



Rita C. Steele

November 14, 1937 - November 24, 2016

Rita C. Steele, 79, of Peoria Heights, passed away at her home at 11:45 pm Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Nov. 14, 1937 in Peoria to Hugh and Rosetta Canney Carney. She married Robert Shelton, he preceded her in death. She later married Archdeacon John "Jack" F. Steele in Peoria on Aug. 1, 1981. He preceded her in death on May 14, 2006. She was also preceded in death by her parents; son, Bill Shelton; and granddaughter, Jamie.

Surviving are three children, Julie (David) Elsey, Tom (Theresa) Shelton, Chris (Deb) Shelton; 6 step-children; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and her sister, Mary (Richard) Heller.

Rita was a nanny for over 20 years having a gift of great maternal instinct touching the lives of all the children she came in contact with and will be dearly missed.

She was a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Peoria Heights where a Funeral Mass for her will be held at 11 am Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016 with Fr. Paul Stark officiating. Visitation will be from 9:30 to 11am Tuesday morning prior to the Mass at the church. Cremation rites will be accorded following services with inurnment in the Columbarium at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Peoria at a later date. Deiters Funeral Home and Crematory in Washington is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be made to the St. Thomas Food Bank. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. John Shallat for all of his loving care.

Cemetery Details

St. Michael and All Angels Church Columbarium

Peoria, IL 61614

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
904 East Lake Avenue
Peoria Heights, IL

Funeral Mass

NOV **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
904 East Lake Avenue
Peoria Heights, IL

Tribute Wall

DK

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Desiree Kettler - December 01, 2016 at 02:59 PM

DK

I'll never forget Rita coming to my house the first time, in early 1990. She was actually the chauffeur for her daughter-in-law, who was interviewing to be our Nanny. During the interview, my 3 week old, Paul, got fussy, so Rita offered to take him so I could continue the interview. She quickly turned Paul over and layed him onto her knees and swayed them back and forth and rubbed his back. He immediately calmed down! As the interview ended and they were walking out, she mentioned to me that if I didn't hire her daughter-in-law, would I consider hiring her? That was a golden moment in my life and the start of a 5 year relationship with Rita as our Nanny. She went through many trials with us and us with her. Somewhere along the way she said to me, "I never thought I could love someone else's children as my own, but I DO love your boys!" We had no doubt she did. We had no doubt she even loved us - the parents! We moved to NC in 1995 and Rita moved on to the next family and the next, etc. She had found her calling - to love these babies for the families who couldn't have stay-at-home parents. She made those 5 years of life such a joy. Ultimately, she lost her Jack in 2006 and I lost my Dave 1 year later and when we reunited after that for a visit, we cried and hugged and loved one another through our shared experience as widows. Thank you Rita for your love. Your new "perfect permanent home" in heaven is undoubtedly celebrating your reunion with Jack and with your son Bill. I have NO doubt that my hubby Dave also stood in line to greet you! You will always hold a special place in my heart ~ Desiree Kettler

Desiree Kettler - December 01, 2016 at 03:11 PM

JE

So beautiful. Thank you for sharing your story. We love you. Julie

julie elsey - December 03, 2016 at 09:46 AM

PH

“ *A beautiful and caring soul with a kind heart. So glad our paths crossed. You will be missed. Fly high angel.*

Patricia Honey - November 27, 2016 at 03:13 PM