

# Finding aid to the Donna Nalewaja Photograph Collection

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**Institute for Regional Studies** 

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# **Table Of Contents**

Summary Information	3	3
Abstract	. 3	
Access	. 3	
Provenance	. 3	
Property rights	. 3	
Copyrights	. 3	
Citation	. 3	
Biography	. 3	
Scope and Content		
Separation Record	. 5	
Administrative Information	4	5
Collection Inventory	4	5
Contents	4	5
Portraits	4	5
Donna at work	4	5
Campaigning in 1980s	´	7
Donna With Prominent Figures Series		
Governor Series	8	8
Presidential Series		
Mid 90s Promotional Political and Industry Visits Series		
Salute to Donna Nalewaja Series	9	9
Rally & Public Political Support Series	9	9
Trips Series		
Public Appearances & Campaigning Series		
Unknown Benefit Series	1	1
Armed Forces Series	1	1
Travel - Purpose Unkown Series		
Political Events Series	1	1
Donna Standalone Photos Series	12	2
Family Photos Series		
Random Photos without Donna Series	13	3
Negatives Series	13	3
N.D. Legislative Assembly Series	13	3

## **Summary Information**

**Repository:** Institute for Regional Studies

**Title:** Donna Nalewaja Photograph Collection

**Identifier:** Photo 2089

**Date:** Majority of material found within 1982-1999

**Physical Description:** 1127 Photographic Prints

**Physical Description:** 590 Film Negatives (590 35mm film negatives)

#### **Abstract**

The Donna Nalewaja Photograph Collection contains personal and promotional photos, mainly pertaining to her political career from roughly 1982-1999, as a Republican North Dakota state legislator. It incorporates photos of private trips, public speaking events, campaigning, portraits, family photos, working in state legislature, as well as photos of prominent people including presidents and historical figures.

#### Access

The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

### **Provenance**

Donated by Donna Nalewaja, 2000 (Acc. 2594).

## **Property rights**

The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

# **Copyrights**

Copyrights to this collection remain with the copyright holders.

### Citation

Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo [item number]

# **Biography**

Donna Lou Speer was born on October 8, 1939 in Winterset, Iowa. She attended the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1960. She married

John D. Nalewaja on December 26, 1959 and the couple moved to Fargo, North Dakota in 1962 after her husband received his Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. John D. Nalewaja was a Professor with the Department of Plant Sciences at North Dakota State University. Donna Nalewaja was a realtor with Coldwell Banker and a Marketing Representative for Waterford at Harwood Groves Retirement Community in Fargo. They raised four children: Stephen, Susan, Gregory, and Anne. Donna ran successfully as the Republican Candidate for the North Dakota House of Representatives District 45 seat in 1982 and served two terms as a State Representative until 1986. In 1986, she successfully ran as the Republican Candidate for the North Dakota Senate District 45 seat and served three terms as a State Senator until 1998. Donna unsuccessfully ran as the Republican Candidate for Lieutenant Governor in the 1988 North Dakota Gubernatorial Election against incumbent Governor George A. Sinner, and as the Republican Candidate for U.S. Senate in the 1998 North Dakota U.S. Senate Election against incumbent Senator Byron Dorgan.

Donna officially retired from politics after the 1998 campaign. John retired from North Dakota State University in 1998 and they continue to reside in Fargo.

## **Scope and Content**

This photo collection contains personal and promotional photos, mainly pertaining to her political career from roughly 1982-1999. It incorporates photos of private trips, public speaking events, campaigning, portraits, family photos, working in state legislature, as well as photos of prominent people including presidents and historical figures. A small amount of ephemera incorporating postcards of the bridges of Madison County is also included.

The collection is broken down into topical series. Portraits contains professional photos from her early and later career. Donna at work contains an assortment of photos ranging from her serving in the House & Senate, on various committees and board meetings, as well as teaching students about government. Campaigning in the 1980s entails attending various events to advertise her campaign including public addresses, cookouts, parades, and private functions.

