beautiful family together, which became the center of Donna's world. To this union they were blessed with three children: Frankie Lee Smallwood (Mary), Billy Don Smallwood (Peyton), and Jennifer JoAnn Lisk (Timothy). Their family grew to include 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, each one deeply cherished by Donna.

After completing her education and earning her bachelor's degree, Donna dedicated 27 years to teaching, touching the lives of countless students with her kindness, patience, and encouragement.

Donna was lovingly known as the family "paparazzi," always behind the camera capturing memories. She had a gift for making others feel special, consistently putting the needs of her family before her own. Whether hunting the clearance aisles at Wal-Mart for the perfect little gift or planning one of her many birthday celebrations, she found joy in giving. Her love for birthdays and

surprises was so well known that Buddy built her a special “she-shed” to store gifts and wrapping supplies—ensuring her tradition of celebrations continued week after week.

Donna was preceded in death by her father, Frank Gene Cooper, and her brother, John Douglas Cooper. She is survived by her devoted husband, Buddy Smallwood; her mother, Reba Lee Cooper; her children, Frankie (Mary) Smallwood, Billy (Peyton) Smallwood, and Jennifer (Tim) Lisk, as well as Lilianna Smallwood, Rosie Smallwood, Billy Smallwood II, and Andrew Smallwood; her sisters, Judy Broughton and Pam Johnson; 15 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Donna will be remembered for her giving heart, her love of family, and the countless memories she created for those she cherished most.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

2301 S 34th St
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 262-6610
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

AUG 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Donna Kay Smallwood* ”



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - August 28, 2025 at 04:39 PM

AL

You will be missed donna

Angela Luginbill - August 28, 2025 at 06:08 PM

KC

Always smiling. Loved her family so much. So sorry buddy.

Kathy crump - August 28, 2025 at 06:23 PM

JB

Such a beautiful video, so many memories... Always a smile on her face no matter what the circumstances....Her family was so blessed to have her....She will be missed by many family and friends....

Janet Beck - August 28, 2025 at 07:26 PM

DM

Donna will really miss you. When you got stressed out you walk or drive to our place and talked to us. We laughed alot and we enjoyed everyone of the visits. Lord took you away from us to go up to heaven. Love and we miss you bunches. Oh yea Donna you have 2 Mimosa trees. Enjoy when they get bigger. Love Deb and Don McCullough

Deb and Don McCullough - August 29, 2025 at 01:43 PM

EH

What a great life!

Ellen Hummer - August 29, 2025 at 05:14 PM

VM

Her funeral was one of the hardest to set through. Lera, Donna and I were the three musketeers. Now there is only one. I love you guys will miss you every day 😭

Vickie Meyer - August 31, 2025 at 10:47 PM

MI

“ Missy lit a candle in memory of Donna Smallwood



Missy - August 31, 2025 at 10:31 PM

GC

“ So very thankful I recently got to see Donna at my 60th birthday party. Blessed and grateful Buddy and Donna came out to celebrate my special day in light of her sudden and unexpected tragic passing. She was a tremendous blessing to our family. She will be sorely missed.

Georgianna Cox - August 29, 2025 at 03:19 PM

DA

“ Doug Kathy Ashley and Jesse Anderson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donna Kay Smallwood.



Doug Kathy Ashley and Jesse Anderson - August 29, 2025 at 11:32 AM

DA

“ Doug Kathy Ashley and Jesse Anderson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Kay Smallwood.

Doug Kathy Ashley and Jesse Anderson - August 29, 2025 at 11:32 AM

MC

“ MV Kitchen Crew purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donna Kay Smallwood.



MV Kitchen Crew - August 28, 2025 at 10:12 PM

MA

“ Mike, Sonia, Braxxton, Noah and Aurora purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donna Kay Smallwood.



Mike, Sonia, Braxxton, Noah and Aurora - August 28, 2025 at 12:29 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donna Kay Smallwood.



August 28, 2025 at 10:52 AM

EL

“ *Elsie lit a candle in memory of Donna Smallwood*



Elsie - August 27, 2025 at 10:01 PM



“ *Donna and Bud are neighbors of my mom and I just want to say how much I appreciated Donna coming to visit my mom to check in on her and just being a good friend and neighbor. I also appreciated my mom being able to call Donna whenever she needed anything or just to chat. We're all very sorry for the Smallwood's loss and our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*
Connie Coleman

Connie Coleman - August 27, 2025 at 05:24 PM

TD

“ *Buddy, i am so sorry to hear of Donna's passing. I was a bank teller when i met you guys and came to your Church few times to play the piano for you. I will be keeping You & Your Family in my Prayers. Our Loss Is Heaven's Gain. God Bless Tammy Davidson*



Tammy Davidson - August 27, 2025 at 02:48 PM

MI

“ There is no way to express how much you will be missed by so many people. You were a true Matriarch. A totally selfless and loving woman, mom, wife, daughter, sister, grandma & great grandma, aunt, cousin, friend and mentor. Your smile was never ending, your perseverance was everlasting and never weary-all for your family, every day. Thank you for everything. We love you. Love Missy

Missy - August 27, 2025 at 01:23 PM

MI

And niece, you were a great niece. Please give my love to my mom and Grandma Murphey. I will bring you flowers just like you did mom when you could. I will forever return the favor. Love you more.

Missy - August 31, 2025 at 10:31 PM

MF

“ Maria Rosario Gomez and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donna Kay Smallwood.



Maria Rosario Gomez and family - August 27, 2025 at 01:28 AM

MF

“ Maria Rosario Gomez and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Kay Smallwood.

Maria Rosario Gomez and family - August 27, 2025 at 01:28 AM

RB

“ Rick and Kathy Barnhill purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Donna Kay Smallwood.



Rick and Kathy Barnhill - August 26, 2025 at 03:19 PM

MT

“ Melissa, Mary, Misty, Shannon and Tyleen purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donna Kay Smallwood.



Melissa, Mary, Misty, Shannon and Tyleen - August 26, 2025 at 01:55 PM

GB

“ Sending our deepest sympathy and many prayers. She was a beautiful soul. She will be missed by so many.

Much love, Larry and Glenda Bunch

Glenda Bunch - August 26, 2025 at 01:41 PM

SJ

“ Shawn, Alena, Wyatt & Josie purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Donna Kay Smallwood.



Shawn, Alena, Wyatt & Josie - August 26, 2025 at 12:02 AM

VR

“ Anyone that knew Donna knew how much she loved Bud and her family. She would be the first one to help someone in need. She was the kindest and sweetest person I know! Prayers for her family! I will miss you my friend!💔

Vicki Ross - August 25, 2025 at 10:40 PM

CH

“ I met Donna & Bud through our niece Peyton. She truly struck me as a woman on a mission to make sure kids had special celebrations; but mostly that they had love & positive support to fill their hearts. Her sense of humor was a relief even in the middle of chaos. Hopefully all the people she has touched will carry on her kindness to others. God bless this family.

Conny Hoskins - August 25, 2025 at 03:58 PM

VM

“ Donna was my best friend since the third grade. Although we didn't see each other much we talked on facebook and the phone. She was always giving and loved her family ,as she would say, to the moon and back. She will be missed by all.

Vickie Meyer - August 25, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donna Kay Smallwood.



August 25, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donna Kay Smallwood.

August 25, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ Napa Auto Parts of Osage City purchased the Ful
I Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donna Kay
Smallwood.



Napa Auto Parts of Osage City - August 25, 2025 at 01:45 PM



“ So many Library memories. I will miss you



Sheila McKinzie - August 25, 2025 at 01:24 PM