

Points of Interest

★ Hollywood Star

Donna's Hollywood star is located at 1612 Vine Street. Locally, an exact replica of the tribute is found in front of the Donna Reed Theatre.

★ Denison Sign

Nearly 16,000 travelers going through the west side of Denison can see the community's concrete letters, a nod to Donna and the famous American landmark overlooking Hollywood.

★ Donna's Oscar®

In 1986, Donna's Oscar® was donated to the city of Denison. It is currently on display at the historic McHenry House.

★ Donna's High School

Before graduating from Denison High School in 1938, Donna had a leading role in the school production of Ayn Rand's courtroom drama *The Night of January 16th*.

★ Donna Reed Drive

Donna's childhood home was located on Donna Reed Drive. The house was destroyed by a fire in 1983. The farm where the house was located is about six miles southeast of Denison, Iowa.

★ Denison Walk of Fame

Inspired by the Hollywood Walk of Fame, handprints inset in concrete across the downtown Denison area commemorate celebrity visitors who came to Donna's hometown to celebrate the legend.

The Donna Reed Theatre was designed 100+ years ago with plans to be the finest opera house on the Northwestern Railroad line between Cedar Rapids and Omaha.

When completed, the total cost of the Germania Opera House was near \$80,000. Preview tours were held April 25, 1914. One thousand people came to see the innovative stage effects, colored lights and the shifting of curtains and scenery. A new cement sidewalk was poured in front of the theater. The building's formal dedication was held on May 18, 1914, with a canopy over the front entrance and 40 electric lights. The first events at the new Opera House included: The Ghost Breaker Company on May 18; the silent movie *Washington at Valley Forge* on June 5 and 6; Mullen's Real Live Animal Show on July 8 and 10; the silent movie *The Squaw Man* on August 3; and the silent movie *Caprice* starring Mary Pickford on August 24. Fifteen years later, in January 1929, the theatre introduced sound.

The following decade, a young Donnabelle Mullenger saw her first movie in this exact theatre. The films released while Donna was a teenager included the now-classics: *King Kong* (1933); Walt Disney's animated *Snow White* (1937); and the screwball comedy starring Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant in *Bringing Up Baby* (1938). The historic Candy Kitchen that was part of the theatre is now open as the Hollywood Bake Shop.

By 1988, the once-beautiful opera house was in such disrepair that it was scheduled to be torn down to make way for a parking lot. The Donna Reed Foundation spearheaded the effort to save the building, working with the community to raise \$100,000 to purchase and refurbish the movie house and launch the landmark Donna Reed museum in the beautiful uptown area.

Today, donations from fans around the world help maintain the historic building and support the arts-focused programs spearheaded by the Donna Reed Foundation. The Foundation supports preservation in active archive collections and is also expanding outreach via DonnaReed.org.

