



Rita A. Atkinson

November 13, 1931 - January 14, 2026

Rita A. Atkinson, 94 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at the Little Falls Care Center in Little Falls, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Little Falls, MN with Father Patrick Hoeft officiating. Burial will take place in the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Cemetery in Little Falls, MN. Visitation will be held from 9-11 A.M. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Little Falls, MN. Caring for Rita and her family is the LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls, MN.

To join Rita's funeral via livestream, please click the following link: <https://my.gather.app/remember/rita-atkinson>

Rita Atkinson was born in Bowlus, Minnesota, to the late Joseph and Frances (Gallus) Schwientek. She grew up in the Bowlus area and graduated from St. Francis High School with the Class of 1949. She was united in marriage to Richard Atkinson on May 7, 1951, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Flensburg, Minnesota. Together they made their home in Upsala, Minnesota, for several years before moving to Little Falls in 1964, where Rita lived until her health declined and she later moved to a care home. Rita devoted her life to raising and caring for her ten children, a role she embraced with unwavering love, patience, and dedication. Family was the center of her life,

and she had a special love for the many babies born into her family, her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Each one dearly loved and cherished by her. A woman of deep faith, Rita was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and lived her strong Catholic faith daily through kindness, humility, and service to others. She was known for always seeing the good in everyone and never speaking a bad word about anyone. Rita was a wonderful cook and found great joy in preparing meals for her family. She was an excellent seamstress who loved embroidering and crocheting. With great care and love, she made a quilt for each of her grandchildren and created many clothing outfits for both her children and grandchildren, treasured gifts that will continue to be cherished for generations. Rita also had a competitive spirit and greatly enjoyed playing bingo and card games, always playing to win. Rita will be remembered for her gentle heart, quiet strength, devotion to faith and family, and the love she gave so freely to all who knew her.

She is survived by children, Sharon (Alan) Petrich, Debi (Duane) Bobick, Diane (Wayne) Pruszinske, Greg (Sheri) Atkinson, Sandy (Rob) Wilczek, Linda (Jim Jr.) Hilmerson, Richard Jr. (Terry) Atkinson, Robert (Lidia) Atkinson, Pam (Karl) Gillingham and Scott Atkinson; siblings, Josephine Schneider, Stella McGraw, Karlene (Bill) Herbrand and Roger Schwientek; 31 grandchildren, 70 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

Rita was preceded in death by parents, Joseph and Frances Schwientek; husband, Richard Atkinson Sr; siblings, Lois West, Mary Ann Cipala, Elaine Rodseth, BJ Schwientek and Allen Schwientek; and infant grandchildren, Matthew and Dalona.

Cemetery Details

Our Lady Of Lourdes Cemetery

Highway 27
Little Falls, MN 56345

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Church
208 West Broadway
Little Falls, MN 56345

--

Funeral Mass

JAN 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Church
208 West Broadway
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall

TC

“ *The Cofells purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rita A. Atkinson.*



The Cofells - January 19 at 05:25 PM

TC

“ *The Cofells planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita A. Atkinson.*

The Cofells - January 19 at 05:25 PM

TS

“ *So sorry to hear of mom's passing. May God be with her and the family 🙏❤️*



Tonja Stranger - January 19 at 05:01 PM

RW

“ *Tara and family so sorry for your loss those grandmas and greatgrandma are so special. Condolences to all of Rita's family*



Ruth Witucki - January 19 at 02:20 PM

AW

“ Rita's children you had a very sweet mom. Always had a smile for everyone. Now Rita and Richard are back together enjoying each other.

AnnaMae and Dennis Woltman - January 19 at 10:15 AM

YF

“ Your Foster Klima Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Rita A. Atkinson.



Your Foster Klima Family - January 19 at 07:50 AM

YF

“ Your Foster Klima Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita A. Atkinson.

Your Foster Klima Family - January 19 at 07:50 AM

MR

“ Mary Jo Retka lit a candle in memory of Rita A. Atkinson



Mary Jo Retka - January 18 at 07:34 PM

GJ

“ Gary & Jane purchased the *Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum* for the family of Rita A. Atkinson.



Gary & Jane - January 18 at 06:55 PM

GJ

“ Gary & Jane planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita A. Atkinson.

Gary & Jane - January 18 at 06:55 PM

CM

“ Claudette M Moran lit a candle in memory of Rita A. Atkinson



Claudette M Moran - January 17 at 08:38 PM

VD

“ Virgil, Bonnie, Joan, Karen and Dale purchased the *Country Basket Blooms* for the family of Rita A. Atkinson.



Virgil, Bonnie, Joan, Karen and Dale - January 17 at 09:49 AM

DA

“ Darrell & Anna lit a candle in memory of Rita A. Atkinson



Darrell & Anna - January 17 at 07:58 AM

DA

Sending our condolences to the Atkinson family

Darrell - January 17 at 07:58 AM

KK

“ Sounds like a wonderful lady. Sending prayers of healing your way



Ken and Kathy Garrison Kloss - January 16 at 09:27 PM

TL

“ The Lyters purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Rita A. Atkinson.



The Lyters - January 16 at 08:29 PM

TL

“ The Lyters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita A. Atkinson.

The Lyters - January 16 at 08:29 PM

DS

“ *Dore' Schneider-Arnold lit a candle in memory of Rita A. Atkinson*



Dore' Schneider-Arnold - January 16 at 02:03 PM

SA

“ *Steve and Joanne Atkinson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rita A. Atkinson.*



Steve and Joanne Atkinson - January 16 at 11:30 AM

LK

“ *Sorry about your mom.* 🙏



Lori krebs - January 16 at 02:21 AM

DW

“ *So sorry of the loss of your Mom!! May she R I P*



Dolores L Wielinski - January 15 at 11:56 PM

CL

“ We are so very sorry for your devastating loss
Sympathy,love and prayers
Charlie and Dianne Ledbetter



Charlie and Dianne Ledbetter - January 15 at 10:02 PM

DW

“ Duane Witucki lit a candle in memory of Rita
A. Atkinson



Duane Witucki - January 15 at 09:01 PM

EH

“ Ernie And Denise Hegna sent a virtual gift in
memory of Rita A. Atkinson



Ernie and Denise Hegna - January 15 at 07:07 PM

RS

“ Deepest sympathy to you all. May she rest in
peace.



Renae Schneider - January 15 at 06:40 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita A. Atkinson.*



January 15 at 06:35 PM



“ *Jerome Gassert, Lance, Brittany and Hugo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita A. Atkinson.*

Jerome Gassert, Lance, Brittany and Hugo - January 15 at 06:35 PM



“ *To the Atkinson Family. Cute picture of your mom. Keep all the fun times and great memories close. Share them often. Remember when..... Rest in peace, Rita.*



Darrol & Judi Zak Ficek - January 15 at 04:48 PM