



Rita M. (Rocheleau) Winter

April 29, 1931 - June 7, 2021

Rita M. (Rocheleau) Winter, 90, of East Peoria, passed away on June 7, 2021 at her home. She was born on April 29, 1931 in Lowell, MA to Edmond and Yvonne (Plante) Rocheleau; the oldest daughter of 10 siblings. She met Conley C. "Con" Winter in Lowell, MA while he was stationed in the Army at Fort Devens. They married on May 1, 1954 and returned to Illinois; he preceded her in death on October 27, 2003.

She is survived by her daughters Cathy (Daniel) Cook of Troy, MO and Gayla (Dee) Winter of East Peoria; her daughter-in-law Geraldine Winter of East Peoria; her grandchildren Christopher (Rachel) Winter of Freeland, MI, Ryan (Kathryn) Winter of Arlington Heights, Stephanie Winter of Peoria, Danielle (Matthew) Martin of Lake St. Louis, MO, Kyle (Natalie) Cook of Missouri, Karl (Andi) Cook of Missouri, and Eric (Rhonda) Hand of Lewiston; 12 great grandchildren; and her sisters Shirley Carignan of New Ipswich, NH and Joan Gallagher of Lowell, MA.

She was preceded in death by her son Conley C. Winter, Jr.; four brothers; and 2 sisters.

Rita's number one job was homemaker and family cheerleader. While supporting Con as they established their own insurance agency raising their 3 children, she enjoyed school Mother's Club, sporting events, and school activities. She was also a member of the Red Hat Society and Blessed Sacrament Church in Morton. In quiet times, you could find her reading a good murder mystery or doing a word search. You were lucky if she let you sit

and work at her puzzle table with her. She loved to travel; visiting many locations with family and friends and her Florida home. Family was her greatest joy. She was known as the “family secret keeper”—always listening, never telling. Having an inground pool always insured there would be family and friends to visit with during the summers. She enjoyed watching her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews learn to swim, even though she didn’t. A good card game with family or friends was lively and you didn’t dare try to cheat. She was a loving, compassionate, kind, gentle soul.

Special thank you to our home care givers, who became family, that helped us keep her healthier, happier, and longer.

Funeral services will be on Saturday, June 12 at 11:00 AM at Blessed Sacrament Church in Morton, with visitation at the church an hour prior to the service. Msgr. Gerald Ward will officiate. Burial will be at Roberts Cemetery in Morton. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family.

Memorials may be made to the www.alz.org or www.breesgift.com. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com .

Cemetery Details

Roberts Cemetery

300 W. Jefferson
Morton, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
233 East Greenwood Street
Morton, IL

Funeral Mass

JUN 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
233 East Greenwood Street
Morton, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Rita M. (Rocheleau) Winter*

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita M. (Rocheleau) Winter.*



June 12, 2021 at 10:30 AM



“ *Gayla (Coach):*

So sorry to hear of your mother's death. I remember you taking the volleyball team to her house to swim. She was so kind and gracious to us rowdy teenagers. I will keep you in my thoughts and hope that your pain fades to good memories quickly. Take care of yourself.

Amy Wittekiend

Amy - June 10, 2021 at 12:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rita M. (Rocheleau) Winter.*



June 10, 2021 at 10:44 AM

CM

“ In the late 1980s, I joined the Con Winter Insurance Agency "family", and stayed for 5 years. I was honored to know this special and kind soul. Rita and Con, Sr. became very special to me as I worked my first 'grownup' job. I learned many things during this time, but what I remember most is Rita's kind words and laughter. It comforts me to know that Rita is now with her son, Con, Jr. and with Con, Sr. Hugs and prayers to the Winter Family during this difficult time.

Cherie (Sunderland) Montgomery

Cherie Montgomery - June 10, 2021 at 10:27 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita M. (Rocheleau) Winter.



June 10, 2021 at 12:12 AM

VI

“ I can remember hanging out at Rita's with the family. She was a beautiful woman with a kind heart. So sorry for your great loss Our prayers go out for you.
Vicky and Perry

Vicky - June 09, 2021 at 09:47 PM

PW

“ Rita was a special lady, she always always always put family first. We spent many Friday nights playing Skip bo. She will be greatly missed by our family, our memories of Rita will be a blessing.

Peggy Winter - June 09, 2021 at 03:49 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rita M. (Rocheleau) Winter.*



June 09, 2021 at 03:06 PM



“ *It was an honor knowing and caring for Rita. I enjoyed every visit we had, and she could always make me smile. I believe I was one of the lucky ones that got to help her with a puzzle. I spent many afternoons attempting to help her work through a puzzle, though I don't think I made much progress!! Rest peacefully Rita, it was a joy knowing you. Thank you for always being kind to me.*
Love,
Courtney Reynolds

Courtney Reynolds - June 08, 2021 at 09:52 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita M. (Rocheleau) Winter.*



June 08, 2021 at 09:45 PM

JL

“ Rita was my sister before my baby sister was born. I remember the day she came into our lives. It had to scare her to death. Her alone entering a family of 9. She has always been in our lives and will be sad that our card parties and domino parties will be so different. She was master of both and kept everyone in line. Love you Rita will miss you so very much. You have finished your mission here on earth. I know the Lord will not condone poker in heaven but I am sure he will allow you and mom to play SkipBo!

Jackie

Jackie Lents - June 08, 2021 at 09:17 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Rita M. (Rocheleau) Winter.



June 08, 2021 at 08:25 PM

MB

“ Rita was my sister-in-law but I loved her like a sister. We always had a standing joke she would tell me she has been a Winter longer than me and I would tell her i was an orginal then we would both laugh. You will be greatly missed our lifes will never be the same RIP sweet sweet Rita Melody

Melody Winter Barkdoll - June 08, 2021 at 08:23 PM