Donna with prominent figures features two feminist icons of the time, Anita Hill, and Betty Friedan. The Governor series contains photos of North Dakota Governors, such as Allen Olson, George Sinner, and Ed Schafer. It portrays bill signings, promo photos, and celebration/commemoration pictures for the passing of House/Senate bills. The Presidential series features Presidents, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford. Presidential hopefuls, Dan Quayle and Bob Dole are contained as well. Other prominent figures in the presidential series are former Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger, Nancy and Maureen Reagan, in addition to a Bill Clinton impersonator. The Mid-90s series displays promotional, political, and industry visits, with notable events such as visiting a lignite strip-mining site in Falkirk N.D., as well as a promo shoot for Ed Schafer and Donna suiting up in firefighter gear for a fire department photoshoot. Salute to Donna Nalewaja series displays an event held at the Holiday Inn, Fargo in order to celebrate her for her political service.

The series Trips, displays family vacations and visits to places for the purpose of leisure. The public appearance and campaigning series contains appearances of Donna at fairs, parades, ice cream socials, as well as rotary, and Kiwanis club events, presumably to bolster the Republican Party. Unknown Benefit series has within it an unknown fundraiser simply called Raging Bull. Armed Forces series has within it various photos relating to the military in general, and specifically Donna visiting Air Force and Navy installations. The travel series is composed of trips of which the purpose is unknown. However, there is one figure of note within the travel series, a young Jack Dalrymple placed within the Dickinson Farm folder. Political events deals with the campaigning for fellow Republican hopefuls as well as various committees and events in order to drum up enthusiasm for the electoral process. Donna standalone photos are of unrelated topic, but united in featuring her. Within they show a trip to the southwest United States, a helicopter ride with Donna, and the

receiving of a check, possibly her first sale as a realtor. Family photos contains within it the holiday cards of and celebration of private family events. Random photos without Donna contains postcards featuring the Bridges of Madison County, pictures of mountain goats, a group of police on the Michigan Dunes, and some historic Republicans who may have been passing through N.D.

Negatives houses those negative sheets, which correspond to the photos from box 3 folder 20 through box 4 folder 6. All the images are cross-referenced, with a small number on the photo referring to the number on the negative strips. The one oversized box contains posters of the entire role of the legislative sessions of both the State Senate and House of North Dakota.

## **Separation Record**

Manuscripts removed from collection and organized separately (Mss. 3820)

## **Administrative Information**

### **Publication Statement**

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# **Controlled Access Headings**

# **Collection Inventory**

Contents	
Finding Aid	Box 1; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)
Portraits	
Portraits of Donna Nalewaja Early Career (10)	Box 1; Folder 2 (Graphic Materials)
Portraits of Donna Nalewaja Later Career (10)	Box 1; Folder 3 (Graphic Materials)
Donna at work	
Donna Nalewaja at work (10)	Box 1; Folder 4 (Graphic Materials)

Donna Nalewaja at work (10)	Box 1; Folder 5 (Graphic Materials)
Donna Nalewaja at work (10)	Box 1; Folder 6 (Graphic Materials)
Donna Nalewaja at work with Students (10)	Box 1; Folder 7 (Graphic Materials)
Donna Nalewaja at work with Colleagues(6)	Box 1; Folder 8 (Graphic Materials)
Donna Nalewaja at work with Steve Swiontek (10)	Box 1; Folder 9 (Graphic Materials)
Donna Nalewaja Early Career (10)	Box 1; Folder 10 (Graphic Materials)
Donna Nalewaja Senate Sessions 1989 (10)	Box 1; Folder 11 (Graphic Materials)
Donna at work Later Career (10)	Box 1; Folder 12 (Graphic Materials)
Donna at work Early 1990s (10)	Box 1; Folder 13 (Graphic Materials)
Donna at work mid to later career (10)	Box 1; Folder 14 (Graphic Materials)
Donna at work Various (9)	Box 1; Folder 15 (Graphic Materials)
Donna with Students (5)	Box 1; Folder 16 (Graphic Materials)
Donna with Colleagues (10)	Box 1; Folder 17 (Graphic Materials)
Donna with various committees (5)	Box 1; Folder 18 (Graphic Materials)
Board Meeting Featuring Donna (8)	Box 1; Folder 19 (Graphic Materials)
	box 1; rolder 19 (Graphic Materia

