



Diana R. Pilson

July 11, 1944 - September 24, 2024

Diana Renee Pilson, age 80 of Lerna, IL passed away on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL. A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938 is in charge of arrangements.

Diana was born on July 11, 1944, in Morris, IL to the late Wilson R. and Florence M. (Best) Boesiger. She married Danny "Dan" P. Pilson on February 27, 1965, in Arcola, IL; he preceded her in death on July 15, 2019. She is survived by her son, Jamie Pilson and his wife Christine of Mattoon, IL; grandsons, Jacob, Jared and his fiancée Mckenna Wyand and Jack Pilson all of Mattoon, IL; and her sister, Jo Ann Beyers of Neoga, IL.

Diana lived a vibrant and fulfilling life, full of energy, opinions, and an unmistakable presence. She never met a stranger and was never afraid to speak her mind. Raised in Arcola, she was a proud Purple Rider. Diana owned and operated her own Century 21 real estate office in Ottawa, IL, before moving to Mattoon to support her late husband Dan in the family business. After his passing, she continued to offer guidance and support to her son Jamie, who now leads the company.

Diana was deeply passionate about her community, always ready to give her time, resources, and heart to those in need. She was especially devoted to the Mattoon YMCA, playing an instrumental role in its development into the thriving facility it is today. A woman of many interests, Diana was an avid

tennis and pickleball player, a master gardener, and even an enthusiastic amateur golf cart racer. Diana was very proud of her family. She had a love for the woods, the lake, the beach, her home and animals—especially dogs and stray cats—and a deep appreciation for music, often persistently convincing others to join her in dancing to her favorite songs. Her unique style was unmatched. She loved a Walmart sweat suit, clean, modern architecture, beautiful landscapes, Friday night pizza and a good filet paired with a glass of boxed Chardonnay.

Diana's combination of toughness, humor, and zest for life left an unforgettable mark on everyone who knew her. Her spirit will live on through the countless lives she touched. She will be deeply missed, but her memory will forever be cherished.

Memorial donations can be made in her memory to the Coles County Animal Shelter, 6818 N Co Rd 1120E, Charleston, IL 61920, Eastern Illinois Football Champions Club, <https://eipanthers.com/feature/PFCC> or the Mattoon YMCA, 221 N. 16th Street, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in her honor or share a memory with the family.

Cemetery Details

Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

LB

“ It was such a joy to be Diana’s doubles partner more often than not when we played at the Y. She was always pushing and always expecting the next best thing. Does life get better than that? Enthusiasm, energy, and deep wisdom are just a part of the legacy she leaves the city of Mattoon. In small and great ways, she continues on. I am so grateful that she was my friend. She was such a good one. Well done, good and faithful servant. May God bless you and keep you and bring you rest.

lesley Brogan - October 01, 2024 at 12:48 PM

RS

“ Diana was such a kind sharing friend. The obituary is a perfect description of the Diana we knew and loved.

Rich & Shirley Shaw - September 30, 2024 at 06:35 PM

GF

“ I’ll always remember how kind Diana was. She was always so nice when we saw them. When we were living in Florida, they invited out to Siesta Key for dinner. She was very welcoming. Dan grilled salmon and we enjoyed the visit. Diana always asked about Matt whenever she saw us. I’ll always remember her kindness.
Rest in peace,
The Gesell family

Gesell family - September 30, 2024 at 04:38 PM

BB

“ *This is a lovely tribute of an amazing woman and friend. I had the honor of meeting Diana as the Y was first a dream and then a reality. What a force for good she was. I will always be grateful for the love and kindness she showed our family. Her memory will live on in all things kind a beautiful.*

Betsey Brogan - September 30, 2024 at 12:57 PM

SS

“ *Stacy Sewell lit a candle in memory of Diana R. Pilson*



Stacy Sewell - September 30, 2024 at 12:33 PM