



## Lorelei "Lori" Kickels

December 12, 1959 - July 18, 2014

Lorelei "Lori" Kickels, 54, of Dowagiac was taken too soon in a sudden automobile accident on Friday, July 18, 2014.

Lori was born on Dec 12, 1959 to Louis and Ella Kickels. She was the shipping supervisor at Shepherd Hardware in Three Oaks and had been employed there for 36 years. She has also been employed at the Family Fare in Dowagiac for the last 15 years. Lori enjoyed shopping and going to the casino. She was an animal lover. She also enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and they were her pride and joy. Lori was a selfless, kind, hardworking individual who loved her family.

Services celebrating her life will be held at 11 AM on Wednesday, July 23, at the Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Coloma. Burial will follow in Coloma Cemetery. The family will receive friends and relatives from 5 PM to 8 PM on Tuesday at the Davidson Chapel. Memorials may be made in her memory for her grandchildren's education. Please leave messages, memories, or photos at [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

She is survived by her daughter, Dawn (Jeremy Burton) Kickels of Schoolcraft; her life partner of 17 years, Donald Meachum, of Dowagiac and her two grandchildren, Kenley Burton and Chance Burton.



# Cemetery Details

## Coloma Cemetery

5900 Coloma Road  
Coloma, MI 49038

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 22. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
249 East Center Street  
Coloma, MI 49038  
(269) 468-3181  
staff@florin.net

## Service

JUL 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

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249 East Center Street  
Coloma, MI 49038  
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# Tribute Wall

KE

“ *Grandma Lori was an awesome person and even though she passed away she is still an awesome person. She was an amazing, funny and a very kind person. She was the best grandma ever. I wish she was still alive to this day and I wish I had more time with her much much more time. Written by: Kenley Burton Age:9*

Kenley - December 07, 2021 at 08:05 PM

LA

“ *Lisa Aguilar lit a candle in memory of Lorelei "Lori" Kickels*



Lisa Aguilar - August 27, 2014 at 11:50 PM

LA

“ *So sorry to hear of Lori's passing. I am a customer at Family Fare and she was so kind to me every time I came in. I always picked her line because she was so sweet and brightened my day. My Uncle just passed away and that's how I saw her obituary. She is truly missed. Lisa Aguilar*

Lisa Aguilar - August 27, 2014 at 11:49 PM

JM

“ *I went to high school with Lori . I am so sorry to hear of this tragic loss . My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

janet martin - August 02, 2014 at 06:02 PM

DA

*thank you*

dawn - August 02, 2014 at 09:55 PM

CH

“ *I didn't know Lori personally but I just wanted to share how sorry I am to hear about your loss.... I too have lost family and friends in death and it's very heartbreaking... One thing that has brought me comfort is found in the bible at John 5:28,29... It brings out that soon all those sea will be resurrected and we will see them again... I look so forward to this... I hope this brings you some comfort... Again I'm very sorry for your loss... Sincerely , chastity*

chastity - August 02, 2014 at 05:48 AM

LY

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Please accept my sincere condolences. Having a loved one pass away is one of the hardest things we have to deal with in life. Please be assured that God does care and will remember your loved one. In times like these I find comfort from God's word the Bible. Revelation 21:4 is particularly soothing where God says "he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." Please remember and cherish the memories of your dear loved one and look forward to the time when death will be a thing of the past- just as God has promised.*

Lynn - July 25, 2014 at 05:43 AM

DA

“Lori worked for Shepherd Caster/ Shepherd Hardware for 36-years, something unheard of in this day and age and for the past 15-years has also worked part time at Family Fare in Dowagiac, MI. Her work was her second home and her coworkers were her second family! She loved and deeply cared for those she worked with. Always putting others first, never forgetting birthdays, Christmas holidays and always comforting/helping others who were experiencing hardships

Lori was in leadership roles most of her working career and was very dedicated to her work and loved challenges. The tougher things got, the harder she worked. Usually one of the first in the building and last to leave and would work through breaks and lunches and stay late to finish paperwork. The experience Lori leaves with us will continue on because all of us carry some knowledge of her amazing experience and talents. She set the bar for all of us to follow!

Lori was a tough lady, struggled with a bad foot and hip and had several surgeries/procedures. Worked through pain for many years while on her feet all day but even with all the pain she endured, she was always more concerned about others than herself.

Lori was our best friend and loved to have fun. She loved to celebrate special occasions and organize and have potlucks to break up the daily routine. Lori and her partner Don were a team when it came to preparing food for the potlucks that we so much enjoyed. She had a good sense of humor and loved sharing jokes and sayings from the internet. Loved those Wal-Mart photos!!

She loved her family and partner dearly and when asked how the grandkids were doing, she just glowed with pride and happiness and loved to share stories of babysitting and shared pictures, something all of us enjoyed.

