



Anita Louise Rittelmeyer

March 20, 1963 - December 2, 2018

Anita Louise Rittelmeyer, 55, of Winchester died December 2, 2018 in Winchester Medical Center.

She was born on March 20, 1963 in Evansville, Indiana to Louis and Patricia Rittelmeyer. She was a long time resident of Winchester after completing graduate studies in Education at Trinity University and undergraduate studies at Georgetown University.

She was a strong advocate for the disabled, especially children, and all special needs students. She is well remembered by many grateful students and parents in the Winchester area.

She is survived by her daughter, Victoria (Tori) Patricia Rittelmeyer; her brothers James and his wife Carol; Frederick and his wife Debra; Paul; John and his wife Jennifer; Bill and his wife Young-Suk; and Bob and his spouse Doug, and a number of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Friends will gather on Saturday, December 8, 2018 from 4-6:00 pm at Phelps Funeral Chapel, 311 Hope Drive, Winchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Blue Ridge Habitat for Humanity or the Winchester Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Phelps Funeral & Cremation Service

311 Hope Dr

Winchester, VA 22601

(540) 722-2424

travislnesselrodt@gmail.com

<https://phelpsfunerals.com>

Tribute Wall

AL

“ Anita was a big part of my formative years at Stoneridge Farm in Great Falls, VA. We loved our horses more than anything, and being that she was a few years older, my buddies and I looked up to her. She challenged us, angered us and set high expectations. We learned how to care for a barn full of horses, from cleaning stalls and feeding everyone to managing health and medicines. Getting us out to horse shows was the best! Anita was the one we all watched, a beautiful rider on a lovely horse. She coached and critiqued us, and expected nothing but the best.

Thank you Anita. You are forever in my heart, with the fondest of memories.

Andrea Leal

Andrea Leal - January 18, 2019 at 01:14 PM

DS

“ She was a wonderful lady. I worked with her at Handley and she was so dependable and dedicated in her role as a substitute. A wonderful mother also to her daughter. Great lady.

Donald Finley Sr.

Donald Finley Sr. - December 07, 2018 at 08:00 PM

PR

“ I thought I posted this earlier, but I don't see it here. Anyway, I bought a modest flower arrangement in Tori's name in memory of her mother. I was going to buy another one for the Rittelmeyer family. But in accordance with Anita's wishes, I donated that money to the local SPCA.

Rest in peace, little sister. You deserve it.

Paul, one of the brothers.

Paul Rittelmeyer - December 07, 2018 at 06:58 PM

BC

I just found out about Anita's passing. I'm sorry I didn't find out sooner. Sending my condolences. I will keep everyone in my prayers especially Tori. Soo hard to lose a mom at such a young age. Please let me know if I can help in any way

Betsy Conner - December 29, 2018 at 08:49 AM

PR

“ I bought a modest bouquet of flowers on Tori's behalf in memory of her mother. I was going to buy a second bouquet in the name of the family, but in accordance with Anita's final wishes, I will donate that money to the local SPCA. Rest in Peace my generous little sister.

Paul, one of the brothers.

Paul Rittelmeyer - December 07, 2018 at 10:49 AM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Anita Louise Rittelmeyer.*



December 07, 2018 at 10:44 AM



“ *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27*

Love, Jennice, Michelle, Braden and Jasmine Hyatt (Haymarket, VA)

Michelle - December 06, 2018 at 10:51 AM



“ *Michelle sent a virtual gift in memory of Anita Louise Rittelmeyer*



Michelle - December 06, 2018 at 10:48 AM



“ *We fought and loved as sisters... I will miss you more than I ever imagined.* ”



Felicity Lynch - December 05, 2018 at 05:46 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All Pink was purchased for the family of Anita Louise Rittelmeyer.* ”



December 05, 2018 at 01:18 PM



“ *Bob Jacoby lit a candle in memory of Anita Louise Rittelmeyer* ”



Bob Jacoby - December 05, 2018 at 11:19 AM

FL

“ We loved and fought like sisters...the hole you've left is larger than I could have ever imagined. Until we meet again, Nita, I love you.



Felicity A Lynch - December 05, 2018 at 10:16 AM

“ Anita was the youngest of 8 children, and the only girl. Having 7 older brothers brought some protection, but, also taught her how to take care of herself. In her youth, she was an avid equestrian. She's pictured here with her first pride and joy, Indedance.

As Anita grew older, she graduated from Georgetown University and went on to get a Masters from Trinity College. She was faced with a number of challenges, some less ideal than others. She struggled with alcohol for many, many years. During this period, she moved to Winchester, and eventually brought Tori into the world, the greatest treasure of her life. She eventually gained her sobriety through the help of AA and a wonderful group of supporting friends who she cherished until the end. She went on to return to her teaching career as a substitute in and around Winchester.

Tori was now her new love. Anita became a strong advocate for Tori and other children with disabilities. As we all know, when Anita put her mind to something, not much would get in her way, and you didn't want to be in the way. You always knew where you stood with Anita. Her desire to help others expanded to helping people challenged with addiction and rescuing animals. Over time, her network grew, Tori was growing into a beautiful young lady, she maintained her sobriety and was moving forward into the best phase of her life.

Then, life dealt her a hand that was something she couldn't control or defeat, but, she gave it all she had - cancer. She shared with me that it sucked because she had finally got her act together and now this (she used some more colorful words than this).

During Anita's darker days, she had countless negative encounters with her family. But, through it all, we still loved her and supported her as best we could, without enabling her dark side. We never let the bad times interfere with the true love of family.

In the end, she peacefully passed away surrounded by an

overwhelming wave of love from Tori, a group of loving brothers, cousins, nieces and friends.

Anita will be missed, but certainly not forgotten. Tori will carry her torch forward.

Anita, my little sister, Rest in Peace. The suffering and struggle is over.

May God Bless you and the memories you leave behind.

Bill, one of the 7

Bill Rittelmeyer - December 05, 2018 at 08:37 AM

KH

Thank you for sharing her story. Anita was a great co-worker and kind to my daughter, who she helped through the years. Tori has been a shining light in our schools and community. Anita was a fierce advocate for Tori, her beliefs, and those who needed help. She will be truly missed.

Kirsten Hargis - December 06, 2018 at 10:20 PM



“ *Lisa Dodson lit a candle in memory of Anita Louise Rittelmeyer*



Lisa Dodson - December 05, 2018 at 08:14 AM

WR

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



William Rittelmeyer - December 04, 2018 at 09:08 PM

WR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



William Rittelmeyer - December 04, 2018 at 09:02 PM

BH

This is how I will always remember the two of you. I loved my interactions with Tori as a student at DMMS. Tori, you gave so much to our literature circle in sixth grade - lessons that went beyond the text book. I loved having you as a student. Your mother was always a sub whom I could trust to do a good job. More than that, she was a good and caring person. I felt very blessed when she reached out to me one day and shared about her struggles. What a joy to know she overcame them to be a strong and supportive mother, her greatest role in life. My prayers are with you!

Bethina Simpson Huddleston - December 08, 2018 at 07:45 AM