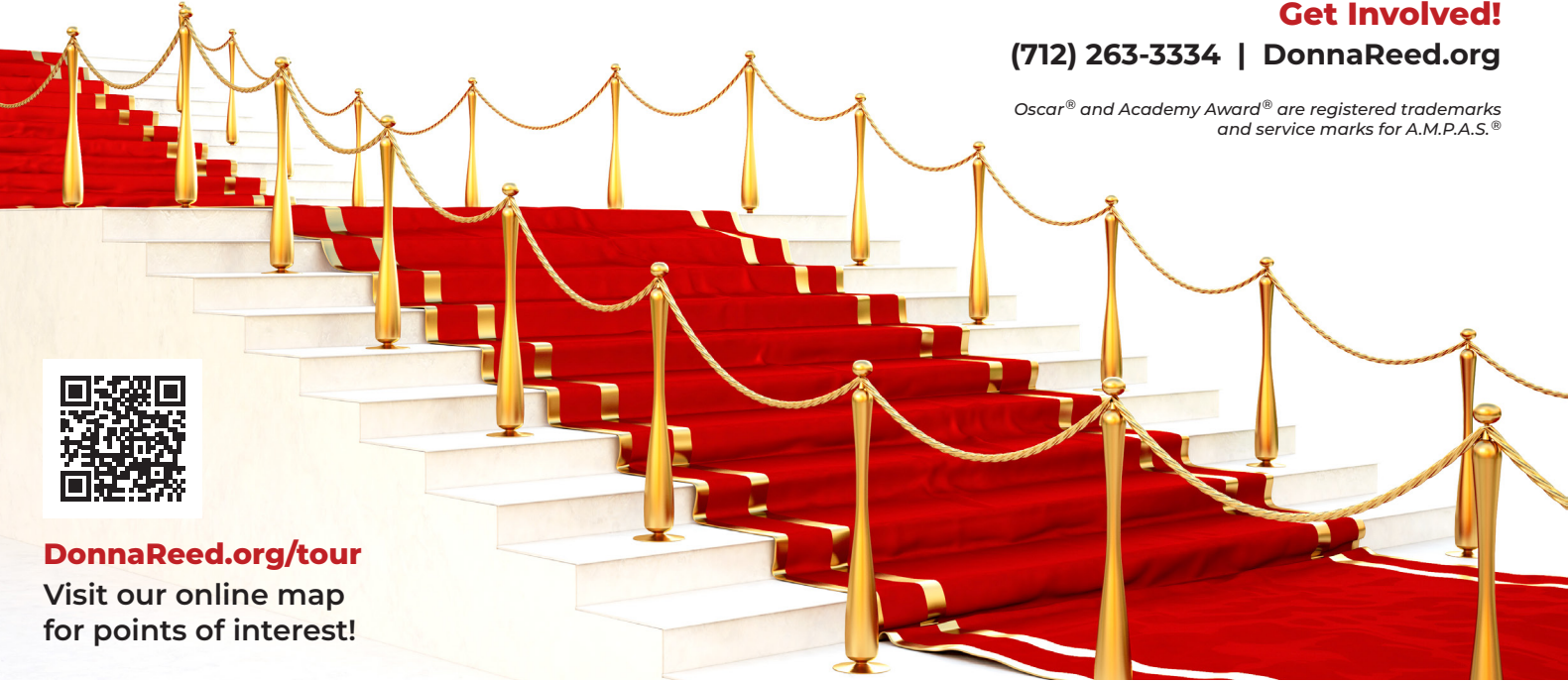
Get Involved!

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DonnaReed.org/tour
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1921
January 27
Born
Donnabelle
Mullenger in
Denison, Iowa



1943 – 1945
Marriage to MGM make-up artist William Tuttle

1945 - Married agent Tony Owen on June 15

1946 - First child - Penny

1947 - Second child - Tony, Jr.

1949 - Third child - Timothy



1956 – Tony Owen and Donna Reed formed their own production company to independently produce movies and a hit TV series.

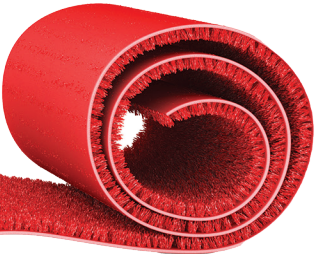
1957 - Fourth child - Mary

1971 - Donna and Tony divorced.

1974 - Donna married Lieutenant Colonel Grover Asmus. When they met, Grover was General Omar Bradley's chief of staff. After Donna's passing in 1986, Grover was key to the establishment of The Donna Reed Foundation.

1986 - Donna was 64 when she passed away on Jan. 14 of pancreatic cancer in Beverly Hills.

2021 – Donna was inducted into The Iowa Women's Hall of Fame



Smart and naturally beautiful, Donna saw her life change when she read the Dale Carnegie bestseller *How To Win Friends and Influence People*.

September 1938, she moved to California to attend Los Angeles City College

December 1, 1940 Donna was elected "Campus Queen" at L.A. City College. Her photo in newspapers immediately attracted the attention of talent scouts. She told movie moguls that they had to wait until she finished her college degree.

February 1941 Graduated from college in Secretarial Studies

Donna Reed was the Iowa farm girl who went West to become a teacher and found stardom instead.