Senate Sessions 1987 (12)	Box 1; Folder 20 (Graphic Materials)
Senate Floor, Late 80s early 90s, without Donna (17)	Box 1; Folder 21 (Graphic Materials)
Senate Colleagues (8)	Box 1; Folder 22 (Graphic Materials)
Fargo Leglislature session (7)	Box 1; Folder 23 (Graphic Materials)
Election eve 1982 (5)	Box 1; Folder 24 (Graphic Materials)
Donna Teaching at St. Anthonys 1984 (3)	Box 1; Folder 25 (Graphic Materials)
Representatives Dinner 1980s	Box 1; Folder 26 (Graphic Materials
impaigning in 1980s	
Campaign 1988, suppport for Malberg (7)	Box 1; Folder 27 (Graphic Materials
1988 Campaign Event & Damp; Address (20)	Box 1; Folder 28 (Graphic Materials)
1988 Campaign Cookout (10)	Box 1; Folder 29 (Graphic Materials)
1988 Campaign in Ashley & Dangdon (10)	Box 1; Folder 30 (Graphic Materials)
1988 Campaign in Fargo, Luddin, & Samp; New Rockford (10)	Box 1; Folder 31 (Graphic Materials)
1988 Campaign in Golden Lake(7)	Box 1; Folder 32 (Graphic Materials)
Donna in Doorway (4)	Box 1; Folder 33 (Graphic Materials)
anna With Duaminant Eigunas Carias	

Donna With Prominent Figures Series

At Rutgers Featuring Anita Hill & Eamp; Betty Friedan (3)	Box 2; Folder 34 (Graphic Materials)
vernor Series	
Governor Allen Olson (3)	Box 2; Folder 35 (Graphic Materials)
Governor George Sinner (5)	Box 2; Folder 36 (Graphic Materials)
Bill Signing With Governor Ed Schafer (5)	Box 2; Folder 37 (Graphic Materials)
Bill Signing With Governor Ed Schafer (10)	Box 2; Folder 38 (Graphic Materials)
Small Senate Bill Signing/ w. Ed Schafer (7)	Box 2; Folder 39 (Graphic Materials)
sidential Series	
Waiting for Air Force One 1984 (12)	Box 2; Folder 40 (Graphic Materials)
White House Visit 1985, Architecture (9)	Box 2; Folder 41 (Graphic Materials)
White House Visit 1985, featuring Ronald Reagan (10)	Box 2; Folder 42 (Graphic Materials)
White House Visit 1985, featuring Maureen Reagan (10)	Box 2; Folder 43 (Graphic Materials)
Presidents & Dresidents & Presidents & Presi	Box 2; Folder 44 (Graphic Materials)
Presidential Candidates, Dan Quayle & Dole (4)	Box 2; Folder 45 (Graphic Materials)
d 90s Promotional Political and Industry Visits Series	
Ed Schafer (6)	Box 2; Folder 46 (Graphic Materials)

Box 2; Folder 47 (Graphic Materials)
Box 2; Folder 48 (Graphic Materials)
Box 2; Folder 49 (Graphic Materials
Box 2; Folder 50 (Graphic Materials)
Box 2; Folder 51 (Graphic Materials)
Box 2; Folder 52 (Graphic Materials
Box 2; Folder 53 (Graphic Materials
Box 2; Folder 54 (Graphic Materials
Box 2; Folder 55 (Graphic Materials
Box 3; Folder 56 (Graphic Materials)
Box 3; Folder 57 (Graphic Materials)
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Box 3; Folder 58 (Graphic Materials)

Trips Series

Trip Badlands/ Southwest N.D. (22)	Box 3; Folder 60 (Graphic Materials
Trip with Family to the Beach (4)	Box 3; Folder 61 (Graphic Materials
lic Appearances & Direction (Campaigning Series	
Minot N.D. Satate Fair, Donna Featured in Parade (25)	Box 3; Folder 62 (Graphic Materials
Parade in Lisbon, Wahpeton & Damp; Ashley/ Fargo Campaign	Office (16) Box 3; Folder 63 (Graphic Materials
Oakes Ice Cream Social & State Parade (25)	Box 3; Folder 64 (Graphic Materials
Ashley Meet & State Parade 1998 (25)	Box 3; Folder 65 (Graphic Materials
Grafton G.O.P.? Oakes Ice Cream Social (15)	Box 3; Folder 66 (Graphic Materials
Harvey?Minot State Birthday Party (15)	Box 3; Folder 67 (Graphic Materials
4th of July Mandan/ Grand Forks Press Conference (3)	Box 3; Folder 68 (Graphic Materials
Milnor Senior Ceneter (5)	Box 3; Folder 69 (Graphic Materials
Fargo Rotary Club (14)	Box 3; Folder 70 (Graphic Materials
Jamestown Kiwanis/ Birthday Party in Bottineau (13)	Box 3; Folder 71 (Graphic Materials
Plane Ride at Fisher Flying Center (8)	Box 3; Folder 72 (Graphic Materials

