



Edith Marie Rice

September 3, 1932 - August 17, 2018

Edith M. Rice was born on September 3, 1932 in Nashville, Tennessee to Paul and Cleo Brietenmoser. She was the fifth of seven children to be born into a very poor family and learned hard work, love, and deep respect for her parents and siblings at a very young age.

In the summer of 1952, she met the one who would become the love of her life, James C. (Curt) Rice. He was dating her best friend and she his, but their double dates left the two of them laughing hysterically and enjoying each other's company more, and Curt had his eye on Edith. Once he asked her out, he told her on their first date that he was going to marry her, to which she would just laugh! However just a few months later on December 3, 1952 he did, in a quick, Justice-of-the-Peace wedding. They toasted their new bliss on the steps of the courthouse with moon pies and RC Cola, but in a few short weeks Curt had to leave to return to his duty in the Korean war as a paratrooper and leave his new bride with her family for

several months.

Once he returned home, a lack of work opportunities in the South brought them up to Michigan to find jobs. They rented a little apartment in Detroit and Edith worked as a secretary until in March, 1955 they were blessed with their first child, and Gary Phillip turning their status from couple into family. Edith stayed home to raise their little guy and in 1959 they were ready to buy their first home, a tiny little bungalow in Warren where, in November, 1960, they would welcome their daughter, Pamela, and their family became complete.

Edith was a tremendously hard worker, keeping their home and the yard meticulously clean so that as Curt returned from work each day, he could rest for the rest of the night if he wanted to. She put out a full, family meal with all the trimmings every night. Her life was her family and creating a happy home for each one of us. In 1964 they would buy the home next store while renting out their previous one. Later, she and Curt would purchase two other homes on their street to renovate and rent out. This allowed Curt to cultivate his passion of home renovation. They were the original "house flippers." They worked together extremely well, Curt making messes to cultivate beauty, and her cleaning up behind him in the process. Year after year as renters came and went, this was the continual "side job" and their children

learned hard work in
the process.

Along with family across and down the street (Curt would help two younger brothers get settled nearby as they got older, married and left the nest) and wonderful neighbors that would become lifelong friends, life on Atlantic street created many happy times and friendships were built that would last a lifetime! Edith and her two sisters-in-law made a vow in their early years never to speak an unkind word about each other, and each of them kept that promise. The bible says, “a cord of three strands is not easily broken” and no doubt their strong bond helped in some small way to cement the entire and extensive Rice family. There is a legacy of love, both in the Rice and Brietenmoser families that you’d be hard-pressed to find elsewhere. It’s extreme!

Fast forward to 1990, and Curt would find another reno project down the street and convince Edith to purchase and tackle one more “extreme home makeover” and create their retirement home. Clean, cozy and comfortable this is where they and Gary would spend the rest of their days and receive three of the greatest joys in their life, three grandchildren... Melissa in 1992, Michael in 1994, and Phillip in 1996. Perhaps the happiest moments of their life were spent delighting in and developing their young lives. There was always laughter, antics and a whole

lot of love in their house when time was spent with their grandkids! This gave Mike and I a break, especially every Friday night, to create the strongest of marriages. They often kept the children while we snuck away for a few days. It was an arrangement where everyone was blessed, and it brought them extreme joy to see their daughter so happy!

Her sweetheart would pass in 2006, suddenly and without warning, and the heartbreak was beyond description, but God was not finished blessing Edith's life with love. Seventeen months later, in a miraculous course of events, Edith would be reunited with her very first love, an engagement that had been broken once meeting Curt, and John Vartanian would enter her life once again. John had been widowed from his wife and mother of their children a few years earlier, and the two would reunite their spark and begin a courtship again after more than 55 years. What a blessing John was to Edith and to her children! No finer or more respectful man has walked this planet.

Edith's life was well lived, but never easy. From extremely poor roots, years of hard work, to the many severe health issues, physical difficulties were a constant part of her life. Even more painful were the heartbreaks she had to endure. Surrendering her husband of 53 years and her beloved son just a few years later, both sudden and prematurely, were far and

away her
greatest sufferings, yet she still never lost her joy for life. She was determined
to grow better,
not bitter, and grew sweeter as the years passed by. She had a kind word for
everyone and
would listen tirelessly when a friend or family member needed someone to talk
to and didn't
need to be asked to keep a secret in confidence. She spoke ill of no one, and
will always be
remembered for her beautiful smile.

By the wonderful grace of God, after years of battling health issues, Edith was
allowed to live a
full life of almost 86 years, die with a happy and full heart, with all mental
faculties, in her own
home, peacefully and secure in her destiny -- to be with her beloved husband
and son, Gary in
eternal glory with Jesus. She would have told you, "I couldn't have asked for
more!" She will be
missed by every life she touched and I have been blessed beyond words to
call this truly special
woman my MOM! Go rest now, mamma, for I am certain you have already
heard the words of
your Savior, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant!" I'll see you again one
day where there
will be no more goodbyes.

Cemetery Details

Cadillac Memorial Gardens East

Clinton Twp., MI

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 21. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Tribute Wall



“ *Edith Marie Rice*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Edith Marie Rice*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *Wow Pam, that is the most beautiful obituary I have ever read! Thank you so much for sharing Edith’s life with us. I never had the privilege of meeting her, but I look forward to getting to know her in the next life! I am praying the below verse for you and your family in this time of loss of your precious Mother and amazing woman of God.*

“He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.” Isaiah 25:8 ESV

Shari Herbert - August 21, 2018 at 10:03 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Edith Marie Rice.*



August 21, 2018 at 06:15 PM

MK

“ *Edith was a wonderful, sweet lady. It has been my privilege to be her neighbor for 3 decades. I will miss her smiling face and always pleasant greetings.*

Mark Knapp

Mark Knapp - August 21, 2018 at 06:10 PM

JA

“ *well sweetie i will miss you very much. we had some good time you and me. but i know that you are up there with your 3 men looking down on Pam and your grandkids and they know that you will always be looking down.at them. Pam wil keep the family togther.*

love Jamma

jamma - August 21, 2018 at 04:52 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Edith Marie Rice.*



August 21, 2018 at 09:28 AM

RB

“ I will forever be grateful for Mama Edith's kindness & love for my dad John, my sons & myself.
She was full of joy, tons of wisdom, & unconditional love for everyone that she knew. Her infectious laugh, her true southern lady charm, and her warm and welcoming hugs will forever be etched in my memory and most of all in my heart.
You can fly high now "Fancy Pants" I just know you've gotten your wings.
I hope someday I will be priviledged to see you in Paradise.
Until we meet again I love you & will never ever forget you.

Robyn Belknap - August 20, 2018 at 11:55 AM

 Ricky Zak

“ Pam, Your Mom always made me feel special. I will forever cherish they way she would say my name.(Reeki) I will always have a big spot in my heart for you and your Family love you.

Ricky Zak - August 20, 2018 at 10:40 AM

DM

“ Oh my goodness...How I'm going to miss you!!! I loved you from the first time we met..yourr were so jolly...and loved the Lord...I'll miss all our get together..Such as our luncheons...shopping...going places together..Just getting together and talking....you were always so encouraging....sweet....and just one of the best friends...will always miss and love you my sister in the Lord..@ Rest in heavenly peace my friend..love Dorothy Messer

Dorothy messer - August 20, 2018 at 10:08 AM