



Dona Ellen Capanyola

December 15, 1950 - January 8, 2026

Dona Ellen Capanyola, age 75, of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away peacefully on January 8, 2026.

Born on December 15, 1950, in Madison, Indiana, Dona was the daughter of the late Donald Bowling and Ida Mae Bowling (née Bennett). She graduated from Homewood-Flossmoor High School in 1968 and went on to earn her degree from Northern Illinois University in 1972.

On May 30, 1976, she was united in marriage to Bradley Robert Capanyola at Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church in Flossmoor, Illinois (Now part of St. Veronica Parish.)

Dona devoted her career to education, working as a middle school teacher specializing in physical education and history until her retirement in 1993. She touched the lives of countless students with her dedication and warmth.

Beyond the classroom, Dona found joy in many pursuits. She enjoyed golf, boating on White Lake, and spending treasured time with her family, especially her beloved granddog Sonoma. She was a gracious and enthusiastic hostess, known for her beautifully organized and joy-filled Christmas gatherings, which became a cherished tradition for many.

She was the devoted wife of the late Bradley Capanyola; loving mother of Diana (Michael) McDonald and the late Laura Capanyola; and proud grandmother of Abigail and Jack McDonald, and granddog Sonoma. She is also survived by her brothers, Michael Bowling and Donald (Jill) Bowling Jr., and was preceded in death by her sister, Marlenea Wooten.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 17, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 North Territorial Road, Plymouth. Dona will lie in state beginning at 10:00 a.m., with Mass to follow at 11:00 a.m. Interment will take place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Heart of Michigan Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue, 36309 Oregon Avenue, Westland MI, 48186. To share a memory or message of condolence, please use the Share a Memory tab on this webpage.

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W. Ten Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Previous Events

In state

JAN 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 N Territorial Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170-2852
(734) 453-0326

Funeral Mass

JAN 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 N Territorial Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170-2852
(734) 453-0326

Burial

JAN 17. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
25800 W. Ten Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Tribute Wall



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dona Ellen Capanyola.*



January 16 at 10:35 AM



“ *Your First Step Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dona Ellen Capanyola.*

Your First Step Family - January 16 at 10:35 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Dona Ellen Capanyola.*



January 15 at 09:03 PM



“ *First Step Board of Directors planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dona Ellen Capanyola.*

First Step Board of Directors - January 15 at 09:03 PM

BK

“ Barbara K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dona Ellen Capanyola.

Barbara K. - January 15 at 07:35 PM

TL

“ Tom, Shannon, Jack, Kannon and Lila purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dona Ellen Capanyola.



Tom, Shannon, Jack, Kannon and Lila - January 15 at 03:23 PM

TL

“ Tom, Shannon, Jack, Kannon and Lila planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dona Ellen Capanyola.

Tom, Shannon, Jack, Kannon and Lila - January 15 at 03:23 PM

MF

“ Matt and Jackie and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dona Ellen Capanyola.



Matt and Jackie and family - January 15 at 09:34 AM

MF

“ Matt and Jackie and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dona Ellen Capanyola.

Matt and Jackie and family - January 15 at 09:34 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dona Ellen Capanyola.



January 14 at 08:41 PM

PB

“ Peter, Erica, Olivia, and Brody planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dona Ellen Capanyola.

Peter, Erica, Olivia, and Brody - January 14 at 08:41 PM