



Rita Lesko Simons

April 11, 1921 - June 30, 2019

Beloved Rita Lesko Simons passed away with peace and grace at the age of 98 on June 30, 2019, surrounded by the love of her family.

Rita lived a full life as a vibrant and warm mother, grandmother, wife, sister, daughter, aunt, and friend. Born into a large and loving family in Royal Oak in 1921, she enjoyed a pleasant childhood that would inspire her deep love of family and gratitude for life's simple joys. She married Foyle Simons in 1947, who preceded her death in 2005. She is survived by her daughter, Colleen; son-in-law Tom; granddaughters Holly (Gary), Tara, and Kirsten (Dan); great-grandchildren Justin, Grace, Kyla, Claire, and Jack; brother Mike; niece Kathy; and nephews Mark, Jim, Mike, and Paul.

A nurturing and gifted caregiver, Rita created a home that was a respite, rich in family traditions. After Foyle's passing, she began a new adventure at the age of 89, and shared her creative flair and lifelong connection to her community at the Royal Oak Historical Society, where she volunteered until her 98th year.

With a passion for life and an appreciation for everyday miracles, she enjoyed traveling, theater, reading, sunsets, and precious moments with the people she loved.

Rita was a wellspring of generosity, vitality, and kindness. She will always be remembered as a rare and cherished gift.

A memorial Mass will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church in Royal Oak on Thursday, August 1, at 10:00 AM, with visitation beginning at 9:30 AM. A luncheon will immediately follow at the Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak. Memorial donations may be made in honor of Rita to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or to the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum.

Cemetery Details

White Chapel Memorial Cemetery

621 W. Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

AUG 1. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
730 S. Lafayette Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Memorial Mass

AUG 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
730 S. Lafayette Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall

CH

“ We just learned of Rita's passing from the Historical Society newsletter. Our sincerest condolences to her family. She was a lovely and gracious lady who will be missed by all who knew her.

With sympathy and prayers,

Jerry and Carol Hermann

Carol Hermann - October 01, 2019 at 09:48 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Lesko Simons.



July 31, 2019 at 10:22 AM

DC

“ Rita was a gift to all of us who were lucky enough to have her in our lives. Just thinking about her brings a smile to my face. I think God unselfishly allowed Rita to remain on Earth as long as he could before having her join the rest of his angels in heaven. It gives me peace knowing she is watching over her loved ones and friends, shining her light forever. I'll miss you Mrs. Simons.

Love,

Deborah (Debbe) Parrish Chin

Deborah Chin - July 16, 2019 at 03:07 PM

PB

“ Rita was a very kind, caring and thoughtful lady. She had class! We will miss her.

Our thoughts are with Colleen and Tom and all of Rita's family and dear friends.

Love,

Pat and Randy Burean

Pat & Randy Burean - July 14, 2019 at 11:39 AM

TS

“ Visiting Rita became a part of most of our trips to Michigan over the past two years. We met her through a dear and mutual friend and she quickly became a special part of our lives also. Knowing how much she loved sunsets I frequently think of her when I view one.

Dear Rita, you will be missed!

James and Trudy Sumpter

Trudy Sumpter - July 13, 2019 at 06:54 PM

NB

“ Rita was a treasure, full of quick wit, love for friends and family and a joy to be around. Will miss you dearly Rita! Love Nancy & Dick Boari

Nancy Boari - July 11, 2019 at 06:14 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



joanna becker - July 11, 2019 at 09:43 AM

RS

“ A most beautiful and giving woman.....loved everyone and everyone loved her! Rick & Maureen Sage

Richard Philip Sage - July 10, 2019 at 04:19 PM



“ I met our Dear Sweet Rita for the first time when she came to volunteer at the Museum all most 10 years ago. Rita was an amazing woman...she loved being at the Museum and worked so hard.....she knew so much of the history of RO. We were the same generation, she knew the words to all the 1940's songs as I do and would sing with me. it's as tho I have lost part of me....who will sing with me...who has all the answers to my questions about Royal Oak history...only Rita.....I'm lost without her....miss her so much...can't stop crying every time I think about her.....
Muriel

Muriel Versagi - July 10, 2019 at 02:37 PM