

[Harper](#) / [Donna Harper](#)

# Donna Marie Harper

1947 - 2007

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**Donna Harper Obituary**

Published by Tasker Funeral Home - Dover on Aug. 7, 2007.

Dover, New Hampshire-Donna Marie Harper, 60, died peacefully Aug. 3, 2007, at her home in Dover where she has resided for the past three years. She was born in Winthrop Massachusetts on June 18, 1947, the daughter of Donat and Florence (Donahue) Parent, of South Berwick, Maine.

Donna grew up in South Berwick, where she attended Saint Michael's School and South Berwick High School (Class of 1965). After high school she married Larry Don Harper in 1967. They settled in Texas where Donna started her writing career, working as an Editor with a yearbook publishing firm. In 1972, following a divorce from her husband, Donna moved back East to Washington, D.C. It was there that she began a 32-year career in government service, starting as an Aide to Sen. Charles H. Percy. She was quickly promoted to the position of Deputy Press Secretary where she remained until 1976, when she moved to the House of Representatives as Press Secretary to U.S. Rep. Henry J. Hyde until 1987.

In the early 1980's Donna was briefly married to Mordechai Yitzhaky of Jerusalem, Israel. Their daughter Katherine (Kayti) was born in Washington, D.C. in February of 1983. From 1987 to 1988 under the Reagan-Bush administration, Donna was the Director of Public Affairs and Congressional Relations for the White House Conference for a Drug-Free America.

In 1988 Donna joined the U.S. Small Business Administration as Assistant Director of Media Services in Washington. Then in 1994, she relocated with her daughter to Concord, N.H., where she took over in the SBA district office as Public Information Officer. Throughout her career Donna met and worked with many world leaders and dignitaries, including

Mother Teresa. She loved writing, reading, particularly American History, and she was an avid gardener and cook.

Following Kayti's graduation from Keene State College in 2005, Donna retired and relocated to Dover, N.H.. In 2000 Donna was diagnosed with cancer, and despite the limited prognosis of 5 years given by her doctors, Donna showed incredible courage and determination to survive.

Throughout her life she enjoyed travel and made an effort to take Kayti to see England, France and Italy during periods of remission after her diagnosis. She not only lived to see her daughter Kayti graduate from college and marry Jack Smith of Yuma, AZ., but also to see her beautiful granddaughter Ava come into the world. Donna celebrated Ava's first birthday in May. Although Donna's health continued to deteriorate this past year, the close proximity of Kayti, Jack and Ava, made her last year of life one of her most rewarding.

Donna was predeceased by her parents, Florence and Donat Parent, her older brother Michael Parent in 1985, and her younger sister Kathleen Palin in 2006. In addition to her daughter Kayti Smith, son-in-law Jack and granddaughter Ava, she is survived by her sister Mary Weston and husband Robert, of Windham, Maine, and their daughter Robin of Lexington Mass.; a brother, John Parent and his wife Barbara, and their children, Patrick, Christina and Haley of Loudon, N.H.; a brother-in-law, Ted Palin and a nephew, Theodore of Quincy Florida. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Jane Parent of Wilmington, N.C., and nephews Michael Parent of Moorpark, Calif., Timothy Parent of Wilmington, N.C. and James Parent of Wilmington, N.C. and their families.

There will be no calling hours. A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, August 12, at 2 P.M. at the First Parish Federated Church, 150 Main St., South Berwick, Maine. Flowers may be sent to the church at the above address.

Please go to [www.mcintiremccooy.com](http://www.mcintiremccooy.com) for more information or to sign the on-line guest book.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

### Sign Donna Harper's Guest Book

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August 27, 2007 **Suzanne Keller** posted to the memorial.

August 16, 2007 **Karen Vendasi** posted to the memorial.

August 13, 2007 **Robin West** posted to the memorial.

