



Rita C. Stevens

July 1, 1930 - February 23, 2021

Rita Constance Stevens (nee Kapuscinski) was born July 1, 1930 to Theodore, a Detroit Police Officer and Genevieve (nee Dombrowski) Kapuscinski, a dance instructor and seamstress in Detroit, Michigan. She was the second born child behind her older brother Thaddeus (“Ted”). The Family had its beginnings in the Detroit’s “Poletown” area on the lower east-side on Grandy Street. Rita was baptized at Poletown’s Immaculate Conception parish August 3, 1930. A few years later, the family settled near Van Dyke at Outer Drive, one of the early families that built Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish. Rita attended Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish and grade school with her brother Ted. She graduated from Dominican High School receiving her diploma on June 8, 1947. She was involved with music, choir, theatre, and also played on the cathedral girls basketball team. After graduation, Rita attended Marygrove College, class of 1951, earning her Bachelor of Music Degree with highest honors in 1951. In her younger years she enjoyed her friends and family life—particularly traveling with her brother Ted’s Major League Baseball career with the Detroit Tigers in the early 1950’. She also enjoyed her summer in the mid 1950’s traveling all over Europe.

In the 1960s, Rita met fellow teacher Thomas Stevens and they married at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church on July 27, 1967. Their only son Todd was born June 22, 1968 and they build their home in 1970 in Harrison Twp, MI, parishioners at St. Hubert Church.

Rita was an educator for the Detroit Public Schools for 36 years teaching

music to high school students and teaching kindergarten. She received numerous merit awards, commendations, and outstanding recognition for accomplishments in both music and early childhood/kindergarten education. She also received awards through extracurricular involvement in music organizations, associations, and regional events. Well-known, liked, and respected for her abilities, she was asked by producers and directors on Broadway in New York City to compose music and orchestration arrangements, but she chose to continue teaching and live in Detroit to be with her family. She taught at several schools on Detroit's east side, with most of her years at Grant Elementary School in the Van Dyke and Nevada neighborhood.

Rita loved and enjoyed her teaching career, music, family, friends, and parish dearly. She liked playing golf, cards (poker and pinochle), and completing her New York Times crossword puzzles. She also enjoyed cocktail hour and watching classic movies. Very close to her granddaughters, she rarely missed their sporting and music events. A devout Roman Catholic, she was dedicated to her daily living rosary. She was very proud of her Polish-American heritage. She was a very talented, intelligent, and fun-loving woman. She was undoubtedly herself; full of life, love, humor, faith, and kindness. She left a lasting legacy of love and memories to her family.

Rita was the loving wife of the late Thomas, dear mother of Todd (Laura) dear grandmother of Elizabeth and Claire and loving sister of the late Thaddeus "Ted" (the late Joan) Kapuscinski. She was also the aunt of Michael Kapuscinski, Katie Tomlian, Margaret "Peggy" Kwiatkowski, and the late Thaddeus "Cookie" Jr. Kapuscinski.

Visitation Friday, February 26, 2021 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Wasik Funeral Home, 49150 Schoenherr Rd. (N. of 22 Mile Rd.) Shelby Township. Funeral Saturday, February 27, 2021 at St. Hubert Catholic Church 38775 Prentiss St. Harrison Township, instate 10:00 am until time of Mass 11:00 am.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **26**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Visitation

FEB **27**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Hubert Catholic Church
38775 Prentiss
Harrison Township, Mi

Funeral Mass

FEB **27**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Hubert Catholic Church
38775 Prentiss
Harrison Township, Mi

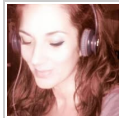
Tribute Wall



“ Wasik Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rita C. Stevens



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - February 26, 2021 at 04:31 PM



So sorry to hear about the passing of my kindergarten teacher. Loved her so.

Lisa Aneed-Wiegand

Lisa Aneed-wiegand - May 09, 2021 at 07:39 AM



We remember our beloved teacher. Some many memories. A full life. Many contributions made. Went to the same church. Married the same year. Now united with family.

Jim and Rosemary LaVoie - May 09, 2021 at 08:38 AM



So sad to hear my favorite music teacher whom i adored and looked up to has passed on to Heaven. May you rest in the Lords arms and sing beautifully with the Angels.

Denise (Sulki) Wiley - May 09, 2021 at 10:48 AM

MB

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Steven. She was our music teacher at Grant Elem. & Jr. High School in Detroit, Michigan. I attended Grant School from 1950-1965. She was a brilliant music teacher and knew her students' voices well. And we dared NOT remove our eyes from her while we performed on stage for holidays and events. My favorite song she taught us was "This Is Michigan Week... and from all over the state we're celebrating. We're happy as can be..." I could never find that song on the internet to day. God bless you Mrs. Stevens. You were a wonderful brilliant music teacher!

Michaelene Buczak - August 02, 2023 at 04:33 PM

MB

“ 4 files added to the album Photos



Michaelene Buczak - August 02, 2023 at 04:05 PM

BN

“ Bob Nido lit a candle in memory of Rita C. Stevens



bob nido - May 09, 2021 at 07:28 PM

LA

“ Sad to hear that my kindergarten teacher passed away. ❤️🙏
Lisa Aneed-Wiegand

Lisa Aneed - May 09, 2021 at 07:47 AM

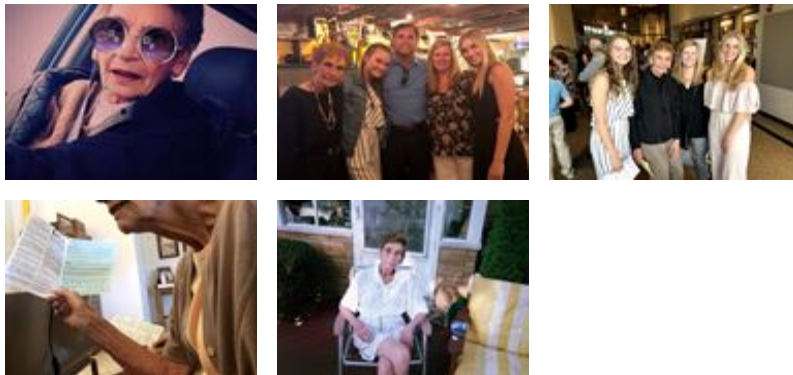
MS

“ Todd, sorry to hear about the passing away of your mother. Michael
Skrzypczak, Archdiocese of Detroit.

Michael Skrzypczak - February 26, 2021 at 05:41 PM



“ 84 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - February 26, 2021 at 03:59 PM



“ Loving Grace was purchased for the family of
Rita C. Stevens.



February 24, 2021 at 08:01 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita C. Stevens.



February 24, 2021 at 07:53 PM



“ I had the privilege and pleasure of working with Rita at Grant school in Detroit for many years. I was a young teacher and she and several others of the teachers took me under their wing and help me feel right at home. She was an amazing teacher and an amazing friend. I have great memories of her Tom and Todd. She was so proud of Todd and his beautiful family. Heaven will never be the same with her organizing golf outings ,musical numbers and skits.She certainly left her mark on the world
Anne Marie Gherardini

Anne Gherardini - February 24, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rita C. Stevens.



February 24, 2021 at 12:49 PM

RK

“ I was so sorry to hear about Rita she was the spark that lit the fire under us girls at the Black River Ladies Invatational . I enjoyed golfing with her and sharing great conversation over lunch. I pray for comfort and peace for her family. She was my friend and I will miss her. God be with you Rita till we meet again. Roberta Kitchens

Roberta kitchens - February 24, 2021 at 10:51 AM

DW

My favorite teacher at Grant School. I loved to hear her sing and play the piano. Praying for comfort to the family. Heaven gained another Angel.

Denise (Sulki) Wiley

Denise (Sulki) Wiley - May 09, 2021 at 10:54 AM