



## Rita Elizabeth Heider

February 17, 1930 - December 11, 2019

Rita Elizabeth Brun Heider

was born on February 17, 1930, the tenth child—and only girl! — of Edith and Louis Brun. She was the only member of her family to be born in a hospital, and when she arrived home, her father, who died when she was 5 years old, had posted a large sign that read, “Welcome Home, Queen Rita!” On December 11, 2019, Rita went home to the Lord of heaven, and we know that her mama and daddy and all of her brothers and her husband were waiting for her, holding that same sign up again! Rita was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Francis (Frank), the “singing dry cleaner from Dayton, Ohio;” brothers and sisters-in-law Lawrence and Esther, Jerome and Edith and Norma, Clarence and Ruth, William, Charles and Anna, Raymond and Mary, Walter, George and Rosemary, and Edward and his beloved friend Corky. She is survived by her children Angela (Steve) Morris, Mary, John (Susie), Chris, Joseph (Mary Frances), Joan (Chris) Rauch, and “niece-daughter” Leslie Tara Balcombe; 17 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law Barbara (Lawrence), Ella (William), and Lois (Walter) Brun; sisters in-law Mary Connaughton and Janet (Alan) Willoughby; dozens of devoted nieces and nephews—she knew all of their birth dates!—and dear friends. Rita possessed the special wisdom and strength gained by those who lived through the Depression, WWII, the loss of a parent at an early age, and financial poverty, as well as facing mortality from breast cancer at age 34 with six young children at home, and a profoundly deep faith in the Lord which gave her incomparable strength. In addition to working at NCR and AeroProducts prior to her marriage and then at the University of Dayton to help her children through college, Rita was, primarily, a caregiver all her life, taking care of her mother until her death, and helping her husband so faithfully through complications of debilitating Parkinson’s Disease until his death. Her family was her greatest joy, and together they shared many blessings and good times, especially at their lake house in Indiana. In recent years, her two precious little dogs, Julie and Chewy, gave her renewed life and joy. Rita was an active member of St. Helen Parish, serving over time on its Altar Rosary Society, Worship Commission, Welcoming Committee, and the RCIA team for years, as well as a Eucharist Minister and collection counter. She was special to and beloved by all who knew her. And just as Fr. Krusling at St. Helen said at her mother Edith’s funeral, we hear his words echoed again

today: "This is a time of great rejoicing, for another saint has entered into the kingdom of heaven! Visitation will be held at Westbrook Funeral Home, 1712 Wayne Avenue, in Dayton, from 2 to 6 p.m., on Sunday, December 15, and from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m., Monday, December 16 in the Holy Family Chapel at St. Helen Church, followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Burial to follow at Calvary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Helen Parish or to Hospice of Dayton.

# Cemetery

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## Calvary Cemetery

1625 Calvary Drive  
Dayton, OH, 45409

# Events

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**DEC** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 06:00PM

**15**

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Westbrock Funeral Home  
1712 Wayne Avenue, Dayton, OH, US, 45410

**DEC** **Visitation** 09:00AM - 10:00AM

**16**

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St. Helen Catholic Church  
5100 Burkhardt Rd, Riverside, US

**DEC** **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

**16**

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St. Helen Catholic Church  
5100 Burkhardt Rd, Riverside, US

# Comments

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“ Heider family,  
Jill and I send our condolences for the loss of your mother and our dearest Aunt Rita. She was such a wonderful woman. I have such wonderful memories of holidays with your mom and dad growing up. She will be missed by many. It is with sadness that we are not able to be there to celebrate her life with you, but you and your family are in our prayers.  
God bless

Rob and Jill Brun

**Rob Brun** - December 16, 2019 at 10:05 AM

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“ Joanie and Chris, I am so sorry to learn of your mother's passing. After reading her memorial, I am touched by what a wonderful person she was. I hope your hearts will find some peace and contentment in the promise of the season. God bless. Mary Lou Kilbane (St. Francis choir.)

**Mary Lou Kilbane** - December 15, 2019 at 06:46 PM

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“ Chris and Joanie,  
Our deepest sympathy upon the loss of your dear mother, Rita. Having read her obituary, one could see that she certainly lived a full and wonderful life. May you find comfort in all the great memories you shared with her. Sending love and prayers for your family. Pauline and Roger

**Pauline Everman** - December 15, 2019 at 02:51 PM

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“ Rita really was a "gem". I had the pleasure of working with her on many projects and events when I worked as Coordinator of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in the 80's. She was a woman of great faith and lived and shared her faith in how she lived and loved. Sympathy to her family! Jane Bensman

**Jane M Bensman** - December 13, 2019 at 06:52 AM

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“ Her example as she cared for her husband in his final years inspired me to settle in Dayton. She faithfully and joyfully served her parish physically and through inspiration all of her days. My family is blessed that one of her grandchildren would marry one of my children. The Light of Christ shone through this woman and blessed all whom it touched.  
Requiesce in pace, good and faithful servant.

Richard C. Goad - December 12, 2019 at 01:59 PM

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“ Larry & Jan Keller purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rita Elizabeth Heider.



Larry & Jan Keller - December 12, 2019 at 12:44 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Emily Heider-Belcher - December 12, 2019 at 12:43 PM

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“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Deacon Chris Rauch - December 12, 2019 at 12:16 PM

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“ What a blessing to have Rita as my mother-in-law. We had so much fun teasing each other over these 40 years ;-)  
Love you Mom Heider! - Chris Rauch

**Deacon Chris Rauch** - December 12, 2019 at 11:44 AM