



Rita A. Goldsmith

JUN 1, 1930 - JUN 1, 2017



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WEIGEL Funeral Home

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Rita A. Goldsmith, age 87 of Batesville, died Thursday, June 1, 2017 at the Waters of Batesville. Born January 22, 1930 in Batesville, she is the daughter of Marie (Nee: Ollier) and Clarence Kerker Sr. She married Arthur Goldsmith June 9, 1951 at St. Louis Church. A homemaker, she was also an Immaculate Conception Alumnus. Rita is known throughout the country as the “Duck Lady.” In her front yard, she would dress her decorative “ducks” (they were actually geese) each day with a theme. It could be the announcement of a birth in the family or someone’s birthday, it could be a holiday theme, or it could be somebody famous such as boxing promoter Don King. Her ideas and energy were endless. She was featured twice in the Cincinnati Enquirer and received letters and notes from people all over the country that had been through town and marveled at her handy work. If the duck’s theme didn’t change for a couple of days, people were checking with the family to make sure Rita wasn’t sick.

Other interests included collecting ash trays, Native Indian artifacts, watching professional wrestling, feeding her birds, enjoying her fish aquarium, attending her grandkid’s ballgames and according to the family, she was a huge Elvis fan. Her family noted with pride that Rita became the care giver for her parents and her in-laws as they aged. They also discussed that everything that made her happy was right at home. She loved flowers and flower gardening around the yard and teased she could get flowers to grow in the cement. Her children will miss Friday nights when everyone gathered at the house, although any given day saw several of the kids stop by. They will also miss chili Saturdays. Every Saturday, Rita would put on a big pot of Chili that was shared with all family and friends who stopped by. Oddly enough, while her sons would bring home frogs, snakes or whatever when they were little, she was okay with that. But, to their amusement, she had a real phobia of cats.

Rita is survived by her husband Artie; daughters Cathy (Paul) Laugle of New Point,



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Connie Goldsmith, Carin (Toby) Walsman, both of Batesville, Carla (Matt) Oesterling of Oldenburg; sons Jim (Betty) Goldsmith, John (Darlene) Goldsmith, both of Batesville, Joe (Janeen) Goldsmith of Oldenburg; sisters Rosemary Holtel and Barbara Heidlage, both of Batesville, Betty Waters of Cheviot, Ohio; 21 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. In addition the her parents, she is also preceded in death by brothers Clarence "Cork" Jr., Robert "Bud" and Jerome "Jake" Kerker.

Visitation is Monday, June 5th, from 4 – 7 p.m. at the funeral home. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 6th at St. Louis Church with Rev. David Kobak O.F.M. officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family requests memorials to the Alzheimer's Association.



Tribute Wall

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SB

Snyder Family Of Batesville posted:

Our deepest sympathy at this difficult time. She will be greatly missed. I have been personally blessed to have grown up near most of you and have very fond memories living on Walnut Street!

June 4 at 8:00 PM

DS

Deborah Bland Sherman Of Seattle, Wa posted:

My condolences to your family on Rita's passing. She was blessed to have such a loving family.

June 2 at 8:00 PM

MB

Melissa(Siefert) Barnett Of Myrtle Beach posted:

Artie and family, You are all in my thoughts and prayers. So sorry for your loss. Let the memories bring you through the hard days ahead.

June 2 at 8:00 PM

TI

Tony Koors Of Indianapolis posted:

Very sorry for your loss, God Bless.

June 2 at 8:00 PM

AC

Audrey Wallpe Elliott Of Cincinnati posted:

Sorry to here of her death, I remember her mother and father because of the friendship of my mother and father, Elmer and Ella Wallpe had with them. Audrey and Jack Elliott

June 1 at 8:00 PM

RG

Ralph Vierling Of Gainesville, Fl posted:

Sorry to hear of the passing of Rita. I've have many fond memories of her. As a kid I probably ate her cooking as much as my mom's. Remember spending many hours in her kitchen, playing cards,eating ect. My thoughts and prayers are with your whole family. Ralph Vierling

June 1 at 8:00 PM



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TI

Tim And Bette Savage Of Batesville, Indiana posted:

Artie,Connie and other Goldsmiths Rita was a special person. How lucky you were to have her in your lives. From the fashion shows of ducks, to ashtrays she communicated the special person she was. Many a night at work was brightened by brief comments from Rita, always upbeat and kind. No tears for Rita, she was a class act now enjoying the eternal reward for her kindness. Tim

June 1 at 8:00 PM

DZ

Donna (Nobbe) Andrus Of Zionsville posted:

My deepest condolences. She was a wonderful lady with an infectious smile.

June 1 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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