



## Rita Russell Ammons

April 11, 1949 - November 8, 2020

Rita Russell Ammons, 71, of Spencer, formerly of Fort Myers, Fla., passed away Sunday, November 8, 2020, at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center after losing her fight against COVID19. Born April 11, 1949, in Albemarle, NC, she was the daughter of Merrill Lee Russell and Rena Blalock Russell of Spencer.

Rita graduated from North Rowan High School in 1967 where she competed in the Miss North Carolina pageant as Miss Spencer and was Miss Holiday Caravan for the Christmas parade. Rita started college as a sister of SIGMA KAPPA before receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education from Appalachian State University. She spent the next 40 years as an exceptional children's teacher in Caldwell, Davie, Yadkin, and Rowan Counties in NC and Lee County in FL earning Teacher of the Year honors and finishing as an advocate/liaison for these children and families.

Rita spent many years of her retirement traveling the world to experience places, people, and things she had only dreamed about in her youth. Rita moved back home to Spencer in 2018 along with her father before his passing in 2019. She had a lifelong journey with the Lord that brought her to Spencer Presbyterian Church where she became an Elder in 2019 and was a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program. Rita's Faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should give everyone comfort who knew her.

Rita's many talents and loves included crafting, gardening, music, the arts, spending time with family, friends, church, and turning her home into an absolute wonderland for Christmas. Every decoration had a special story, and she had a purpose behind every presentation to make every moment memorable and special for all of her guests. We know Jesus will enjoy having Rita put her touches on Heaven this December. She also loved to comb the beach for shells and treasures with her family, and the evidence of her plunder was perfectly displayed throughout the house. Rita's house was uniquely her home, and all will miss visiting her.

Rita's greatest talent of all was love, and the greatest joy Rita found on earth was giving it to everyone. She was a uniquely special person who showed how much she loved in so many ways. Whether it was pouring her soul into special needs children, fiercely being there for a friend in distress to ensure they have what they need, tirelessly and relentlessly being a caregiver to her aging parents, or always loving and being there for her family,

Rita was always the example we all wish we had the strength and wisdom to be more like. She lived up to these moments because God had placed her there for those purposes. She was in so many ways a guiding angel, a guardian angel, and she found so much joy in it all. Nobody knew this as much as her family. We all love you Rita, Mom, Grandma. Rita is survived by her son and his wife Rick and Dana Ammons of Mooresville, her grandson Tristan Ammons of Mooresville, her grandson and wife Kyle and Krystal Sovern of Fort Myers, FL, her brother and wife Bo and Betty Russell of Okinawa, Japan, her brother and his wife Todd and Becky Russell of Salisbury, nephew Daniel Russell and his wife Ashley of Okinawa, Japan, nephew Adam Russell of Salisbury, Aunt Flora Cranford of Salisbury, Aunt Rubenia Bergen of Monroe, many cousins, and Rita's dog Sadie and cat Ruthie.

A memorial service will be held at a later date for Rita due out of respect for the seriousness of COVID19. Place, date, and time will be announced, advertised and people notified in ample time for everyone to make arrangements to attend.

In place of flowers, Rita would want you to donate to Spencer Presbyterian Church, PO Box 4, Spencer, NC 28159.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Ammons family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

FB

“ *Frankey Barber lit a candle in memory of Rita Russell Ammons*



frankey barber - November 20, 2020 at 11:50 AM

CP

“ *RIP my great friend, I just learned of your death today, November 19th, my condolences to the entire family. Our time together, with Patti, at WCU will forever be in my memories.*

Cliff Pickett - November 19, 2020 at 10:50 AM

TM

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Tammy Miller - November 18, 2020 at 02:24 PM

 Debbie Mendez

“ *Loosing Rita to COVID is a tragedy. She was a beautiful person and dear friend. We became close colleagues and friends during my first teaching job in Davie County. She opened her home to me when I was recovering from surgery, and when I worked two jobs that would have required late night travel. She adored Ricky, her son, and would move heaven and earth to provide him the best life possible. I feel very blessed to have had her in my life, and be a recipient of her friendship. She will be greatly missed. God's speed, Rita Debbie Mendez*

Debbie Mendez - November 15, 2020 at 10:58 AM

KB

“ *I remember Rita from high school at North Rowan. She was so beautiful and elegant! My deepest sympathy to her family. Karen Rabon Broyhill*

Karen Broyhill - November 15, 2020 at 10:50 AM

AY

“ *Alane Yungel lit a candle in memory of Rita Russell Ammons*



**Alane Yungel** - November 14, 2020 at 02:58 PM

AY

“ *Alane Weaver Yungel lit a candle in memory of Rita Russell Ammons*



**Alane Weaver Yungel** - November 13, 2020 at 04:54 PM

AY

“ *Alane Weaver Yungel lit a candle in memory of Rita Russell Ammons*



**Alane Weaver Yungel** - November 13, 2020 at 04:29 PM

MR

“ *Rita was such a joy to be around. She always had a smile and a heart of gold. Her sense of humor will always be remembered. Thinking of friends and family with love.*



**Mary Lou Rabon** - November 13, 2020 at 03:59 PM

NP

“ My first teaching job at Pelican Elementary in Cape Coral, Florida was next door to this lovely lady! She welcomed me with a sweet southern accent and a warm smile. We became fast friends when we discovered that we both shared a secret indulgence for Soap Operas...the Guiding Light, our favorite! As soon as the students left for the day, our televisions in our rooms (yes, it was a few years ago) would be turned on so that we could work, listen, and yell back and forth to each other about our "stories"! lol :)

*I still smile when I think of how Rita told me that she had learned "right from wrong" from growing up watching Soap Operas..."Because no one ever gets away with anything. In the end, good always wins."*

*I can still hear her talking about her little Ricky, always with love in her voice. I am sure she would humbly deny it, but she has left a sweet footprint on the hearts of many...her family, friends, students, parents, and co-workers. The world seems a little darker today without her in it. I am thankful for this "North Carolina Gal"!*

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**Norma Pennington** - November 13, 2020 at 03:27 PM

MI

“ I extend my deepest sympathies to you for your terrible loss.

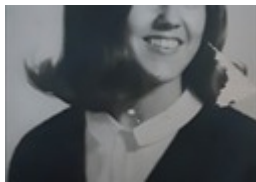


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**Michiko** - November 12, 2020 at 09:04 PM

RI

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Rick** - November 12, 2020 at 04:17 PM

MN

*Beautifully written obituary!*

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**max and nancy** - November 12, 2020 at 10:31 PM

MS

*Rita was my dear friend. She was the first teacher I ever worked with which began my 40 year stint as a paraprofessional. She taught me all about how to love on kids with disabilities and was a force to be reckoned with, defending and protecting them. She loved her family and friends with great passion and ferocity. She loved life and made the best of it. Rick, Dana, and Tristan, my heart is broken for you. I will miss her immensely.*

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**Muriel Shoff** - November 14, 2020 at 10:30 PM



*I met Rita through her friendship with Patti Secreast when she became involved with the Spencer precinct . I'm sorry that we didn't have more time together. She was a lovely lady and will be missed by those whose lives she touched. My thoughts are with you.*

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**Pat Sledge** - November 16, 2020 at 08:35 PM