



Mrs. Rita L. Knopf

April 13, 1936 - January 29, 2017

Rita Louise Knopf, 80, of Marlette Township, went home to be with her Lord on Sunday, January 29, 2017, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

She was born April 13, 1936 in Saginaw to the late Louis N. Roussin and Hazel King Bolitho. She married Ronald O. Gippert on September 2, 1956, in Manistique. He preceded her in death on December 24, 2002. She married Stanley H. Knopf on November 27, 2004 in Marlette.

Rita was employed by Marlette Community Hospital for 28 years in accounting and then pharmacy. She enjoyed singing, reading, Bible Study, and gardening. Rita loved to sing barbershop harmony and was a member of Sweet Adelines in Lansing, Flint and Lapeer, as well as various singing groups in the Marlette area. Rita was instrumental in promoting recycling with Project Glass in Marlette in the early 1970's. She was an avid Band Booster and Marlette Red Raider Supporter during the school years of her six children and passed on a love for music and education to her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of 12 years, Stanley Knopf of Marlette; her six children, daughter Kathryn Ruby (Thomas Wilton) of Burtchville, son Dr. Garry Gippert (Dr. Barbara Halkier) of Copenhagen, Denmark, daughter Colleen (David) McLaren of Holland, Michigan, daughter Jill (Leslie) Latham of Marysville, son Rev. James (Laurie) Gippert of Fremont, Ohio, and son Kurt Gippert (Maria Paula Cabrera) of Chicago; a sister, Alice

(Robert) Hauske of Traverse City; a brother, Joel Roussin of Menominee; 13 grandchildren, Terra Ruby Sochacki, Carl-Erik Gippert, Noah, Crista, and Gabrielle McLaren, Benjamin, Joshua, and Jeremy Latham, Rachel Gippert Riedel, Caleb, Rebekah, Hannah, and Hope Gippert; 2 great-grandchildren, Chloe Klebba and Olivia Sochacki; step-children Barbara (Randy) Kinnick of Rochester, Minnesota, Brenda (Stephen) Nesbitt of Grand Ledge, David (Beth) Knopf of Louisville, Kentucky, Kathleen (John) Simpson of Grand Rapids, and Nancy (David) Mattson of Eaton Rapids; and several nieces and nephews.

Rita was preceded in death by her brother, Ramon Roussin, grandson, Zachary Latham, and granddaughter, Elissa Latham.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at Grace Bible Church in Marlette.

Reverend Michael Hollenbeck

will officiate. Arrangements were handled by Jowett Funeral Home of Port Huron.

Memorial Gifts may be given to Michigan Parkinson's Foundation.

Online condolences can be shared at
www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Grace Bible Church
Marlette, MI 48453

Tribute Wall

MJ

“ *My condolences to Rita's family. I grew up hearing many stories about Rita. My mother, Virginia Skinner (Mama Gin), loved her dearly.*

Mary Skinner Johns

Mary Skinner Johns - February 18, 2017 at 10:24 AM

PH

“ *Port Huron Schools Finance & HR purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mrs. Rita L. Knopf.*



Port Huron Schools Finance & HR - February 16, 2017 at 10:07 AM

LF

“ *Love, Sherry, Jeff, Aunt Louise and our families. purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Rita L. Knopf.*



Love, Sherry, Jeff, Aunt Louise and our families. - February 15, 2017 at 04:44 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rita L. Knopf.*



February 15, 2017 at 03:12 PM

BT

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom. With prayers, Barb and Mitch Tousley

Barb and Mitch Tousley - February 09, 2017 at 05:06 PM

CL

“ It was my life changing day when I met Rita (Reet). Our children were in nursery school together and she encouraged me to get involved by doing the newsletter. She was good at pulling the best out of people while she herself worked tirelessly to establish a Sweet Adeline chapter in Lapeer. "Do you like to sing," she would say and the rest was history. Our husbands became fast friends while our children grew up together and of course, we sang together for years. Rita was so humble and modest she didn't like the title of "chapter founder", She taught me and so many other women to love barbershop harmony. We had such fun together and I learned so much from her about life. I will miss her deeply and cherish our memories. My sympathy to her families. Carol Lyons

Carol Lyons - February 07, 2017 at 01:02 PM