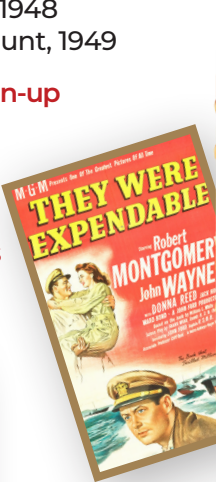
1. *The Get-Away*, MGM, 1941
2. *Shadow of the Thin Man*, MGM, 1941
3. *Babes on Broadway*, MGM, 1941
4. *The Bugle Sounds*, MGM, 1942
5. *The Courtship of Andy Hardy*, MGM, 1942
6. *Mokey*, MGM, 1942
7. *Calling Dr. Gillespie*, MGM, 1942
8. *Apache Trail*, MGM, 1942
9. *Eyes in the Night*, MGM, 1942
10. *The Human Comedy*, MGM, 1943
11. *Dr. Gillespie's Criminal Case*, MGM, 1943
12. *The Man from Down Under*, MGM, 1943
13. *Thousands Cheer*, MGM, 1943
14. *See Here, Private Hargrove*, MGM, 1944
15. *Gentle Annie*, MGM, 1944
16. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, MGM, 1945
17. *They Were Expendable*, MGM, 1945
18. *Faithful in my Fashion*, MGM, 1946
19. *It's a Wonderful Life*, RKO/Liberty, 1946
20. *Green Dolphin Street*, MGM, 1947
21. *Beyond Glory*, Paramount, 1948
22. *Chicago Deadline*, Paramount, 1949

A popular all-American WWII pin-up girl, Donna was in 22 movies before she was 29 years old. Today's generation may know her best as the loving wife of Jimmy Stewart in Frank Capra's classic holiday film *It's a Wonderful Life*. Donna was 25!



23. *Saturday's Hero*, Columbia, 1951
24. *Scandal Sheet*, Columbia, 1952
25. *Hangman's Knot*, Columbia, 1952
26. *Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder*, 1952 (cameo)
27. *Trouble Along the Way*, Warner, 1953
28. *Raiders of the Seven Seas*, United Artists, 1953
29. *From Here to Eternity*, Columbia, 1953
30. *The Caddy*, Paramount, 1953
31. *Gun Fury*, Columbia, 1953
32. *Three Hours to Kill*, Columbia, 1954
33. *They Rode West*, Columbia, 1954

Donna Reed played many roles, from hooker to homemaker. But in real life she remained the same: an intelligent, outspoken woman who practiced the honest work ethic she had learned on the farm in Denison, Iowa.



34. *The Last Time I Saw Paris*, MGM, 1954
35. *The Far Horizons*, Paramount, 1955
36. *Ransom!*, MGM, 1956
37. *The Benny Goodman Story*, Universal, 1956
38. *Backlash*, Universal, 1956
39. *Beyond Mombasa*, Columbia Hemisphere, 1956
40. *The Whole Truth*, Columbia, 1958
41. *Pepe*, Columbia, 1960

Donna Reed won her Oscar® for portraying the prostitute Alma in the iconic 1953 WWII drama *From Here to Eternity*.



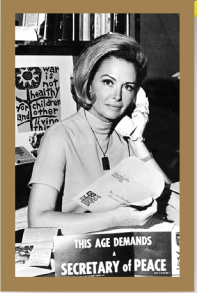
The Donna Reed Show
1958-1966 (275 episodes)

Donna played America's favorite stay-at-home mom on TV. In her real life, she was a working mother long before it became commonplace. Donna is now considered a pioneer in the early days of television, with her own sitcom on the ABC network. She became a household name playing Donna Stone on the hit series for eight years. *The Donna Reed Show* ran for over 10 years on the Nickelodeon Network and can be found on various streaming platforms today.



Donna surprised her fans by becoming one of the earliest opponents of the Vietnam War. In 1967 she helped form a group called Another Mother for Peace.

Donna's last acting role was playing Miss Ellie in the immensely popular CBS-TV's primetime soap opera, *Dallas*, during the 1984-85 season. She was attracted to the strong matriarchal role in yet another television family.



Another Mother for Peace

