



## Rita M. Colbath

August 7, 1931 - September 16, 2017

Rita M. Colbath

TRAVERSE CITY – Rita M. Colbath, age 86, of Traverse City, passed away Saturday, September 16, 2017 at The Villa at Traverse Point in the loving care of her family.

Rita was born on August 7, 1931 to Emil and Rose (Schaub) Steimel in Jackson, MI. Rita was raised in Jackson, MI and attended Jackson High School where she graduated in 1949. After graduating high school Rita went to work for a public accounting firm as a secretary. It was while Rita was working that she met her husband, David W. Colbath on December 26, 1950, David's first day at the firm. On October 20, 1951 Rita and David married in Jackson, MI. After living in Jackson, MI for sometime, Rita and David lived in; Boyne City, Cadiz, Kentucky, and in 1967 arrived here in Traverse City where they have been for the past 50 years.

Rita worked along side her husband as an office manager in his accounting business, Peninsula Business Service. She was a member, elder, and deacon at The Presbyterian Church in Traverse City where Rita and David have been 50 year members.

Rita loved to play bridge, where she often organized the bridge marathon at the Presbyterian Church. Rita had the most beautiful brown eyes; she was an elite conversationalist and thoroughly enjoyed talking and getting to know anyone she had the pleasure of being around. Rita was an avid sports fan and loved watching Detroit Tigers baseball, and University of Michigan Football. Rita and David had their night time ritual, a game of Racko, hot fudge sundae, their Christian devotional, and then off to bed. Rita and David shared a lifetime of wonderful memories together, where they loved to travel, and enjoyed their time keeping up with their family.

Rita is survived by her husband, David, daughters; Janet Swain, Petoskey, MI, Carol (Brad) Pines, Troy, MI, grandchildren; Tiffany (Ryan) Murphy, Kalamazoo, MI, Megan (Nick) Berti, Berkley, MI, Wilson Pines, Troy, MI, Madison (Grant) Goodspeed, Troy, MI, and great-grandchildren; Damian, Silas, and Ava.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Patrick Steimel, sister, Doris Kunkel, brother, James Steimel, and son, Stephen Colbath.

A memorial service for Rita will take place at 11:00 am on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at the Presbyterian Church with Rev. Melissa Lopez officiating, visitation will take place

one hour prior at the church. A luncheon will be held in the church reception hall immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be directed to The Presbyterian Church, 701 Westminster Road, Traverse City, MI 49686.

# Events

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**SEP** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**23**

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The Presbyterian Church

701 Westminster, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

**SEP** **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

**23**

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The Presbyterian Church

701 Westminster, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

# Comments

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“ I will remember most your visits to the cottage on Glen Lake on those wonderful summer days, while growing up and growing older, talking, laughing and remembering. Now you will add enjoyment to those family members who have gone before us. You will be missed but remembered for your exemplary life filled with God, family (and bridge). A life well lived.

**Joanne Templeton** - September 24, 2017 at 09:33 AM

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“ Aunt Rita was my favorite Aunt Rita, too! And if you had asked her, she probably would have said each of us were all her favorite nieces as well. She always promoted family, whether it was to share our Steimel/Schaub heritage or plan cousin reunions in San Antonio and Traverse City to help keep our family connected. My childhood memories always include our two families getting together and always laughter involved. The bond between Aunt Rita and my Dad, Pat Steimel was very special and my Mom, Mary thought of her more like a sister, than an in-law. I looked to her as a role model, whether it was her sewing, cooking, always making you feel welcomed, involvement in life or having her office in a boat on the bay. But the two things I admired most was her faith in God and her marriage. Life wasn't always easy but she knew God would take care of it, regardless. And the love affair between her and her Davey is one to be envied. They didn't always agree but they always respected one another. They were each other's best friend and buddy. We love you, Uncle Dave and celebrate the life of Aunt Rita with you. Love to Jan and Carol and your families, too. Patty

**Pat Featherston** - September 23, 2017 at 11:34 AM

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“ I too, have to echo my sister Jane & brother Ed's sentiments regarding my most favorite Aunt Rita. I feel so blessed & honored to have been asked by Aunt Rita to research the genealogical lineage of her Schaub maiden name after I presented Uncle Dave (my most favorite Uncle) with what research I uncovered regarding the Colbath/Oram lineage. Aunt Rita always was so appreciative & grateful for all the little things that life has to offer. Always a shining example of Love and Devotion to her family, friends & God. Thank You, Aunt Rita for all the wonderful memories & examples of a life well lived you have imprinted in my heart, and all the very lucky others that have been blessed by just knowing you.

**Graham Colbath** - September 23, 2017 at 06:19 AM

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“ I became acquainted with Rita and Dave thru their Son, Steve. They visited him in North Manchester and attended our church. You could tell they were very much in love by the way they looked to each other in everything. When we came to Traverse City for Steve's memorial and interment, they hosted us to a wonderful meal, at a very special place on the Peninsula and THEN took us all around the area winding up atop a hill and watching the sun set! What a double date! We are sorry for her passing, but know that Jesus has received her into the FATHER's House.. and that she is even now, rejoicing in the glad reunion with all who've gone before. Those grandkids were so special to her... And another thing.. Family Games.. and Family time.. were so important to her...May you all find comfort in the tools of memory.. the truth of scripture.. and the presence of one another.. take care dear ones and stay close, even if miles separate us.. Pastor JP and Michelle FREeman of the North Manchester Indiana Congregational Christian Church

JP Freeman - September 22, 2017 at 02:55 PM

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“ We didn't have the opportunity to know Rita well as we are friends of Carol and Brad and their children. As we read the other tributes, it is quickly evident to us that she will live on in her children and grandchildren as they share so many of her qualities. The entire family has a zest for life, and the willingness to do anything for their friends. Additionally, their commitment to family is strong....which can certainly be attributed to Rita and Dave's influence.  
Our favorite memory in our brief interactions with Rita and Dave most certainly has to be watching them dance at Madison and Grant's wedding last summer; their love and devotion to each other evident to all who were there.  
May happy memories provide comfort to all of you; our prayers are with you.

