



## Rita Marie Faulk

January 14, 1944 - February 1, 2008

Faulk, Rita Marie Age 64 February 1, 2008 Beloved wife of Gilbert "Jack". Loving Mother of Tina Marie William Nicks, Cody Faulk, Karen Michael Belleville, Jack Faulk and the late Paula Oulette. Proud Grandmother of Amber Michelle Nicks, Maggie Marie Nicks and 8 step-grandchildren. Also 10 step-great grandchildren. Dear Sister of late Thomas Anthony Napolitan. Beloved Friend of Melody Savada. Visitation at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Rd. 3 Blks E. of Van Dyke Utica Monday 4pm to 9pm and Tuesday 2-9pm with Rosary 7:00 pm. Funeral Service 10:30 a.m.Wednesday at the Funeral Home Interment Cadillac Memorial Gardens East Family request donations to St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital Please share a memory with the family at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Tribute Wall

AC

“ I was taking a mental stroll down memory lane and wondering what became of J and R stables and Rita. I rode there for a time as a kid, probably during the early/mid-90s, maybe between 1992 and 1994? I'm not exactly sure what years this would have been, but I do know I was there during the time frame when Rita got kicked while in a stall with a horse, resulting in broken ribs. I am still riding nearly 30 years later, and sometimes I think I'd like to go back and thank the instructors who have helped me along the way. I'm sad, although not terribly surprised, to find that I'll never be able to thank Rita or visit J and R again. I hope her family can see that she helped a lot of people connect with horses; I'm one of those people, and I'm grateful.

---

**Acacia** - March 22, 2023 at 04:14 PM

MR

“ My sympathies to you Jack and your entire family.

---

**Michelle Knowlton Robinson** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the sad news , I wish I 'd of heard of it sooner and would have liked to been there for the visitation, It is so ironic that I was just thinking of Rita earlier this week, she must of been thinking of me too. Love to you all, Ronna

---

**Ronna Porter** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ I wrote this upon returning from the hospital Friday, the day Rita passed away. \_\_\_\_\_ I've just returned from saying goodbye to Rita, my longtime mentor and riding instructor. It's so hard to believe she's actually gone now, after all that battling. I probably butted heads with her more than anyone else over my years at the farm, but it wasn't ever for a lack of respect. She just always expected so much better than what everyone else considered their best, and I regretfully didn't come to realize that until her presence down at the barn dwindled over the past year. Especially lately, I'd found myself longing for the days Rita would be around constantly to give us "kids" a good lecture when we deserved it. Things around the farm have been markedly different since she'd been confined first to the chair, then to a bed. Catie and I always talk lately about how we wished she had had her health again to come down and run things the way they needed to be run. It was so hard to see someone so strong lose the ability to control the things she cared about most: the care of the horses, and the care of the farm. We all know that people were not her specialty, but over the years she gradually showed a humanity I wish we'd been privileged to see all along. It's sad, really. I can't even remember the last conversation we had, or the last time I stopped in to say hello. That much I certainly regret. But I do remember the last lesson she ever gave me, and I will do my best to honor her by always remembering to relax, never get mad, and be confident that everything I hope to accomplish will come along in time. I'm sure that few people know how much this really hurts me. All I can say is that I'll remember everything she ever taught me, every fight along the way, every lesson I eventually learned from those arguments, and how she pulled every string she could to make sure I would have my mare, Dixie, as my very own--acts for which I will forever be in her debt. I will never stop telling stories from throughout the nearly 18 years I knew Rita. Getting a compliment from her was a rarity, and she never once came out and said she was proud of me, but none of that matters. I hope that every person she ever taught can appreciate that she was always proud of us in her own way. I'll miss you, Rita. The fights, the laughs, the silly emails, the lectures, the talks during shows, the lengths you'd go to to support us "kids" and root us on...all of it. Rest in peace.

Erin Suvada - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I was saddened to hear of Rita's passing. I knew Rita through Wright&Filippis. We had so many great talks about her farm and especially her pups. She touched my life with kindness and a toughness that I really admired. She always had such a good sense of humor, even in the midst of some trying times for her. I will really miss her. My sympathy to all her family. Jo Anna

Jo Anna Randall - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Rita has been an extremely inspirational and important person to me over the ten years that I have known her. The passion and drive she had for life and breeding and training horses leaves a lasting legacy, and she touched so many other lives like mine. She has made horses a lifelong love and career for me and I think of her daily, even though I am miles away in Florida. The friendships I made with her, Jack, and the rest of the J&R family will last forever, and my horse, Lady, serves as a constant, happy reminder of her. I wish I could be with you all today, but Jack, Tina, Cody, and everyone else, you are in my thoughts and in my heart. I love you!