Lori was so excited when Dawn and Jeremy announced her engagement and we would sometimes jokingly ask her about her future son-in-law and she would light up with a big smile and tell us how grateful she was they met and what a great dad Jeremy is. Lori adored Jeremy and enjoyed the time they spent together.

*"Lori lives on in all of us!"*

*FROM HER SHEPHERD HARDWARE TEAM*

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**Dawn** - July 23, 2014 at 06:23 PM

DA

“ Here are few of Lori's quirks.

*1. Don't talk about eating pork!! She loved little piglets and at one time had a calendar with nothing but little piglet pictures. Made the mistake of telling her I Loved ham and barbeque ribs!*

*2. Had her special pens to write with and if you took one by accident, she would hunt you down.*

*3. Did not throw anything away. Kept everything filed in boxes, file cabinets, draws, under desk. Brought up as a housekeeping issue a few times but all of us eventually learned that if you asked her for something, she could eventually find it. All of us started relying on her for records instead of company files.*

*4. Contradictory to her recordkeeping, any customer documents, pallet labels and placards, all had to be neat and in the exact location on pallet. Look out if anything was out of order. Very particular when it came to our customers.*

*5. Loved snacks/sweets and always had something at her desk and shared with everyone. We all enjoyed, especially me.*

*6. The hair had to get done!! Would usually curl and fix her hair either before work or at first break. Very common to go back and see her curling her hair. Had many business related discussions with Lori while she curled her hair.*

*7. Liked even numbers! Rounded everything to an even number when possible.*

*8. Free Spirit!. Rarely held back, always spoke her mind and when she did hold back, look out when she let go!! Always appreciated this & always knew where we stood, agreeing or not!!*

*It's what made us click so well! (not a quirk but wanted to mention)*

*:) :) :)*

*Mike Keith*

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**Dawn** - July 23, 2014 at 06:22 PM

DA

“ My mother raised me as a single parent with help from her mother and grandmother. It was not easy for her at times; she had to work hard to care for her family. But she still managed to squeeze in some fun.... In particular, I remember fishing trips, lots of laughs and family vacations. When I graduated I was ready to leave the small town of Dowagiac and go to the “big city” of Kalamazoo. She wanted me to stay home and attend SMC for introductory classes and even offered to help me buy a new car but I declined, as tempting as that was, and away I went to Kalamazoo. During those years she took care of my grandmother at home until her passing all the while working many hours. The months following her passing were very difficult, she felt lost, which is about the time she picked up her second job at Family Fare. Her commitment triumphed and she was still there 15 years later. I would sometimes ask her why she still worked there when she was working so many hours at her primary job? She stated simply, “I enjoy talking to the people and seeing my regular customers.” The thing is she truly cared, she shared stories with me about people, conversations they had enjoyed, common interests they had discovered and her heart hurt for those who expressed hardship and illness. While it seems simple, it speaks volumes about her character.

As you heard from the previous letter she worked at Shephard Hardware for 36 years. Even in brutal winters she never complained about the long drive. She even got me a job there one summer. Even though I complained of early alarm clocks, I loved working with her and seeing her in that environment and witnessing all the love people had for her and her love for them. Her work family was very dear to her heart; she spent the majority of her time with them and truly loved each of her coworkers. I heard many fun stories of her shenanigans especially with Lisa and Mike, a couple of her best buds and partners in crime. She also felt your pain during troubled times. I know how hard she worked and never took much time for herself, but it brings me much joy and comfort knowing she was surrounded by such a great group of people who loved her so much.... A group that has subsequently embraced me and showered me and my family with love over the years and especially

*now.*

*Over the past 17 years she was dating, and in my mind married to, her partner Don. They had many fun filled times with back and forth banter. Don seemed to have a calming effect on her that mellowed her when she got riled up. They enjoyed vacations up north and a recent trip to Las Vegas. She loved the simple things with him, like a dinner date at their favorite restaurant, Hacienda. She often gave Don a hard time to ruffle his feathers but he was a good sport and they'd just laugh about it.*

*After I met Jeremy and the relationship grew and years passed, she would make comments like, "well, I guess I will just have to settle for a grand-dog"...no pressure, right? When she and Don went to Vegas she even bought a baby onesie that said "what happens at grandmas stays at grandmas" ...again, no pressure! Then in September 2011 I was finally pregnant, and she was so thrilled. When she later found out she would have a granddaughter, she was elated...let the shopping begin!!!! Every time I saw her I would hear "I have a little something for the baby". When it was time for sweet Miss Kenley to arrive, I remember calling her at work and that started her excitement and panic. I had to tell HER to take deep breaths and not to rush as it would be awhile. Of course she was in Kalamazoo promptly. She had tears of joy as she met her granddaughter Kenley Ella (middle name- after her mother). My mom was so nervous around newborns and scared to hold her but she was brave and fell in love instantly. Kenley was my mom's heart, her pride and her joy. I got daily messages asking "how is miss K today?"*

*Very shortly after Kenley's arrival she said it's time for another one. We decided*

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**Dawn** - July 23, 2014 at 06:11 PM

RR

“ Dawn, Angie and I were sorry to learn of the passing of your Mom. Thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

*Rosemary and Angie Rank*

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rosemary rank - July 23, 2014 at 05:02 PM

ND

“ Nicole M. Dominguez purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Lorelei "Lori" Kickels.



