



## Rita Mae Michelsen

July 22, 1920 - September 13, 2016

Rita Mae Michelsen passed away peacefully on September 13, 2016, at the age of 96. Rita was born in Chicago and grew up adoring her twin brother Bill. Their father died in a tragic streetcar accident when they were young and they were raised by their mom, Lizette. Rita worked as a billing clerk at U.S. Steel her entire career, retiring in 1981. Beginning in 1960, she resided on Clarence Avenue in Berwyn, living with her mother in a two-flat above her brother Bill Michelsen and his family. She then spent many years enjoying the camaraderie of senior citizens at Lyon's Grove Apartments on Carr Court in Lyons, and most recently resided at Cantata's The Laurels in Brookfield. After retirement, she enjoyed lunches, shopping, and movies with friends, regularly attended St. Leonard's parish in Berwyn and St. Hugh's in Lyons, and selflessly cared for and assisted her many friends and neighbors. She continued driving into her 90's, always willing to escort and transport them to doctor appointments, church, or shopping. She regularly remembered her nieces and nephews with birthday and holiday cards, was always anxious to inquire and know about their lives and families, and spent many holidays with them.

One of Rita's greatest joys was the companionship of her cockatiel Nikki, who also preceded her in death. Nikki could be found perched on Rita's arm, chatting away, and reminding her that "Nikki loves Rita." Special thanks to Rita's caregiver Charlotte Sprinkle for being such a good friend the past few years.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents Lizette and William Michelsen, twin brother Bill Michelsen, and great niece Joy Michelsen. She is survived by sister-in-law Lilian Michelsen of Indianapolis, Indiana; nieces Diane Rocush (Al) of Phoenix, Arizona and Jan Michelsen of Indianapolis; and nephew Ron Michelsen (Dawn) of Freeland, Washington. Also surviving her are four great nieces/nephews: Melanie (Mark) Bohn, Jeff Rocush, Erica (Chad DeVille) Rocush and Peter (Rachel) Michelsen, and great-great nephew Will Michelsen.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 from 9 AM until time of Service 12 Noon at FORAN FUNERAL HOME 7300 W. Archer Ave. (55th St. just West of Harlem). Interment Mount Olivet Cemetery, 2755 W. 111th St., Chicago, IL. For information 708-458-0208.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Olivet Cemetery

2755 W. 111th Street  
Chicago, IL 60655

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 20. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Foran Funeral Home - Summit  
7300 West Archer Ave  
Summit, IL 60501  
(708) 458-0208  
[contactus@foranfuneralhome.com](mailto:contactus@foranfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.foranfuneralhome.com/>

## Chapel Service

SEP 20. 12:00 PM (CT)

Foran Funeral Home - Summit  
7300 West Archer Ave  
Summit, IL 60501  
(708) 458-0208  
[contactus@foranfuneralhome.com](mailto:contactus@foranfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.foranfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

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“ 14 files added to the album *Rita's Family and Friends*



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**Diane** - September 16, 2016 at 12:57 PM

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“ *I will always remember Rita and Nicky. Rita and I had some good laughs. She loved her Nicky she did everything to spoil him. Rita I Love You, Your Caregiver Tina Gera Durso*



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**Tina Gera Durso** - September 15, 2016 at 04:57 PM