Sue and Dan Pienta

Sue Pienta - September 22, 2017 at 12:05 PM

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“ I echo Jane's feelings about Aunt Rita. Whenever we were anywhere in the northern Michigan region, it was mandatory to find our way to Traverse City to stop and see Aunt Rita and Uncle Dave. Whether they knew we were coming or not we were always welcomed with open arms and ALWAYS had the best time!  
Judy and I were blessed and privileged to be able to spend such precious time with Aunt Rita, Uncle Dave, Janet and Carol this past Saturday. Rita was such a special lady. She will truly be missed!

Ed Colbath - September 22, 2017 at 10:16 AM

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“ I have known Rita for a long time since she was my daughter-in-law, Jane's Aunt. Recently, I have gotten to know her better since I've spent more time in the Traverse City area with my family. She was always the life of the party. I always looked forward to being with her. She was so hospitable and a very good cook. I will never forget her wonderful peanut butter pie! I will miss her a lot

With Blessings and Love, Marian Saunders

Marian Saunders - September 20, 2017 at 12:52 PM

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“ Aunt Rita, was my FAVORITE AUNT! She and Uncle Dave were the perfect couple and the best example of true love. I feel so blessed to have been a recipient of your her love and friendship. She had a sunny personality, good energy, a great sense of humor and an undeniable zest for life. Whenever we were together, it was sure to be a good time, as she was the life of the party! I always admired her youthful appearance and her elegant, classy style. Aunt Rita, I will miss our frequent phone conversations, your hugs, your smiles, and your laughter. I treasure the moments we were able to share with you, Uncle Dave, Jan and Carol while at the Villa, getting to know your best neighbor friend, Dottie, and many members of the friendly, caring staff. Thanks for always making Rick, my mother-in-law, Marian and me feel so welcome. You will always hold a VERY SPECIAL PLACE in our hearts!

With my love forever,

Jane Colbath Saunders



Jane Colbath Saunders - September 20, 2017 at 12:41 PM

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“ I only just met Rita however based on that meeting her zest for life clearly shined through. She always had something to say that brought a smile to my face and I can only imagine she did the same for everyone who came to meet her. We are so thankful to have had Rita at Villa for the time we did! We are thinking of your family and will truly miss her!!!!!!

Amber Phillips - September 20, 2017 at 10:10 AM

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“ I only met Rita a few months before her passing, but I am so grateful we got the chance to know each other. Her beautiful smile, hilarious chuckle and good sense of humor will be missed. I loved playing card games with her even though I'm pretty sure she cheated! Sending prayers and love to all her family, especially Dave. They don't make many woman like Rita; Dave is a lucky guy to have had such a spunky, fun, and loving wife. Thanks for sharing her with us. She is so missed.

Sincerely,  
Micah

Micah - September 20, 2017 at 09:35 AM

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“ Dave, Jan, and Carol ~  
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you- I miss Rita and I will miss seeing all of you as well.  
Rita was such a special lady! I only knew her for a short time, but she quickly became one of my favorites! I will miss my daily hugs and quick grab of the hand as I walked by. I sure hope there's enough chocolate and a good chiropractor up there!  
God Bless,  
MacKenzie Breithaupt

MacKenzie - September 20, 2017 at 08:43 AM

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“ So sorry Dave, about hearing of Rita's passing, she was always so friendly & had a beautiful smile! I will miss her conversations. Rita & you welcomed my husband & I to our new home here at Chestnut Hills 4 years ago. We enjoyed your visits & only wish we had spent more time together.  
God Bless you & your family.  
Suzie Matesowicz ( Neighbor)



Suzie Matesowicz - September 19, 2017 at 08:37 PM

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“ Rita was such a wonderful caring neighbor especially when she brought treats. The last few months I learned how strong she was and the love she had for Dave and God. She loved her family and said she couldn't wait to see Steve. The last few months I became closer to Rita and I will miss her very much.

Joanne Johnson - September 19, 2017 at 03:27 PM

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“ Rita was known by all of her grandchildren as Gummy (short for gummy bear). This nickname originated from Megan, the oldest Pines grandchild, who at first wasn't able to say Grandma. Even after learning how to say Grandma, she was still our Gummy. Gummy loved to sew, growing up we would always get hand sewn things from Gummy. Two things she gave us, which we still cherish to this day, are our baby blankets and Easter bunnies.

Some of our fondest memories of Gummy was when we would visit for the Cherry Festival every year growing up. We'll miss playing Skipbo and dominoes with Gummy until 2am, while eating our daily "Davie's sundaes". We'll miss seeing you playing bridge on the computer and getting to your 10,000 miles on your exercise bike. We'll also miss your famous peanut butter pie. But, most of all, we'll miss all the hugs and smiles.

You will always be the one and only Gummy in our lives, we love you so much. R.I.P, we know that you are smiling down on us right now, and we hope that Heaven has a good chiropractor for you

-Wilson, Madison, and Megan

Wilson, Madison, and Megan - September 19, 2017 at 02:31 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Madison - September 19, 2017 at 12:12 PM