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Nicole M. Dominguez - July 23, 2014 at 01:33 AM

NL

“ We will miss Lori's smile and cheerful attitude at Family Fare. We had many a chuckle about the time we got to talking and she forgot to ask for my Family Fare card--we re-ran the whole order so I could get my discount on what was a pretty big bill. Our prayers are with her family. Don and Naomi Ludman, Dowagiac

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Naomi Ludman - July 22, 2014 at 04:04 PM

TD

“ Lori's smile, great attitude, and generous spirit will be missed. I was fortunate enough to work with Lori for 23 years and live in the same town so I could see her smiling face at Family Fare on the weekends. We are all better people for having Lori in our lives. May the memory of this dear woman comfort Don, Dawn & Jeremy, and the precious grandbabies. Much love and many prayers! Theresa & Kevin Doorn

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Theresa Doorn - July 22, 2014 at 03:54 PM

DS

“ I'll never forget this.... This was about 10 years ago. Lorelei and I were both at work at Family Fare. It was around 10pm or so. She still had a cast on her foot from surgery. She needed to drop off her car at the auto shop so she needed a ride from there to her house. I was also giving another lady, Angie a ride home that same night. I was driving a little Dodge truck. I'm about 5 foot tall so my seat was pushed up very close to the steering wheel. Lorelei being about a foot taller than me had to sit all cramped up. There was so little room that I wasn't able to shift past 3rd gear. We were going only 25 to 30 mph on the highway! We were laughing so hard!!! Then we noticed there was a cop car behind us. I was thinking the cops were thinking we were acting suspicious! So we pulled off the road. The car went around us. By this time we were in tears from laughing so hard!!! Never forget!!!  
Della Sandberg

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Della Sandberg - July 22, 2014 at 02:53 PM

DA

“ Debra Aragon lit a candle in memory of Lorelei "Lori" Kickels



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Debra Aragon - July 22, 2014 at 02:38 PM

DA

*Prayers go out to Lori's Family. She was a great person. Until we meet again my friend. You will be missed.*  
*Debra Aragon*

**Debra Aragon** - July 22, 2014 at 02:40 PM

ME

*“ I didn't know Miss Lori, but I do know Dawn and I guarantee that Miss Lori was a FABULOUS woman and her memory will be carried on.*



**Melissa** - July 22, 2014 at 02:03 PM

TS

*“ We will miss seeing Lori at Family Fare. She always had a smile on her face.  
So very sorry for your loss.*

**Tom and Ann Smith** - July 22, 2014 at 12:06 PM



*“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lorelei "Lori" Kickels.*



July 22, 2014 at 10:19 AM

TT

“ *The Shepherd Hardware Sales Team purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Lorelei "Lori" Kickels.*



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**The Shepherd Hardware Sales Team** - July 22, 2014 at 09:26 AM

DA

“ *29 files added to the album Great times with grandchildren and work family*



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**dawn** - July 22, 2014 at 08:42 AM

“ Words from my mother's boss

*Lori worked for Shepherd Caster/ Shepherd Hardware for 36-years, something unheard of in this day and age and for the past 15-years has also worked part time at Family Fare in Dowagiac, MI. Her work was her second home and her coworkers were her second family! She loved and deeply cared for those she worked with. Always putting others first, never forgetting birthdays, Christmas holidays and always comforting/helping others who were experiencing hardships*

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*adored Jeremy and enjoyed the time they spent together.*

*"Lori lives on in all of us"!*

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**dawn** - July 22, 2014 at 08:24 AM

TM

“ Prayers and thoughts to Lori's family. I will miss you forever.

Love,

Terri Martens

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**Terri Martens** - July 21, 2014 at 09:00 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Lorelei "Lori" Kickels.



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July 21, 2014 at 04:10 PM

WG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers are with you Donald and family.

Love Wayne Galbreath

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**Wayne Galbreath** - July 21, 2014 at 02:32 PM

MD

“ Lori was such a nice, sweet and caring lady. I made a point to always go into her line at Family Fare just because she made my day. I loved (& I think she loved) to look at photos of my dogs and always asked about them. I never knew the connection to one of my sisters friends until it was too late....Dawn your mom was a wonderful woman. I will miss seeing her. My prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. A young life taken too soon....but now in the arms of the angels in heaven. May God bless you.

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**Megan Dudley** - July 21, 2014 at 08:57 AM

DA

*thank you megan...i guarantee she loved looking at pictures of your dogs....she LOVED them and made regular donations to the humane society.*

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**dawn** - July 22, 2014 at 08:23 AM