



Rita Elizabeth Hofmann

November 3, 1926 - September 23, 2024

Rita Elizabeth Hofmann went to her reward on Sept 23, 2024 at 97 years of age. Second generation from Ireland, she was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on November 3, 1926. Her parents were Arthur Chapin Brownlee and Helen Mackin Brownlee.

She was married to Andrew Philip Hofmann from 1951 until he passed in 1997. She grew up in Westfield, New Jersey, attended Holy Trinity High School, trained to be an RN with the 'good nuns' at All Souls Hospital in Morristown NJ, received a Bachelors at Trenton State, and practiced nursing at Cornell, Mass Eye and Ear, NJ Commission for the Blind, Carrier Clinic Psychiatric Hospital and School Nurse at Immaculata High School, Somerville NJ.

With a move to Ocala in 1970, she received her Master's Degree in Nursing from USF and Masters in Education from University of Florida. Higher education was a major goal in her life and her final career was teaching nursing at Central Florida State College in Ocala for 30 years. She was a Board Member and instrumental in the founding of hospice in Ocala and a Board Member of Marion-Citrus Mental Health Center.

During World War II, she was stationed as an army nurse at the Hines Veterans Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, where she took care of the paralyzed veterans coming back from the war. As she recalled that time was one of the happiest years of her life. Her last volunteer work was with Hospice in Saint Augustine. She was a Hospice volunteer well into her 90's and was

instrumental in the founding of the Bailey Center where she passed away as one of her final wishes.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary Lou Hofmann, her son Andrew Patrick Hofmann, (Bebe) four grandchildren Chase Hofmann, Chandler Hofmann, Ben Sitten and Becca Sitten Parsons and two great grandchildren, Nora Jane and Elena Grace who was born 2 weeks before she passed....two souls passing.

Nana was a strong, high-spirited force of nature whose main focus in life was to help others and she did.

She will be interred with her husband Andrew, an Army Air Corps Veteran at the National Cemetery in Bushnell. Please continue to make contributions to your favorite charities.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ There are people we meet in life that even the thought or memory of them brings a smile and feeling of happiness. Aunt Rita and Uncle Andrew lived next door to us on Hofmann Road in Bridgewater NJ, on family property going back a couple generations. Back in the early 1960's when kids flooded that neighborhood. Aunt Rita was always fun, extremely funny, super smart, and related so well to the kids that we always felt so welcomed, an adult who seemed so interested in our trivial doings was inspiring and meant so much. Vivid and warm memories. We moved to north Jersey, and Rita and Andrew and MaryLou and Andy moved to Largo, Florida, then to Ocala - during the LBJ and Nixon years. Our visits to Ocala started in 1971, road trip in August in Dad's 1968 Dodge Coronet 440 without A/C and black vinyl interior with those stupid rear windows that only opened on an angle! We were young - going to Florida man - who cares LOL! A few more trips over the years, hitting Disney, Six Gun Territory, Stucky's, St Augustine Ripley's and Fort, Silver Springs, etc etc. And later, two motorcycle trips landing at their Ocala oasis (their A/C was the best in Marion county!). And Aunt Rita never changed - she was a delight and I always loved her sense of humor, oh my gosh did we laugh. The dynamic between her and Uncle Andrew was truly endearing. Her son Andy and I were peas and carrots in the 70's when we'd visit, and I do embrace those wonderful days and will continue to cherish the many memories. God Bless Aunt Rita - another Saint resting in peace now with Our Lord and family. Amen for Aunt Rita.



Jeff Hofmann - October 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM

MP

“ As many have stated she impacted so many lives.It indeed was a pleasure and a blessing to have had her in my life.I met her when I moved to Southwood.We had a instant connection maybe because we were both Nurses and Irish too.I wholeheartedly loved all her stories and her love for her family.Her care and compassion for people added to her uniqueness.
I enjoyed just spending time with her .
I really miss her .She enriched my life greatly.

Mary Pesner - October 06, 2024 at 10:59 AM

MM

“ It was an honor and a privilege to know Ms. Rita , she made a profound impression in my life, I'm a better person because of her. Ms. Rita had the best stories to tell!! Most of all she adored her family.

Martha Medina - October 05, 2024 at 03:35 PM

HD

“ I knew Rita since I was a little girl. I moved here from California in 2016. My aunt Mary was her neighbor and dear friend. Mrs. Rita was one of the first people I ever met moving here, and she was always the sweetest, and kindest lady I have ever known. She always puts a smile on other people's faces, and touches their hearts with her kind demeanor. I am so grateful to have known Mrs. Rita. She treated me and my little brother as though we were her own grandchildren. We will both miss her dearly and we hope from the bottom of our hearts that she now rests and peace and beyond the pearly gates. We love you Mrs. Rita. Thankyou for always shining your light on us.



Hannah Davitt - October 05, 2024 at 08:41 AM

Coleen
Carroll
Foran

“ I’m so sorry I did not know her longer. She Love to talk about playing the violin. She wanted to make sure someone special received it. She left to talk about work and her children. She showed me pictures all the time of her granddaughter and great granddaughter and son-in-law. She told me how much she loved, her son’s family. It was a pleasure to know her for the short time that I did. And she loved that I was Irish.



Coleen Carroll Foran - October 04, 2024 at 08:03 PM

KM

“ I was so pleased to have a role in encouraging Rita to move to the Southwood subdivision. She was a wonderful, fun-loving friend and neighbor. She volunteered on the social committee and led our Helping Hands efforts to meet the needs of our neighbors. We loved celebrating her milestone birthdays. She will be missed by many, but she certainly had an amazing, worthwhile life.
Kathy Mignerey

Kathy Mignerey - October 04, 2024 at 06:23 PM

JA

“ Rita was the first person I met when I moved to Southwood. I always called her “the spirit of Southwood”.She was a very special friend in my life. Jo Ann

Jo Ann - October 03, 2024 at 04:34 PM

DT

Rita was also our neighbor and my colleague at Central Florida State College. She was a kind joyous person.

Dick Talbert - October 05, 2024 at 09:37 AM

JC

My first memory of Rita was of her carting us neighborhood kids around in her 1951 Henry J. It wasn't her favorite vehicle.

John (JAC) Carroll - October 05, 2024 at 01:09 PM

GG

I knew Rita years ago when she was At Bayview, we met again a few months ago and as two old nurses we had some things in common! You were lucky to have a loving family especially your daughter Mary Lou! RIP

gail Greene - October 13, 2024 at 12:40 PM

JS

We had moved to Southwood in April of 2003. About 3 days later Rita and another lady knocked on my door to invite me to the monthly ladies luncheon. That started several years of friendship with her. She was such a special lady. She was caring and fun with a wicked sense of humor I have never known anybody like her. We had to add extra time at book club meetings because every conversation prompted one of her stories. After I moved away in 2017, we kept in touch by phone and I always made it a point to see her when I went back. Her 90th birthday party was so much fun. I will never forget her. I loved having her in my life.

Joyce Sikes - October 20, 2024 at 06:06 PM

BF

I knew Rita when my mother-in-law lived across the street from Rita & Andrew in Ocala. We visited her every time we visited in Ocala. Rita had an excellent sense of humor. We feel a sense of loss with her passing.

Bonnie Hunt Ford - November 20, 2024 at 08:13 PM