



## Bonnie L. Anderson

November 24, 1936 - November 25, 2020

Bonnie Lea Anderson, 84, died on November 25, 2020 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, on November 24, 1936, to Neill and Fern (Dodd) Grubb.

Bonnie attended Northern University High School in Cedar Falls and obtained an associate degree from the Iowa State Teachers College (now University of Northern Iowa). She married Jack Gross, and they had two sons – Michael Gross and Daniel Gross. Bonnie was gifted with beauty, quick wit, a generous spirit, and a business savvy. Bonnie was a hard worker and an absolute pleasure at any social affair. She became an administrative assistant at Crossroads Mall in the early 1970's. In an era when women struggled to ascend in the business world, she earned the position of manager of mall operations in 1981, holding that position for twenty years until her retirement in 2001.

To know her was to know an extraordinary woman with a love of family, travelling, and conversation. She never hesitated to lend an ear to a friend in need and loved more than anything to gather with her sons, husband, and extended family in any setting (or country). Bonnie and her husband, Gene, volunteered at The ARC Cedar Valley where, in 2011, they were recognized as Volunteers of the Year. Bonnie was very involved as a volunteer for more than 50 years with the Saturday morning bowling program sponsored by The ARC which benefitted people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She later became a prominent member of the Cedar Falls Women's Club and

was an active member of Quota International for many years.

Preceded in death by: her parents; brother, Burl Grubb and his wife, Arva Jean; sister, Imogene Kernan; husband, Bill Smith.

Survived by: son, Michael Gross, and his wife, Denise Gross, and their children, Matthew and Paige Gross, of San Antonio, Texas; Daniel Gross and his spouse, Brian Payne, of Seattle, Washington; husband, Paul Gene Anderson (and his children, Dan (Marta) Anderson of Reinbeck, Iowa; Dannette Anderson of Reinbeck, Iowa; step-grandsons: Tucker Anderson of Strawberry Point, Iowa; Zachary (Sara) Anderson of Holland, Iowa, and Cole (Kayla) of New Hartford, Iowa; and seven step-great-grandchildren); her nieces, Deb Gray (Steve) and Anne Quiello (Michael); her nephew, John Schuler (Patti); and many other dear great nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings at this time, public services will not be held. Inurnment will be in Waterloo Memorial Park. Richardson Funeral Service is assisting the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to The ARC Cedar Valley or the Cedar Falls Women's Club.

# Tribute Wall

ST

“ Our thoughts are with all of Bonnie's family at this time. My mother, Lenora Drape Akers, was a cousin to Jack Gross, and Bonnie was part of our family for years. I still loved our visits in recent years when we would meet at the grocery store or wherever. Her warm smile and gentle wit brightened our day. We wish you all strength and healing. . . . Sarah Akers Thuesen

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**Sarah Akers Thuesen** - December 08, 2020 at 03:47 PM

AH

“ I am saddened by this news! I worked at the mall with Bonnie for ten years. She was a great mentor and listener. She taught me so much, and working with her was a joy! So many fond memories and stories! She always spoke lovingly of her family and adored her grandchildren. She was active in volunteering for Festival of Trees and I got to see her there and at Cedar Falls Medical Center. Loved running into her and catching up. She was a blessing in my life during those mall days - she helped me in many ways. She will be missed. God bless to all, and I am so sorry for your loss! Amy (Schaes) Hetherton

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**Amy Hetherton** - December 07, 2020 at 10:59 PM

HJ

“ Thinking of your family at this difficult time. Thoughts and prayers from my family to yours. Bonnie and my parents (Milt and Dorrie Jo Horak) were very good friends. As a manager of three restaurants at Crossroads, I had the upmost respect for Bonnie. During Mall/Store meetings, I hung on to every word Bonnie spoke and admired her loyalty to the Center. She always had a smile on her face and a kind word to everyone she met. I will miss her deeply. Prayers, Heidi Jo Fields

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**Heidi Jo** - December 07, 2020 at 06:04 PM

DL

“ *Bonnie was a sweet, kind lady. She was president of Quota of Waterloo and I had the pleasure of serving as her secretary. She was always patient and quiet spoken and friendly. Doug and I always enjoyed running into her in the community over the years. She always had a smile for us. Our sincere sympathy to the family.*  
*Sandy and Doug Lawry*

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**Douglas and Sandra Lawry** - December 07, 2020 at 03:10 PM

MB

“ *So very sorry for your loss. My family had an arts and craft store in the mall back in the late 70s and we met Bonnie then. We closed the store, but often saw her at the mall. I saw her again more recently when she volunteered at Sartori Hospital where I managed the Emergency Dept. She was still as friendly and beautiful as ever!! She was a wonderful person with a very calm demeanor! I will keep you all in my prayers.*  
*Deepest sympathies,*  
*Maureen Nicol Beckman*

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**Maureen Beckman** - December 06, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Bonnie L. Anderson.*



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December 06, 2020 at 12:45 PM

AJ

“ I knew Bonnie from high school days, although she was older than I am. She was a good friend of Maralyn & Claudia Gress, so I was privileged to see Bonnie for lunch when the girls & Gerry were together. She always had a cheery hello for me if I saw her other places. I am sorry for your loss and pray that God will give you strength and peace in the coming days. Alice Janssen (grad of TCHS 1956)

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**Alice B Janssen** - December 04, 2020 at 03:47 PM

NM

“ A beautiful lady inside and out. Bonnie always had a smile and was just the sweetest lady. She was a Woman's Club friend. My thoughts are with Gene.  
Nancy McCullough

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**Nancy Nielson McCullough** - December 04, 2020 at 12:50 PM

BJ

“ I met Bonnie earlier this year when she visited us here in Palm Beach with her niece Anne. We had a lovely dinner out and then went to The Breakers for refreshments. We had Carvel Sinfully Chocolate ice cream cake which she loved. She also loved my books on Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California where I have a grave, and I gave her a large booklet on the cemetery. She will never be forgotten.

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**Bernard Johnson** - December 04, 2020 at 07:50 AM