



Diane Lynne Friend

JUN 23, 1950 - JAN 23, 2026



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COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

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Diane Lynne Friend

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Diane Lynne Friend, 75, of Decatur, Illinois, passed away January 23, 2026. Diane was born in Chicago on June 23, 1950, the daughter of Earl and Audra (Coburn) Dennis. She married Frank Friend, Jr., on April 12, 1968, in St. Charles, Missouri.

Following her graduation from Stephen Decatur High School, Diane earned her associate's degree in early childhood development from Richland Community College. She went on to work for more than 20 years for the Decatur Day Care Center, retiring as Executive Director. During the course of her career, she was a member of several organizations dedicated to education, including: National Association of the Education of Young Children, Decatur Community Foundation Education Coalition – Kindergarten Readiness, Early Childhood Education Advisory for Decatur Area Technical Academy, Child Care Resource Service Community Advisory Member, and Richland Community College Early Childhood Education Program Advisory Committee. She was held in high esteem by her colleagues and the wider community, as evidenced by the honors granted to her: Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Fraternity of the Community College and Award of Excellence for Community Partnership from Decatur Public Schools – District 61.

In her free time, Diane enjoyed gardening, dancing, and traveling, especially to Texas for the winter months. She was a faithful member of New Day Community Church. She enjoyed spending time with her special neighbors on Pine Meadow Court. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom she dearly loved.

Diane is survived by her husband Frank; children Frank Coburn (Amy) Friend of Heyworth, IL, and Shelli Lynn Perry of Mt. Zion, IL; grandchildren McKenzie, McKaela, Gracie, and Lynnsey; great-grandchildren Alexander, Aidan, and CaLya; always-friend Sandy Davenport; special sister Vicki Ryals; and beloved dog Rylee.



Obituary

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She was preceded in death by her parents.

Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home is providing cremation services for Diane.

Services will be held on Friday, February 6, at New Day Community Church in

Decatur. Visitation will be from 10am to 11am, with a memorial service following at

11am. Memorials may be directed to New Day Community Church. Condolences

may be shared with the family at <https://www.gracelandfairlawn.com>.




Events


Diane Lynne Friend

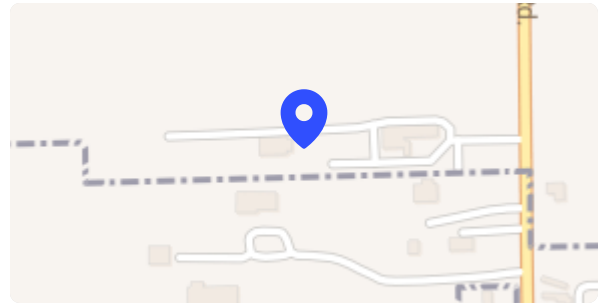
JUN 23, 1950 - JAN 23, 2026

Memorial Visitation


 **Friday**, February 6, 2026

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT


 **New Day Community Church**
4191 Greenswitch Rd, Decatur Ill 62526

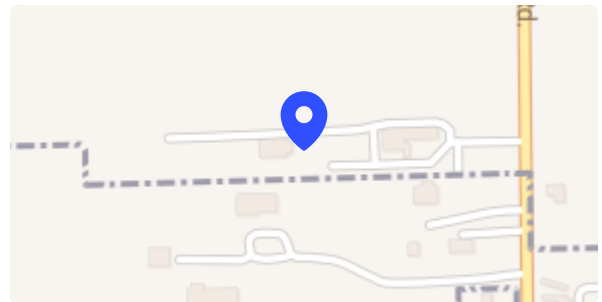


Memorial Service

 **Friday**, February 6, 2026

 11:00 AM CT

 **New Day Community Church**
4191 Greenswitch Rd, Decatur Ill 62526





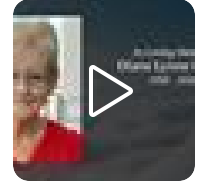
Tribute Wall

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Graceland Fairlawn shared a **Video**.



February 4 at 1:45 PM



Richard Stone, Kathy Allen And Family sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Friend family.



February 2 at 1:02 PM



Karen Purnell lit a candle in honor of Diane.

My condolences and prayers to the family of Diane Friend.Karen Purnell



January 27 at 10:15 AM



Colleen S February 3 at 7:47 PM

Frank, my sincere condolences to you and your family.Colleen Smith



Wendy Filchak posted:

So sorry she was such a great person.

January 25 at 2:49 PM



Robin Aray posted:

My condolences to her family. Diane was a friend of my Aunt Gail's. I have known her practically my whole life. She used to tease me a little about how she used to change my diapers. She was the director of Decatur Day Care, when I went way back when I was three and four I think. She would let my mom be a little late to pick us up sometimes because my mom was going to drafting school. I went to see her when I was about 19 or 20. That's was before the new building. I was surprised at how small those rooms were, I remembered them so much bigger. She offered me a job. I declined but it was nice of her. Then full circle my younger daughter attended Decatur Day Care as well. She was a great lady!

January 24 at 10:37 PM



Tribute Wall

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Larry Auton lit a candle in honor of Diane.

Shelly and I would like to give our heartfelt feelings towards you and your family. Diane was the world to you, and there was never any doubt the feelings of love you had for one another! Diane was very special and will always be with you and in your heart! If you need anything or just want to reach out to us don't hesitate! We love you my special friend! Larry & Shelly Auton



January 24 at 8:09 AM



Media

Diane Lynne Friend

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Graceland Fairlawn shared a **Video**.

February 4 at 1:45 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Diane by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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