



## Rita McEachen Neal

July 14, 1942 - April 12, 2025

Rita Marie McEachen Neal (82 years) passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 12th in Grand Rapids, Michigan after a beautiful day surrounded by family and friends. She passed in her sleep next to her husband of 57 years.

Rita was born on July 14, 1942 in Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from Saint Agnes High School in Detroit in 1960, then Nazareth College in Kalamazoo, MI in 1964 with a degree in Medical Technology. Later, as a mother, she earned a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry from Marygrove College in Detroit. Her second career was as a Hospital Chaplain at Grace Hospital, Bon Secours Hospital, and Providence Hospital. She was a lifelong caregiver of others, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Her compassion, kindness and love for others was apparent in everything she did. Anyone who spent even a few minutes with Rita felt loved. Over the years Rita ministered to others in many ways, a few include Clowning Ministry and Jail Ministry, and the Faith and Sharing Retreat.

Rita is mourned and celebrated by her husband, Daniel Clinton Neal, her three children, Timothy Neal (Carol), Meghan Neal-Sienko (Grant), and Mary Rita Neal, her grandchildren: Helena Grace Sienko, Brady Griffin Neal, and Grant Joseph Sienko, her brothers and sisters: Dennis McEachen (Rosanne), Lawrence McEachen (Avis), Patricia McAskin, James McEachen (Paula), Donald McEachen (Shelia), John McEachen (Kari), Joan McEachen, James

Karagon (Beverly Green). Rita is predeceased by her father, Angus McEachen, her mother, Helen (McHale) McEachen, her sister, Mary (McEachen) Karagon (James), her brother, Ronald McEachen (Maureen), and her brother-in-law, Michael McAskin.

A Visitation for Rita will be held on Wednesday, April 16, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm with a Rosary and Sharing of Memories at 6:30 pm at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (4 blocks. E. of Woodward), Royal Oak, 48067. Rita will lie in state on Thursday, April 17, from 9:30 am until time of Communion Service at 10:30 am at Christ the King Catholic Church, 20800 Grand River, Detroit, 48219. Rita will be laid to rest at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Wyandotte, MI. She will have a Green Burial.

Donations in Rita's memory may be made to the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, 1820 Mt. Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207 ([www.thecapuchins.org](http://www.thecapuchins.org)) or to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 29777 Telegraph Rd. Suite 1651, Southfield, MI 48034 ([www.nmssmi.org](http://www.nmssmi.org)).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 16. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Rosary and Memory Sharing

APR 16. 6:30 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Communion Service

APR 17. 10:30 AM (ET)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
20800 Grand River Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48219

## Green Burial

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APR 21. 10:30 AM (ET)

Mt. Carmel Cemetery - Wyandotte  
900 Ford Avenue  
Wyandotte, MI 48192

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ *My deepest condolences to you Mary and your family. I'm so sorry. I'm keeping you and your family in my prayers.*

Michelle Larsosa - April 19, 2025 at 10:07 PM

MF

“ *Michelle Larsosa and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.*



Michelle Larsosa and Family - April 19, 2025 at 10:05 PM

MT

“ *Rita stole Dan from his New York family to live in Michigan with her and her family. Dan was thrilled. We in New York missed seeing them often, but they would come to visit and bring their blissful happiness for us to appreciate. We learned easily why Dan chose this life with the lovely Rita. Rita showed us her love and happy ways and we were always pleased to be with them, and enjoy their children, and share Dan with them. We will miss the delightful Rita, as will everyone who had the pleasure of her acquaintance.*



Mary Catherine tMellum - April 18, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.



April 16, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ I will always cherish my memories with dear, sweet, Rita. Always with a smile on her face, love in her heart and a warm hug to greet you, her wonderful laughter, generosity, and kindness will truly be missed. I wish we could be with you to celebrate and honor her beautiful life. Wishing Dan , Meg, Tim, Mary Rita and their families love, comfort, and peace. Laura, Mark, Lila, and Eloise.

Laura DeVito - April 16, 2025 at 01:06 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.



April 16, 2025 at 11:53 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita McEachen Neal.

April 16, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.



April 16, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ I join Kathy & Judy as another first cousin from Nova Scotia in offering my love and deepest sympathies to dear Dan, Meghan, Tim, Mary Rita and all the McEachen cousins in the loss of one of the finest. Rita's life emulated how we all should strive to live. God blessed her with many gifts and she shared them graciously to everyone who was fortunate to be in her presence. May the sorrow that you feel in your hearts be lightened by the love that surrounds you. Rest in peace Rita!

Anne Marie MacEachen Sime - April 15, 2025 at 09:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.



April 15, 2025 at 08:15 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.



April 15, 2025 at 05:23 PM



“ To Dan Neal and family and the McEachen family, Rita was our cousin and the oldest of ten children. She was a Shining Star, admired for her intelligence, kindness, and loving ways. Rita will live on forever in our hearts. All were waiting to welcome Rita home. Till we meet again dear cousin. Kathy Mac and Judy Ciatti and family

Kathy MacDonald - April 15, 2025 at 05:13 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita McEachen Neal.

April 15, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.



April 15, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.



April 15, 2025 at 12:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita McEachen Neal.

April 15, 2025 at 10:29 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.



April 15, 2025 at 10:29 AM



“ I love you a bushel and a peck. And a hug around the neck. I will miss our \*dances\*, your contagious smile and your beautiful mind. My condolences to sweet Dan, Meghan, Grant, Joey, Helena and the rest of the family. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Always  
Ja'Net (Ja'Nea)

Ja'Net Helsel DeBoer - April 15, 2025 at 08:52 AM



Mary Neal - May 07, 2025 at 12:36 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Rita McEachen Neal.



April 14, 2025 at 09:39 PM

JC

“ *John & Sue Callahan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita McEachen Neal.*

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**John & Sue Callahan** - April 14, 2025 at 06:30 PM