



# Rita Marie McDonald

DEC 20, 1951 - JUN 25, 2024



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# Rita Marie McDonald

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**D**evoted daughter, sister, and aunt, Rita Marie McDonald, 72, passed away peacefully on June 25, 2024. She was born December 20, 1951, in Washington, DC. She was the only daughter of Thomas Richard and Angeline Annette (nee Samz) McDonald. At an early age her family, including four brothers, (and later a fifth), moved to Cedar Rapids, IA where her father grew up. She attended parochial school at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Early in her teen years the family returned to the Washington, DC area, moving to the Mt. Vernon district of Alexandria, where she graduated from Ft. Hunt High School in 1970.

After high school Rita worked for the State Department and spent a year in Holland. After, in her mid-twenties, she began what would become a 38-year career working for an attorney in Washington, DC. During these years she resided in Wheaton, MD and then Reston, VA. Though she did not have children of her own, when two of her brothers' spouses passed, she selflessly took on the responsibility to try to fill the void that was left in the lives of three nephews and a niece. Though she shied away from the title, she became the matriarch of the family and was responsible for keeping us all tightknit.

After retiring in 2012, she moved to the Fredericksburg area to be closer to her family.

Rita enjoyed nothing more than planning the meals and celebrations around the holidays with her nephew and God-son, Steven, including holiday trips with family to OBX. Some of her fondest memories were trips she took to see her out of state family as well as extended vacations with her friend of 50 years, Sharon Stettner. She reminded us of all the wisdom she learned from her father and how much a card or letter can change someone's day. She lived by the motto, "Just a small compliment to a stranger can do miraculous things." She was never short on those compliments.



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Rita was preceded in death by her parents as well as two nephews, Patrick Lawrence McDonald and Steven Craig McDonald, and a niece, Jamie Jo McDonald.

Left behind to honor her memory are her five brothers, Joseph P. of Appleton, WI, Thomas R., Jr. of Spotsylvania, VA, John D. and Timothy M. of Caroline, VA and Brian P. of Reston, VA. She also leaves behind nieces, Jennifer (Fred), Kelly, and Meghan as well as nephews, Shaun (Amber) and Michael (Hannah).

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery in Mishicot, Wisconsin.



## Tribute Wall

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KB

**Kevin Bader** posted:

I recently learned of Rita's passing. We were friends and classmates in elementary school when she lived in Cedar Rapids Iowa and we had been in touch some the past decade or so. So sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful lady and she certainly made an impact here. Kevin Bader

August 18 at 6:07 PM

CS

**Christine Bader-Sands** posted:

I just learned of Rita's passing. Tom, so sorry for your loss. Christine Bader-Sands.

August 18 at 5:08 PM

NN

**Nell N.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Rita.



July 7 at 3:09 AM

OG

**Ogdens** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the McDonald family.



July 6 at 8:03 AM

OG

**Ogdens** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Rita.



July 6 at 8:03 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Jean Eustice** lit a candle in honor of Rita.



July 6 at 4:30 AM



**Nell Neal** July 7 at 3:18 AM

I will treasure the great memories and laughs we had over the years. You will be in my heart forever. Nell(ika)



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Rita by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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