---

**Courtney Campbell** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ This is a thank you for continuing the J&R horseshow for AQHA. We always enjoyed the show and the effort you put forth

---

**Joe & Stephanie Gill** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ 1973 was a long time back. Rita and I were born in the same year, so we were only 29 when Jack and I pulled into the old J&R Stable and unloaded out of Jack's trailer, my American Saddlebred, freshly trailered from Illinois. Who would know that an American Saddlebred, amongst Rita's Quarter Horses, would bring a friendship that spanned 35 years. She liked my "Coke" and I liked her "Jack Pot". Although Jack Pot hated Coke! One time she said she owed me a long letter so she wrote it on a roll of calculator paper which must have stretched for 6 feet! Thanks Jack and Rita, you enriched my life. Naida

---

**Naida Garrett** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FW

“ To the family of Rita Faulk - i just wanted to let you know that I truly appreciated Rita for teaching riding lessons in which she showed patience and kindness. She was really great and always made my lessons such fun! I bought "Kim" a small lesson horse that she owned back when I was taking riding lessons. Rita will always be remembered. God bless her family is my prayer. Respectfully submitted, Fay Webber

---

**Fay Webber** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ We are truly thankful that we had an opportunity to meet Rita. We will never forget her tenacity and compassion. There were many things she taught my daughter Taylor about riding, but there were many life lessons as well. We will truly miss her and want to extend our sincere sympathy to the family. Karen, Kevin & Taylor Hooks

Karen & Taylor Hooks - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Thank you for all the years of being a mentor and friend. There are no words to describe the impact Rita has made on my life and lives of many others. This is a great loss to everyone who knew her. She was an inspiration and, will be deeply missed..

Kimberly Straetmans - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the Faulk family. We have enjoyed knowing Jack and Rita for so many years and we cherish the memories of all those horse shows, tack sales, 4-H activities, etc. of which Rita was such a big part. Someone once said, "invest in that which will outlive you" and Rita most certainly did that. She will be greatly missed by many.

Dave and Sylvia Hulbert, Ralph and Bonnie Ballard, Martin and Karen Ballard - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ It was with a great sorrow as I listen to my wife tell me of Rita's passing. A family friend of thirty five years, I am comforted only by knowing she is in a better place, free of pain and limitation. She brought joy, enlightenment, and comfort to us when we needed it through the years. Jack, Tina, Cody, JR, and Karen my our prayers bring you comfort, and may you find peace in knowing how much she touched so many lives.

Rick and Carrie Rapp - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Jack, Cody and Tina. I wish I could be there during your time of sorrow. Please know that my prayers and thoughts are with you always. Love - Joyce

Joyce Foster - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Jack, Cody and Tina. I wish I could be there during your time of sorrow. Please know that my prayers and thoughts are with you always. Love - Joyce

Joyce Foster - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Jack, Cody and Tina. I wish I could be there during your time of sorrow. Please know that my prayers and thoughts are with you always. Love - Joyce

Joyce Foster - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Faulk family.

Jeremy Lawniczak and Family - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Rita, there are no words to describe what you have done for myself and MANY others. For me, 8 riding lessons, as a Christmas present in 1990, turned into a lifetime of love for horses. I went so far in the horse world because of the great foundation you built for me. I will forever be grateful for all of "life's" lessons you taught me! I'm grateful for all of the wonderful memories from J&R! From St. Jude rides, Girl Scout camps and making Cody cry when he threw a rock at Jenny Henson and we pretended it knocked her eye out..lol, I will cherish them always. Thank you for teaching me to be strong and to never give up, no matter what I may do. Jack, you are the sweetest, kindest and most understanding man! I pray for you and your family during this difficult time. God Bless you all!

Jodi Tulin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ I started riding at J & R because my mom knew Rita and I wanted to ride. Rita taught me a lot of things I will never forget. Plus after falling off a horse she made me get back on. She gave me Badger because she knew I was able to handle him, plus we had matching personalities! Rita we love you! You will never be forgotten! You are all in my prayers! We love you too!

Katie & Jennifer Clark - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ It is always hard to think what to say when everyone is so sad but I will try. I met Rita through Melody. Along the years I may have seen Rita a handful of times but I did learn that Rita was a strong women who loved to teach kids about horses Life and she did so with passion. Rita was also a dear friend to many especially Melody. She is a women who fought hard threw life and touched many hearts. She will be missed by many. My deepest sympathy.

Suzanne and Rodney Shedenhelm - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ Dearest Rita and family, I am so grateful for the 9 years we spent at J & R - as well as our time spent in the Washington Raiders. The memories are countless and will remain with us always. I'm grateful for the way you taught Audra, from the bottom up, about the equine world ... that if you want to learn to ride, then you'd better also be prepared to clean a stall or pick a hoof and care for that horse. But most of all, I'm grateful for the "horsey lessons" that also became invaluable "life lessons". These lessons have helped to shape my daughter into a strong focused young woman. What you did for her, and for the countless other young women who passed through J & R over the years, is the great legacy you leave behind. You once told me that you couldn't imagine a Heaven without horses there. I have no doubt, Rita, that the good Lord put aside a very special pasture just for you and all of your beloved horses who have gone before you. Thank you for being a huge part of our lives for those 9 years. We love you.

Paula & Peter & Audra Klein - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ I just heard of Rita's passing, my deepest sympathy to Jack, and family. Rita was a wonderful person, and a devoted horse person. She was very devoted to the St. Jude Benefit Ride, and the children. You will be deeply missed by all. I will never forget you. Sincerely, Penny Kimberley

Penny Kimberley - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LV

“ We will be at Sullivan this evening. So sorry to hear of Rita's passing. The many memories of wonderful times are flowing. We are all enriched by having known and loved Rita.

Lexy, Bob and Connie Vujovich - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Dearest Rita, You will be deeply missed by all. 4-H, Armada Fair and the St. Jude ride to name a few will not be the same without you. You overcame tremendous pain and obstacles so you could show others, mainly the children you loved so much that anything could be accomplished if you worked hard enough. Apparently the good lord needed you more than we did. May we all find happiness knowing that Classic is waiting for you by the gates of heaven with the wind whipping through his mane. You have both your legs now and may the two of you forever ride with the wind through you hair, the sun on your back and the earth at your feet. God bless you and your family

Carol - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Rita, We will always be grateful to you for nurturing Jenny's love of animals as only you could do. Doing so in all those years of lessons & events was truly a blessing which taught so much more than just horseback riding. The camaraderie, friendships, time/money management, lifes lessons learned were & are invaluable yet today. And yet instilling these values was merely a benefit in addition to the riding skills taught. You had a way about you & YOU WILL BE MISSED!!! Our thoughts & prayers are with your family. GOD BLESS YOU!!! HAPPY TRAILS!!!

RIC & PATTI HENSON - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

T"

“ I'm back at Big-R and learned today about Rita's passing. I'm so sorry....rest in peace Rita and thank you for all you've given to us "horsey-people".

Tena Davis and "CLUE" - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HG

“ Thank you Rita for being my mentor and teaching me everything that I know about horses. I will miss you very much and will carry on your knowledge and inspiration through riding the rest of my life. You will be greatly missed by many.

Heather Greba - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Thank you for everything you have taught me, Rita. From riding, to horses, and life. I miss your lectures because they always had a very important purpose even if i had to really think about it afterwards. You were such a big part of my life, and such a huge inspiration. I will never forget you Rita, you will always be in my heart, and thought of everyday. I'll miss you.

Amanda Bezy - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Faulk family. A touch of Rita will live on in those she has touched, taught and inspired. Her generosity, sharing time and talent with many persons and organizations that she has been dedicated to over the years - will not be forgotten. Our thoughts are with you.

Tom, Patricia & Stephanie DeMeyer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Thank you for everything you have taught me throughout the years. Everything I have learned from you about horses and life is invaluable, and I will miss you very much. I will always cherish the memories of riding lessons, horse shows and being at the barn. My thoughts are with you and your family always.

Catie - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ I just wanted to say "thank you" from my heart in all that Rita has given to my daughter Kaylynn. She has given and taught her so much about the horse world. We will always cherish the memories that we had with her. Sadly missed, always in our thoughts and prayers. Shawn & Kaylynn Amburgey

Shawn Amburgey - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ Your family has become my family. We have done so much together - horse shows, 4-H, camp, Armada Fair. And we laughed A LOT! The years were too few, but precious. You are all in my prayers. Rita will always be my friend, and she will never leave my heart.

Melody - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family. Rita and Jack have been a part of our "horse" memories since the beginning. One of the nicest horses we have ever owned, Skipper came from their farm. Rita has been a very important part of 4-H, the horse leaders, and the Armada Fair for many, many years. As a result she has touched many of our lives and been an inspiration to us all. The leaders and young people of Macomb County will not forget her.

Keran and Don Walkowicz - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM