



Rita Matz

March 3, 2020

MATZ, RITA(nee Tursi) age 93, formerly of Moorestown, NJ, Forked River, NJ and Hutchinson Island, Florida died on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020.

Beloved wife of Henry. Devoted mother of Wendy Moragne, of Moorestown, NJ (husband, Perry (deceased)), Beverly Tadeu of Bethesda, MD (husband, Mack), and Lori Salemi of Dover, DE (husband, Robert). Also survived by 9 beloved grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Rita Matz was born in Camden, NJ and graduated from Camden High School in 1944. After graduation from Temple University, she taught in the Camden Public Schools for 7 years, then in the Moorestown School System in Moorestown, NJ where she lived for 37 years and where she taught for 19 years.

Mrs. Matz was a beloved and dedicated 1st grade teacher at Roberts Elementary School in Moorestown. She created a magical environment for learning, her classroom filled with hands-on learning projects, with the children's work on the walls, windows, even hanging from the ceiling. She had an open classroom with various learning stations long before the "open classroom" concept was popular. The Moorestown Public School system sent Rita to England to learn even more about this learning style and present the concepts to the Moorestown teachers in a system-wide teacher education program. Mrs. Matz was remarkable in that she could remember most all of her individual students, who they were and how they learned, decades after she taught them.

Rita retired from teaching in 1981 at 55, and she and her fun-loving adventure partner and husband, Henry, purchased an airstream, and together, they traveled around the US, Canada, and Mexico for the next five years until they found their "Paradise Island", Nettles Island, in Jensen Beach, FL. Together, they moved to Florida and resided in the winter at Nettles Island and summer in Forked River, NJ.

Rita and Henry loved to have people around them. They were the hub of a large and extended family who loved them dearly. The house was always open to everyone, regardless of how many were there. Summer in Forked River would find Rita's children and grandchildren all together for days and weeks at a time, 18 people sleeping in every nook and cranny, with Rita at the stove with a huge smile cooking up a storm, feeding everyone, organizing projects for the children as only a first grade teacher could do, while Henry took over the crabbing, fishing, boating, swimming and other outdoor adventures.

Rita had a love of music and played the piano beautifully, often with Henry singing at her side. We love her dearly and will miss her beyond measure. Mass of Christian burial Sat. 10:30 am March 14th 2020 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 42 W. Main St. Moorestown, NJ. Visitation 9- 10 am Sat. at the Lewis Funeral Home, 78 E. Main St, Moorestown, NJ. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Moorestown, NJ

The family requests in lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Jude's Children's Cancer Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 <https://www.stjude.org/> or Delaware Hospice, 911 S. DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901 www.delawarehospice.org

Cemetery Details

Mt. Carmel Cemetery

Camden Ave
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Lewis Funeral Home
78 E Main St
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-0009
lewisfh@msn.com
<https://www.lewisfuneralhomemoorestown.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 14. 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel
42 West Main Street
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-0181
<http://www.olgcnj.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Rita Matz*

October 09, 2023 at 03:30 AM



“ *Rita Matz*

November 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *John, Mary Ioiu and Fazio family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rita Matz.*



John, Mary Ioiu and Fazio family - March 11, 2020 at 03:54 PM



“ *From Lenora, Rita, Renee, Eric, and Jacques purchased the Tranquil Seas for the family of Rita Matz.*



From Lenora, Rita, Renee, Eric, and Jacques - March 10, 2020 at 01:37 PM

WC

“ WE Communications purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of Rita Matz.



WE Communications - March 10, 2020 at 01:33 PM

RR

“ The thing I remember most about Rita was that she and my cousin Henry were deeply in love with each other. I can still to this day vividly remember their wedding reception at the country club. Rita looked gorgeous and Henry was so handsome that he looked as though he had just stepped out of a Hollywood movie. Rita picked a song from the movie "South Pacific; "A Wonderful Guy" which she had sung for him That festive day has resonated in my memory all these years. Whenever I hear that beautiful song I think of them both. RIP Henry and Rita. Russ Rickert

Russell Rickert - March 08, 2020 at 08:59 PM

MB

“ Wendy, Beverly, and Lori: So very sorry to hear of the passing of your lovely mother. I have vivid memories of late Christmas eve nights at your house in Moorestown, scarfing down her wonderful Christmas cookies. She was an amazing educator and and a truly good person. I hope you're all well.

Sincerely,

Mark Bodine

markbodine212@gmail.com

Mark Bodine - March 06, 2020 at 09:58 AM

AS

“ *Both Rita and Henry had such beautiful, beaming smiles. Along with their gracious and welcoming countenance they will always be remembered by this (young) member of the Matz Family...Arlene (Rickert) Snyder*

Arlene Snyder - March 05, 2020 at 06:39 PM



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



March 05, 2020 at 07:53 AM

JF

“ I was 5. She was 15. I spent so much time , when visiting, in the basket of her bike. She would take me to visit all her friends on Kenwood Ave.

But there were times when I was naughty, and she would let me know. For instance, once I discovered a treasure in her basement. It was a bag of tennis balls. And for a 7 year older, who loved baseball, this was a gift.

They had a high chimney at 1237 Kenwood Ave. I would throw the ball to the top and then catch it. But some times I missed the chimney and the roof had another ball. Must've roofed about half the bag. She gently told me , stop roofing them.

About two years ago I visited her. I took her to church. The priest went back to the old form of the mass. Back facing the attendees, I was a bit annoyed. But after Mass , she grabbed my hand, and pulled me towards the priest.

She had intended to apologize for not being able to attend church services there. But he would have none of that. He interrupted her , to say My God what a beautiful person. He saw the inner and outer of Rita,. She then went to transfer her cane o her left hand , to shake his hand.. Again, I was shocked. He kissed her on the cheek.

In all my 83 years of attending Mass, I have never seen a priest, see the soul of a woman so vividly.

She was my cousin. And one that I could never , and will never forget.

john fazio - March 04, 2020 at 05:26 PM

SM

“ Mrs. Matz was a favorite teacher of mine. She made each of us feel special. She also lived near us and as a little girl it was always a thrill to see her out in her yard and be able to wave to her.
Godspeed, Mrs. Matz.

Susan Berner Morrison
Hollywood, MD

Susan Morrison - March 04, 2020 at 10:07 AM

NG

“ Nini & Lyn Goodwin purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Rita Matz.



Nini & Lyn Goodwin - March 03, 2020 at 08:19 PM