



Rita Rene Nayquonabe

December 4, 1953 - May 9, 2017

Rita Nayquonabe, 63-year-old resident of Onamia, MN Passed away on May 9, 2017 at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, MN. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 12, 2017 at St. Therese Little Flower Catholic Church in Vineland, MN with Father Jerry Schik, OSC officiating. Visitation will be held 1 hr. prior to Mass at church. Interment will be in St. Therese Little Flower Catholic Cemetery. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

The Lord gained another angel on Tuesday, May 9. Rita Rene Nayquonabe, age 63 of Onamia, suffered a stroke and after spending a week at North Memorial in Robbinsdale – surrounded by her loved ones – she walked on to meet God. Rita was born on December 4, 1953 to Maurus and Rose Wohlers in Graceville, Minn. Her love and care for people was evident from little on up that she decided to pursue a degree in nursing. She graduated as a LPN and became a nurse in the Onamia area where she met and spent her years with the love of her life Joe Nayquonabe. She spent her 40 year professional career caring for Mille Lacs Band members and others at Ne-la-Shing clinic where she was the longest serving health and human services practitioner in the history of the Mille Lacs Band. She loved church and was a staple at St. Therese Little Flower Church where she sang her heart out for many years. Her favorite song was “Amazing Grace.” She married Joseph Nayquonabe in 1973 in a beautiful Catholic ceremony in front of her childhood parishioners of Graceville, Minn. She and Joe were joined at the hip for the next 43+ years

where they made their dream come true of raising a great family around the idea that hard work and love can create beauty. She loved her family and taught her six living children (Peter, Jessi, Joseph Jr., Nolan, Johanna, and Stanley) how to love, the value of faith and the importance of caring for one another. She also had one heck of a jump shot and taught many of the kids how to play basketball. She and Joe had two other children (Marcus and Tammy) that passed away young. She spoke fondly of them often and loved them dearly. She enjoyed golf, bowling, dance hall, and her soap opera (Days of our Lives).

Rita is survived by her husband, Joe Nayquonabe; daughters, Jessi and Johanna; sons, Peter (Shannon), Joseph (Christina), Nolan and Stanley (Jamie); Grandchildren, MacKenzie, Madison, Alexander, Bella, William, Carter, Jordan, Aiva, Kennedy, Kayla, Brooklyn, Jayden, Mark, Jalissa, Jasmine, Phoenix-Rose, Emery, Avery, McKinley, Xiana, Stanley, Jr., Isaiah, Claire and Jeremy, Jr.; brothers, Maurus, Jr. (Carol) and Jim; sisters, Betty (Robert) Siefert, MaryAnn (Paul) Kellen, Irene (Dick) Herrig, Theresa Baroh, Cathy (Wayne) Huseby, Janet (Sid) Vogelbacher, Pam (Jim) Stotesbery; sister in-laws, Judy and Susan Wohlers; good friend, Sarah Barten; daughter, Kristina Loken; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents, Maurus and Rose and brothers, Dan and Ben.

Cemetery Details

St. Therese Little Flower Cemetery

43600 Highway 169
Onamia, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Therese Little Flower Church
43600 Highway 169
Onamia, MN 56359

Service

MAY 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Therese Little Flower Church
43600 Highway 169
Onamia, MN 56359

Tribute Wall



“ *Rita Rene Nayquonabe*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Prayers for Rita's family at this difficult time. Although it's been many years since Rita and I made trips from Onamia to Graceville and Browns Valley, when I think of the trips it brings a smile to my face. We spent many hours giggling and talking always good memories. I know Rita was so proud of her family and is smiling on you now . Melody*



melody gruby - May 19, 2017 at 09:09 AM

LN

“ Hello Joe....Peter, Nolan, jess, Joey, Johanna,and Stan. Tomorrow Is Mother's Day and I would like to tell you of your mom... that I knew. She was so pleasing to talk with as she dropped of jess at our home for religion classes.....we just had so many good chats, as I didn't have very many other moms to chat with. Then when I joined the ambulance service and was called to the clinic at Nay- Ah-shing, it was a comfort to see your mom and to hear what we were there for. I don't believe I ever left without us hugging and wishing each other a good day.

Life was different for moms back then and we did our best and loved you all every minute....

I just wanted to let you all know, that some of you, that I had been fortunate enough to know are like a part of me.....I will keep you in prayer, as I know your mom would want me to. Hang in there kids....Know that your mom loved you dearly, no matter what. And Joe, I am so very sorry for your loss too.

Lisa Nicholas

Lisa Nicholas - May 13, 2017 at 07:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



May 11, 2017 at 05:04 PM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



May 11, 2017 at 03:59 PM



“ *Glorious Memories Garland was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



May 11, 2017 at 03:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



May 11, 2017 at 03:46 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



May 11, 2017 at 03:45 PM

JS

“ James, Tara, Parker, Dru, and Carsyn Stotesbery purchased the *Pretty Please* for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.



James, Tara, Parker, Dru, and Carsyn Stotesbery - May 11, 2017 at 02:08 PM

YF

“ Your brothers and sisters (The Wohlers family) purchased the *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.



Your brothers and sisters (The Wohlers family) - May 11, 2017 at 02:01 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.



May 11, 2017 at 01:46 PM



“ *Heart's Companion Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.



May 11, 2017 at 12:47 PM

MF

“ *Maurie & Carol Wohlers & family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



Maurie & Carol Wohlers & family - May 11, 2017 at 11:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



May 11, 2017 at 11:29 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



May 10, 2017 at 10:19 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



May 10, 2017 at 09:11 PM

TM

“ *The Managers & Staff at DoubleTree St. Paul MN purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Rita Rene Nayquonabe.*



The Managers & Staff at DoubleTree St. Paul MN - May 10,
2017 at 07:27 PM