

61-R Juanita (Van Donselaar) Wilson ⁴⁻²⁶⁻
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In loving memory of Juanita (Van Donselaar) Wilson, 82 years old. Born September 22, 1938, she passed away January 21, 2021, after six days in VITAS hospice care with her daughter by her side and after many loving calls with family. Born to Henry and Grace (Speas) Van Donselaar, she was the fourth of seven children — born and raised on a farm nine miles south of Grinnell, Iowa. Juanita was preceded in death by her husband Leibert Wilson, who passed away January 7, 2020, in Fort Worth, Texas; sister Dorothy in 2007 in Modesto, Calif.; and brother Marvin in 2013 in Phoenix, Ariz.



She's survived by daughter Ruth, son-in-law Gordon, and grandson Daniel from Celina, Texas; daughter Bonnie from Fort Worth, Texas; brother Gordon from Grinnell, Iowa; brother Clarence Laverne from Fort Worth, Texas; brother Paul from Brea, Calif.; and sister Evelyn from Spokane, Wash.

She attended a one-room country schoolhouse through eighth grade, and graduated from Grinnell High School in 1957, where she was active in band, choir, and piano. After graduation, she got a full-time job at Central Bank in Des Moines, plus a part-time job selling World Book Encyclopedias door to door. She became very successful selling to families.

Juanita attended Lynnville Friends Church during her childhood, and Northside Friends Church in Grinnell as a teenager. Juanita met her future husband Leibert Wilson at First Church of the Nazarene in Des Moines. She was introduced to the Nazarene Church by future sister-in-law Joyce, who married her brother Marvin. Reverend Stanley offered "room and board" in his parsonage. Juanita and Leibert were both residents there and soon became good friends. Rev. Stanley married them in May 1960.

Their daughter Ruth was born June 1963. In 1968, Leibert accepted a job at General Dynamics in Fort Worth, Texas, after graduating from DeVry Technical School. Their second daughter Bonnie was born March 1970. In addition to holding full-time jobs, they both sold Shaklee products. They won prizes, new cars, and trips from their high-volume sales. A family trip to Acapulco was among their favorites. Juanita was a scheduler for American Airlines for 15 years at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, before online scheduling. As a model employee, she memorized airport codes and held a perfect attendance record! She was quickly promoted to work with American's Platinum members.

Juanita was known for her impeccable work record and high energy. A few years after retiring, she had a devastating stroke that paralyzed her left side. Unable to walk afterward, she spent most of her later years in a nursing home, and few years at home with home health care and her extremely dedicated husband. Leibert visited her nearly every day in the nursing home, and despite her circumstances, she had a remarkably positive attitude.

Juanita was known as a caring, kind, thoughtful, and especially giving person. She will be greatly missed. She was an example to others in her faithful, daily walk with Christ! She's buried in Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery beside her husband.