Pastat Plant, Minot (33)	Box 4; Folder 75 (Graphic Materials)
Pasta Factory Minot Airforce Base (9)	Box 4; Folder 76 (Graphic Materials)
Inknown Benefit Series	
Raging Bull (17)	Box 4; Folder 77 (Graphic Materials)
rmed Forces Series	
Marine Corps Base (22)	Box 4; Folder 78 (Graphic Materials)
Fairbanks Alaska Refueling station (5)	Box 4; Folder 79 (Graphic Materials)
Various Military Photos (6)	Box 4; Folder 80 (Graphic Materials)
Diego Marine Base (11)	Box 4; Folder 81 (Graphic Materials)
ravel - Purpose Unkown Series	
Dickinson Farm Featuring Jack Dalrymple (4)	Box 4; Folder 82 (Graphic Materials)
Williston & Samp; Grand Forks, Unkown Function (5)	Box 4; Folder 83 (Graphic Materials)
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (2)	Box 4; Folder 84 (Graphic Materials)
olitical Events Series	
Supporting William Gramm for President(3)	Box 4; Folder 85 (Graphic Materials)
Private Dinner (4)	Box 4; Folder 86 (Graphic Materials)
Republican Victory Celebration 1980s (4)	Box 4; Folder 87 (Graphic Materials)

N.D. Women's Voter Registration(3)	Box 4; Folder 88 (Graphic Materials)
N.D. 45th Legislature Celebration (4)	Box 4; Folder 89 (Graphic Materials)
Energy Interim 1983 (2)	Box 4; Folder 90 (Graphic Materials)
Support for Cramer U.S. Congress (2)	Box 4; Folder 91 (Graphic Materials)
Red Letter Day (2)	Box 4; Folder 92 (Graphic Materials)
Campaigning/ Posing with signs (2)	Box 4; Folder 93 (Graphic Materials)
Christmas 1994 (2)	Box 4; Folder 94 (Graphic Materials)
Donna With Constituents (10)	Box 4; Folder 95 (Graphic Materials)
Trip to Europe (4)	Box 4; Folder 96 (Graphic Materials)
Unkown Republican Meeting (2)	Box 4; Folder 97 (Graphic Materials)
Republican Gathering (3)	Box 4; Folder 98 (Graphic Materials)
Donna With Republican Colleagues(6)	Box 4; Folder 99 (Graphic Materials)
Oonna Standalone Photos Series	
Donna Receiving Chek for Realty (1)	Box 4; Folder 100 (Graphic Materials)
Helicopter Ride With Donna (3)	Box 4; Folder 101 (Graphic Materials)
Trip to Victoria Del Coronado (5)	Box 4; Folder 102 (Graphic Materials)

amily Photos Series	
Family & Eriends (35)	Box 4; Folder 103 (Graphic Materials
andom Photos without Donna Series	
Historic Republican Politicians(3)	Box 4; Folder 104 (Graphic Materials
Unknown People (3)	Box 4; Folder 105 (Graphic Materials
Mountain Goats(3)	Box 4; Folder 106 (Graphic Materials
Michigan Dunes (3)	Box 4; Folder 107 (Graphic Materials
Bridges of Madison County (3)	Box 4; Folder 108 (Graphic Materials
egatives Series	
Negatives (13)	Box 4; Folder 109 (Graphic Materials
Negatives (13)	Box 4; Folder 110 (Graphic Materials
J.D. Legislative Assembly Series	
N.D. Legislative Assembly full Roll Posters (8)	Box 5; Folder 111 (Graphic Materials