



Rita Marie Maltese

March 16, 1954 - April 22, 2024

Rita M. Maltese, aged 70, of Plymouth, passed away peacefully at home on April 22, 2024. She was born to Evelyn and the late Mario Lizzi in Dearborn on March 16, 1954.

Rita was a beloved wife to Joe Maltese and a loving mother to Michael (Kimberly) Maltese. She was also a proud "Noni" to her cherished grandchildren, Mackenzie, Jordyn, Emerson, and A.J. Rita is also survived by her mother Evelyn, her sister Liz (Mike) Stanford, brother-in-law Dominic Maltese, sister-in-law Dawn Maltese. She also leaves behind five loving nieces and nephews, who will miss her dearly.

Rita was a proud graduate of Fordson High School, class of 1972. Her passion for travel not only led her to a fulfilling career as a travel agent but also saw her excel as the co-owner and sales manager at WhiteROCK Specialties.

Known for her vibrant spirit and compassionate nature, Rita made a lasting impact on all who knew her. Her presence brought light and joy into every room, and her absence will be profoundly felt by her family, friends, and community.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 25th 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with a 7:00 PM Rosary, at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, (Between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, April 26th 1:00 PM at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 North Territorial Road,

Plymouth, with the family receiving friends from 12:30 PM until the time of Mass.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or online at <https://www.stjude.org/donate>

Rita's legacy of love and adventure will forever be cherished and celebrated by those she leaves behind.

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **25**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Rosary

APR **25**. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

In state

APR **26**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 North Territorial Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Mass

APR **26**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 North Territorial Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Tribute Wall

ML

“ Dear Elisabetta and dear Aunt Lina, I do not know by what strange fate I found myself on this page today while browsing the web. I saw the beautiful smile of my beloved cousin Rita. A lively and warm smile. The loss of a loved one, whether a family member or a friend, indelibly marks the existence of every man. In these circumstances, rebirth and return to a "normal" life are possible thanks to the closeness of loved ones, friends, and dear people. I send a warm hug to your entire family.

Michele Lizzi (son of Uncle Francesco Lizzi) - Rome (Italy)

michele lizzi - June 25, 2025 at 04:28 AM

J(

“ To Joe and the entire Maltese and Lizzi families. I also went to Fordson '72 and went to Maples with Rita. Beautiful soul and I was so glad I got to re-connect with her at the 50th reunion. We shared the Italian connection - making biscotti and pizzelli's for the Italian Club events. I've lived in Windsor for 50 yrs now so I don't get to see very many classmates. Her relatives from Windsor are friends of mine (Antonella - her husband was Domenic Lizzi.) May she rest in peace - Sweet Rita.

Judy Romeo (Binetti) - May 02, 2024 at 09:52 AM

RA

“ Rosemary A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Marie Maltese.

Rosemary A. - April 25, 2024 at 01:53 PM

RA

“ Rosemary A. purchased the Ultimate Golden Go diva Tower for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



Rosemary A. - April 25, 2024 at 01:53 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



April 25, 2024 at 10:50 AM

AA

“ Allie A. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Marie Maltese.

Allie A. - April 25, 2024 at 09:49 AM

AS

“ Rita has always been one of the kindest people I have ever known. Her smile was infectious as it lit up a room. She will be missed at our Fordson 1972 gatherings.

Allie and Sherry Suffety - April 25, 2024 at 09:45 AM

TD

“ Tom & Linda Holda and Barb Ducastel purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



Tom & Linda Holda and Barb Ducastel - April 24, 2024 at 07:02 PM

KK

“ I send a wish for Comfort and Peace as well as extending deep and heartfelt sympathy to Joe and the entire Maltese and Litzi Families. Rita was such a beautiful all around person and I am privileged to have known her for over 60 years.
God Rest Her Soul.
Kenny Kobane

Kenny Kobane - April 24, 2024 at 06:35 PM

TF

“ The Wilk Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



The Wilk Family - April 24, 2024 at 06:22 PM

KC

“ Kathi and Tim Clarey purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



Kathi and Tim Clarey - April 24, 2024 at 05:56 PM

SF

“ *Sheryl Docusen & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.*



Sheryl Docusen & Family - April 24, 2024 at 05:23 PM

JJ

“ *Jeanette and John with love planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Rita Marie Maltese.*

Jeanette Jarvis - April 24, 2024 at 04:47 PM

BS

“ *Rita was a lovely person and she will be sorely missed by all. Our sincere condolences to Joe, her family and friends.*

Bob & Pam Seeley

Bob Seeley - April 24, 2024 at 04:19 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.*



April 24, 2024 at 03:14 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



April 24, 2024 at 02:45 PM



“ Steven W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Marie Maltese.

Steven W. - April 24, 2024 at 02:19 PM



“ Ricky, Val, Danielle & Aunt Marie purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



Ricky, Val, Danielle & Aunt Marie - April 24, 2024 at 01:34 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



April 24, 2024 at 12:47 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.*



April 24, 2024 at 12:37 PM



“ *Love, Carl & Kathi and family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.*



Love, Carl & Kathi and family - April 24, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ *Love, Carl & Kathi and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Marie Maltese.*

Love, Carl & Kathi and family - April 24, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ *Dominick and Pat Letizio, with love. purchased the Red Rose Bud with Babys Breath (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.*



Dominick and Pat Letizio, with love. - April 24, 2024 at 10:17 AM

SW

“ We had the good fortune of living next door to Rita and Joe for 10 years. What wonderful people -- so much energy, passion and vibrancy. Rita will definitely be missed.
Steve Ward, Zhang Li and Murphy.

Steven Ward - April 24, 2024 at 10:15 AM

T(

“ The Ermanni's, Weston & Allie (Stanford) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Marie Maltese.

The Ermanni's, Weston & Allie (Stanford) - April 24, 2024 at 10:05 AM

T(

“ The Ermanni's, Weston & Allie (Stanford) purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



The Ermanni's, Weston & Allie (Stanford) - April 24, 2024 at 10:05 AM

JY

“ My heartfelt sympathies to the family. Rita was a beautiful person with a beautiful soul, always had a smile on her face and a willing heart. We shared an Italian bond, I will never forget you my paisan.
RIP Sweet Rita.

Judy yaquinto - April 24, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.*



April 23, 2024 at 09:27 PM



“ *Our heartfelt sympathies to all who knew and loved Rita like we did. We are so Thankful and Grateful that God placed her in our lives and allowed us the blessings of her unwavering support and friendship. She enhanced our lives in ways we can't express with words. She will live on in our hearts and thoughts forever and she will never be gone from our lives. Our hearts are broken but she fought a hard long fight and we will try and find comfort knowing she's at peace and making Heaven a better place and her maker so proud!!! We love you forever Rita ❤️*

Sharon and John Fleischer - April 23, 2024 at 07:53 PM



“ *John A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Marie Maltese.*

John A. - April 23, 2024 at 07:23 PM



“ *Jim T. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Marie Maltese.*

Jim T. - April 23, 2024 at 06:50 PM

AG

“ Anna and Nico Giammarco planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Marie Maltese.

Anna and Nico Giammarco - April 23, 2024 at 05:53 PM

AG

“ Anna and Nico Giammarco purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



Anna and Nico Giammarco - April 23, 2024 at 05:53 PM

BO

“ Rita was such a wonderful person. She always had a big smile and a helping hand to give. She touched so many lives with her friendship. Such a lovely soul, she will be greatly missed by many.

Bonnie - April 23, 2024 at 05:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rita Marie Maltese.



April 23, 2024 at 04:44 PM