



Juanita Ritsema

May 19, 1933 - February 19, 2018

Juanita Ritsema, age 84 of Zeeland, is walking with angels after being welcomed into the arms of her savior Jesus on Monday, February 19, 2018. Juanita was a loving mother and grandmother and enjoyed time with her family. She also enjoyed traveling with her family as well as her many friends. She was an active member of First Reformed Church in Zeeland and was involved with Fishers of Men and other ministries. Juanita worked for more than 30 years at Bristol Myers. Juanita was preceded in death by her son, Jeffrey Brian Ritsema and her grandson, Kelly Joel Ritsema. Juanita is survived by her son, Greg (Mary) Ritsema; daughter, Lin Harvard; daughter-in-law, Sharon Ritsema; grandchildren: Jenna (Jeff) DeVries, Kyle Ritsema, Allison Harvard and Abbey Harvard. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews. A memorial service to honor Juanita's life and faith will take place at 11:00 am on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at First Reformed Church, 125 Lincoln Ave, Zeeland, MI 49464. Memorial contributions are to Hospice of Holland, Hand2Hand, Pantry Project or to Zero Gravity at First Reformed Church. The family is being served by the Yntema Funeral Home. www.yntemafh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Juanita Ritsema*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Hope you and Jeff are forever together! Think of you often and especially thinking of you today. Love, Kyle and Sharon"*

A friend - February 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Nita, You were the best mom in law I could have ever wanted and most of all a very loving mom and grandma! I remember Jeff telling me right before the first time I met you how great he thought you and I would get along...he was right. When Jeff was ill, you, Greg, Mary and Linda were constantly helping and supporting us...I felt so grateful and fortunate to have all of you during that very difficult time. I miss your's and Margaret's yearly visits to Florida to visit Kyle and I. I had always wished we were able to get together more often. I miss Jeff and his Hollywood smile so much and of course have always wished Kyle had known him. I am so glad Kyle had the opportunity to come visit you the week before you passed and was able to reconnect with his Michigan family! We will forever miss you Grandma Nita."*

Sharon Ritsema - February 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Just heard Juanita passed away. My sympathy jo the family. Shirley DeVries231 Parkside Dr"*

Shirley DeVries - February 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JD

“I was just remembering a standing date that Aunt Nita had with my mother. Laura Van Kley Van Dyke. Every year just after the Labor Day weekend , the Grape and Wine festival is held in Paw Paw and the surrounding area. Aunt Nita would drive down on Saturday to attend with Mom . Most of the time it was a weekend overnight stay because the festivities in the area lasted for two days. Most often I tagged along during the day. I enjoyed hearing them reminace about their family and lives as the walked among the vendors and explored the antique flea market and book sales. Both loved to read and they each came away with a bag of books to peak their interest for another year and help pass their spare hours. After Mom passed Aunt Nita and I continued to meet for a Saturday afternoon of the festival. We enjoy it but as iit was such a big day it became more difficult for her. My family and their activities also interfered as I had two places I wanted to be. So we stopped the annual shopping ritual. We continue to meet for a visit whenever it worked out. For awhile we included Uncle Tyke and I drove to Zeeland. But then both of them had health problems and things changed. I will miss Aunt Nita as I do Uncle Tyke. But I have those treasured visits still.”

Joan Van Dyke - February 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CV

“We extend our deepest sympathy to our Aunt Nita's family. She meant so much to us and we will never forget her. We are sorry that we will be unable to attend Aunt Nita's funeral as we are in Florida with our family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Craig & Jeannie VanDyke and Family”

Craig VanDyke - February 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DR

“To Greg and Mary and Linda and rest of family. You have my deepest sympathy and may God comfort you.”

Donna Ritsema - February 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ME

“Our sympathy to you all. How comforting to know she is now the best she ever has been!
Hoping your memories will sustain you until you meet again.
Brad and Marianne”

Marianne Essing - February 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JG

“My mom Laura was right there when Nita was born at home. She was able to cuddle Nita in her bed right after her birth. No wonder the two sisters had a close bond and that I knew Nita as a very special aunt. She was loved by us all our lives. We have wonderful memories of times together that we cherish. Aunt Nita will be missed. But we do have memories that we get to keep. They remind us of her love.”

Joan Grosvenor - February 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PA

“Dear Greg and Linda, Our very deepest sympathies to you and your family. I have many fond memories of good times together when we were kids. She'll always be in our hearts. Jeff, as well.”

Patti - February 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM