



Rita Drake

December 16, 1952 - November 23, 2024

Celebrating the Life of

Rita Drake

Sunday, December 1, 2024 3:00 p.m.

Broussard's Chapel

Nederland, Texas

Tracy Ray

Michael Laws

Renee Hedges

"I Hope You Dance"

by Lee Ann Womack

Opening Remarks

Eulogy

"Jealous of the Angels"

by Donna Taggart

Family Remembrances

Scripture Reading

II Corinthians 5:17-21

"Angel"

by Sarah McLachlan



Rita Drake, 71, of Silsbee, peacefully entered her eternal home on Saturday, November 23, 2024. Born on December 16, 1952, in Joplin, Missouri, to Goldie Poteet Higgins and Brandon Higgins, Rita was a woman of boundless spirit and a heart full of love for life.

As the heart of her home, Rita created an atmosphere of open communication and unwavering support, empowering her children to pursue their dreams while always offering wisdom and encouragement. She was affectionately known as “Mom” to many, forming instant friendships that lasted a lifetime. Her home was a sanctuary filled with laughter, where she cherished every moment, often saying, “If you didn’t pee your pants, it wasn’t a good enough story.”

An avid reader, Rita found solace, joy, and adventure within the pages of a good book. She particularly enjoyed novels by John Grisham, as well as crime, spy, action, and historically accurate adventure stories. Her love for reading was only eclipsed by the joy she felt when surrounded by her family.

For over 20 years, Rita served as a Crisis Clinical Supervisor at Spindletop Center. She took pride in training counselors, instilling in her children a strong work ethic and dedication to her faith. Her mission to bring light to those in need epitomized her joyful and generous spirit, and she profoundly influenced the lives of many.

Those who knew Rita will remember her for her ability to make others smile and uplift them, even on her challenging days. Her infectious cheerfulness, overwhelming silliness, deep-rooted faith in Jesus, and unwavering commitment to spreading love and kindness left a lasting impact on everyone she encountered. Rita had a unique gift for bringing laughter and joy, often donning a red nose to brighten someone's day.

Rita was a shining light in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her journey on this earth was marked by love, compassion, and steadfast faith. Her passing has created a void in the hearts of her family, friends, and countless others whose lives were positively affected by her joyful demeanor. We ask that you remember her not for the way her life ended, but for the way she lived it and the profound impact she had on those around her.

Although Rita's physical presence may no longer grace our lives, her spirit will continue to inspire and uplift us. May her memory be a blessing, and may we carry forth her legacy of laughter, love, and compassion in all that we do.

Rita is survived by her loving husband, Richard Drake, with whom she celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary just before her passing. She is also survived by her daughters, Lory Tinney, of Bella Vista, Arkansas, and Tracy Ray and her significant other, Michael Laws, of Orangefield; her son, Jerod Lea and his wife, Katie, of Silsbee; and her sister, JoAnn Six and her husband, Larry, of Joplin, Missouri; brother, Jerry Higgins and his wife, Penny, of Spokane, Washington; and grandchildren, Tyler Ray, Darryan Fino, Bryson Fino, Richard Lea, and Liam Lea.







2 Corinthians 5:17-21
New King James Version

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not [a] imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to besin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.



Committal

Broussard's Crematorium
Beaumont, Texas

Broussard's
Established 1889

Please sign Mrs. Drake's guest book and share your memories at
broussards1889.com