



Mildred "Midge" Alene McDowell

May 23, 1937 - July 23, 2016

Mattoon, IL – Mildred “Midge” Alene Tinsman McDowell, age 79, of Mattoon, IL, passed away peacefully at home at 9:05 p.m., Saturday, July 23, 2016, following a courageous 10 year battle with cancer.

The funeral service in her honor will begin at 10:30 a.m., Friday, July 29, 2016, at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, located at 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL, 61938, with Pastor Patrick Powers officiating. Interment will follow in Dodge Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the funeral home Thursday evening from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Midge was born May 23, 1937, the daughter of Roland “Bo” and Iva (Croy) Tinsman. She married Don McDowell on April 11, 1954, in Mattoon, IL. She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Don McDowell of Mattoon, IL; two daughters, Sheri Rodebaugh and husband Mike of Toledo, IL; and Marlisse McDowell at home; one granddaughter, Kirsten Hurst of Nampa, ID; two step-grandsons, T.J. Rodebaugh and fiancé Jen Redding of Alexandria, VA; and Jeremy Rodebaugh of Tuscola, IL; and step great-grandchildren, Gracie and Alex Rodebaugh of Mahomet, IL. Midge was the last survivor of thirteen siblings. She was preceded in death by seven brothers, Richard, Raymond, Don, Harland “T-Bone”, Bill, Larry, & Terry Tinsman; and five sisters, Letha Tinsman, Dorothy Cutright, Fredia Moore, Jean Oakley, and Bev Reed. Midge had a heart of gold and was loved by many. She dedicated her life to the happiness and well-being of the developmentally disabled. She was a member of the Parent Group for the Retarded, Inc., from which she started

the “Mother’s Group” – for mothers of children with disabilities. She was the founding director of Area 9 Special Olympics for twenty years and instrumental in the building of Camp New Hope. She along with Mr. Lumpkin came up with the brilliant idea of the “Special Olympics Family Festival.” In her spare time, she was a bus aide for CUSD #2 on the special education bus and helped in the cafeteria of the Humboldt School.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Don McDowell Scholarship Fund at Camp New Hope.

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

Cemetery Details

Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
(217) 234-8828
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Service

JUL **29**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
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Tribute Wall



“ Dear midges family my name is Jon Ferguson I'm good friend midges I knew her husband don at special olympics and camp hope and knew midge camp new hope midge always make my smile and have fun at camp and special olympics down in Bloomington Illinois im going missed I love both of them so much don and midge so much my god blessed you Jon Ferguson from Illinois xxx 🌹 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🌸 🌹



Jon ferguson - September 09, 2024 at 11:41 PM



“ Mildred "Midge" Alene McDowell

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Sarah Greider - July 27, 2016 at 12:34 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mildred "Midge" Alene McDowell.*



July 27, 2016 at 07:49 AM



“ *I'm so sorry Don and Marlisse and family, We all loved Midge so much. She was one of the most amazing woman I've ever met. She had a heart of gold. I'm so sorry Don. You all were the Best neighbors ever. We all used to have so much fun. Midge would just laugh and laugh. I Remer how you would tease her every year for planting money (flowers) and then you Don would sit out on the porch and admire them when all the neighbors would complement you on them. Then when the neighborhood put up Christmas lights every year you would say we are not putting up Christmas lights. The next day I'd get home from work and you and Midge had the most beautiful Christmas decorations in the world. Midge will truly be missed by all. Love, Your neighbors, Christine Latch, Bailie and Macy*

Christine Latch - July 26, 2016 at 01:39 PM



“ *Bradley D. Tinsman purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mildred "Midge" Alene McDowell.*



Bradley D. Tinsman - July 26, 2016 at 12:24 PM

DS

“ I was so happy to see this sweet lady shopping at the mall just a couple of weeks ago. We talked about our special kids, cancer and meds, and she still had that gorgeous smile. Bless her heart. My thoughts are with her loving family.

Deana Stiff - July 26, 2016 at 12:12 PM

JB

“ We will always remember her beautiful smile and laughter. She was a wonderful neighbor and always made us feel special and welcome. We will miss her. Our special thoughts are with her family.
Jim and Diana Beck

Jim and Diana Beck - July 26, 2016 at 10:45 AM

DH

“ I don't think she ever knew how many lives she touched with her kind words and lovely smile. Midge was a true ESA friend and will be forever missed.

Donica Halcom - July 26, 2016 at 09:54 AM

SD

“ So sorry to hear of Aunt Midge's passing. Wish I could be there.
Love to all.

Sarah Wheeler Dodson

Sarah Dodson - July 26, 2016 at 07:39 AM

SC

“ So sorry to hear of Midge's passing, what a wonderful lady. My heart goes out to the family, prayers are with all of you.

shirley campbell - July 26, 2016 at 04:00 AM

TJ

“ TJ and Jennifer purchased the Bright and Beautiful Spray for the family of Mildred "Midge" Alene McDowell.



TJ and Jennifer - July 25, 2016 at 09:23 PM

SL

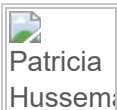
“ In the fall of 1984, I never imagined the lady that I met at SOFF would some day be One of the greatest mentors I have ever had. She was one of my strongest advocates, as I was hers. She and Don have devoted their lives to not only those with special needs, but to everyone that has crossed their paths. My heart is heavy but heaven has gained an angel from earth. God Bless her family and friends at this time of sorrow.

Susan Love - July 25, 2016 at 09:05 PM

JS

I met Midge many years ago through SOFF and ESA. A beautiful lady with a sunshine smile who took the challenge of parenting a special child and turned a dream into the reality of Camp New Hope. She touched and mentored so many lives. Her battle here is done..she has moved on to the peace and love of God's arms. Well done Midge..you will be so missed. Prayers for peace for all her family. Blessings.

Jodi Sparks - July 25, 2016 at 09:23 PM



Patricia Hussemann

We are so sorry to hear of Midge's passing. She was truly a lady in every sense of the word. There was always a smile on her beautiful face. Don and Sheri and Kirsten, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Love to you.

Patricia Hussemann - July 25, 2016 at 11:50 PM

CP

Remembering Midge, her love for her family and for people of all abilities.

Chris and Cathy McCarty Patton - July 26, 2016 at 07:11 AM

TS

“ *The world lost a true Angel today! My heart aches for all of the family! Praying for strength for all of you in the days to follow. Keeping you in my heart, thoughts and prayers!*



Theresa Nelson Swango - July 25, 2016 at 08:45 PM

EH

“ *Midge was a special lady who had a heart of gold and didnt know a stranger...My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.... She will be dearly missed.*

Elaine Hargis - July 25, 2016 at 07:20 PM

HB

“ *Midge was a Class Lady, who cared so much about others, especially those less fortunate. She was always level headed and put others ahead of herself. I have had the honor of knowing Midge for around 40 years thru Camp New Hope, and Special Olympics. A person would have to go a long way to find someone like her. My prayers go out to Don and family. 🙏*

Hiram Brownell - July 25, 2016 at 06:21 PM