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9 Entries

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**Suzanne Keller** August 27, 2007

Kayti,Jack,Ava,Mary,John, Donna was a wonderful friend; a wonderful human being. I cherish the times we shared in Arlington and New Hampshire. Love, Suzanne

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**Karen Vendasi** August 16, 2007

To all Donna`s family,my sincerest condolences,Donna and I use to go to Teen Haven together when we were kids,I enjoyed knowing her,we did loose contact when we married,but we did talk for hours when she moved back to Dover a few years ago, I know she was so proud of you kayti,and was so excited about being a grandmother,I`m so glad she got to see ava,she will be missed by all who knew her... Karen Vendasi

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**Robin West** August 13, 2007

To Katyi,  
Taking care of your mother was a privilege. A very special person to me as you are. I shall miss seeing both of you at the Seacoast Cancer Center. My prayers are with your family. Kiss your beautiful daughter for me. Your Mom was so proud of you. Robin West

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**Jane (Gagnon) Greenlees** August 11, 2007

To all of Donna's family, please accept my sincerest condolences at this sad time. Donna was a good friend from our school years and I am thankful we met up again at our high school reunion in November '05. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

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### How you can show support



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**Send flowers**

Consider sending flowers.



**Add photos**

Share their life with photo memories.



**Plant trees**

Honor them by planting a tree in their memory.



**Carolyn (Parent) Curran** August 11, 2007

Kayti, Mary and John. My sympathy to you at this time. I know you will all miss Donna very much. Although I had not seen Donna in many years, it was nice to have become reacquainted with her at Aunt Teresa's and Aunt Bea's. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Bonnie Sansonetti** August 10, 2007

Dear Kayti: I will truly miss my dear friend, Donna. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Bonnie

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**Barbara Ducharme** August 9, 2007

To Katie and John and all of Donna's loved ones. My sister Linda Perkins Smallidge and I Barbara Perkins Ducharme grew up with Donna and Micheal on Dawson Street we send our sympathy to all of you we know Donna was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed.

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**BONNIE HAM** August 8, 2007

KATIE,JACK,MARY AND JOHN  
MY HEART IS BROKEN ALONG WITH YOURS.DONNA WAS A LOYAL FRIEND WHO WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY HEART. STAY STRONG AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL . I LOVED HER TOO.LOVE BONNIE

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**Valerie Tuttle** August 8, 2007

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

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FUNERAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY

**Tasker Funeral Home - Dover**

 621 Central Ave, Dover, NH 03820

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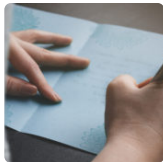
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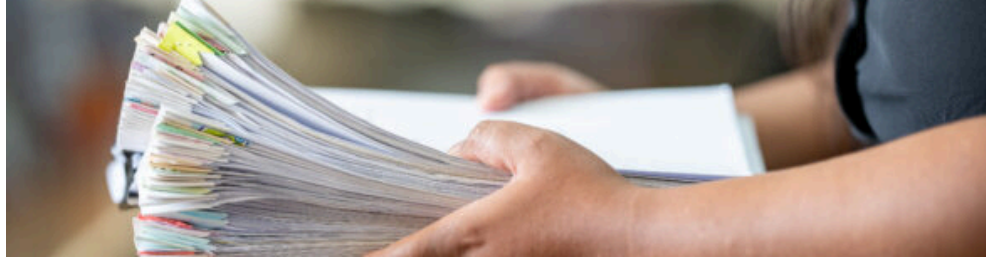
## Resources to help you cope with loss



[How to Cope With Grief](#)

Information and advice to help you cope with the death of someone important to you.

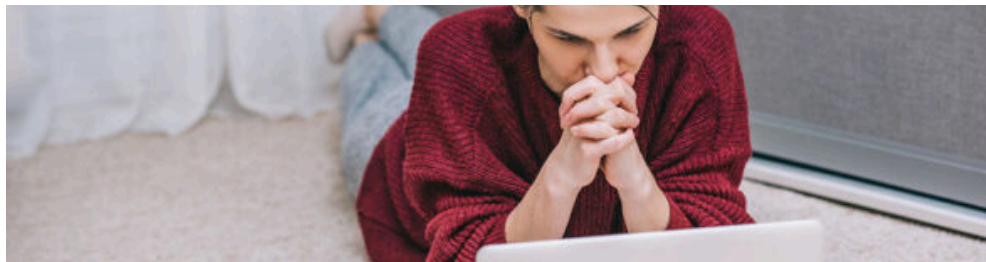
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### Estate Settlement Guide

If you're in charge of handling the affairs for a recently deceased loved one, this guide offers a helpful checklist.

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Legacy's Linnea Crowther discusses how families talk about causes of death in the obituaries they write.

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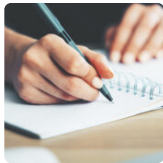
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