



Rita E. Cromwell

January 28, 2020

Rita E. Cromwell (Bachmann)

Greece - Thursday, January 28, 2020 at age 95. Predeceased by her husband, Kirk; son, Kirk Scott; 5 brothers and 2 sisters. Survived by her sister, Rosemary Bachmann and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews; special friends, Dan Lassiter, Beth Carboni, and Marcie Melhler.

Private service and interment at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Special Olympics.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Rita our humble friend- always selfless, and advocating and supporting her friends and all she knew and cared about. I first met Rita when I started working with her son Scott in 2004 at his sheltered workshop for AtWork! Over the years we developed a friendship which started at work then grew around other activities that Scott participated in as well, mostly through Highland Center in Bellevue near his home. At work, Rita was always the one that brought her famous baked beans to parties and potlucks. She would donate treats or money for treats for all the important holidays for all of the folks Scott worked with to make sure everyone had something special. She and Scott especially liked to have special treats for everyone on Easter, Halloween, and Christmas and Valentine's Day which always enhanced the goody bags the staff would donate to as well. She was also famous for being the "candy lady" ♦, all the bus drivers loved her as she would give them, bags of candy (mostly good chocolates) in thanks to their service and caring for Scott.

When I would attend the various activities that Scott participated in with his friends, I had the opportunity to witness the depth of Rita's caring for others, and the mutual love they shared with her. Parents of Scott's friends, caregivers, bus drivers, and others enjoyed visiting with her and being in her company.

Before Rita moved back east, I found out my next door neighbor even knew Rita (small world) from the days that Rita bowled in leagues. Shan shared some fond memories of those days, and said that she has a recipe that Rita gave her for crab mousse. That was what Rita would bring to their annual potluck for the league, and Shan still makes it every year as it is so good. I know Rita loved bowling in her leagues as well and shared several fond memories of those days with me.

While I was working with Scott, I also had the opportunity to meet Rosemary, Rita's sister when she would come out west to visit. Rita always talked about her and her family and how she wished she could get back more often, and always enjoyed and looked forward to Rosemary's visits. Over the years, I then kept in contact with Rosemary too, and have enjoyed our friendship.

There are so many stories, and so much to share about this wonderful woman. One of my favorite memories occurred on Rita's 90th Birthday. Kim Indurkar and Dan Lassiter from Highland Center arranged a surprise birthday party for Rita. They involved many others in the logistics and support, and it was an amazing event. They invited anyone involved with Rita, friends, Scott's and her friends, bus drivers, you name it. The room they held it in was packed with standing room only, and people waiting in side rooms to come and wish her well. The greatest surprise to Rita, other than how bright a cake burns with 90 candles, was a visit from her son Scott. At that time he was in assisted living and his staff and they made special arrangements so they could be together. Also several of Scott's friends and Rita's alike got up and offered stories of the importance of Rita in their life, one gal even composed a song/dance to sing to her. It was an extremely emotional event with so much love-and it showed the depth of Rita's impact on her community.

Yesterday I went and visited with several of Rita's friends at the bowling alley where Rita continued visiting with many of her friends, before and after Scott's passing. I shared the recent photos from Lisa and Dan with them and fond memories. Almost everyone needed a hug, but the overwhelming response was that Rita had been and will always be in their heart! They felt very fortunate to have her friendship, and she will be missed. They are also happy that she was back home with her family and had their support. Rita, we will miss you, but you are always in our heart. Thank you for being my friend.

Love, Marci Mechler

Marci Mechler - February 02, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ I have many fond memories of Aunt Rita over the years. Especially from the past 2 years since she moved back home. From our lunch and shopping outings, making gingerbread houses, doing her hair, watching movies, happy hour (lol root beer) family dinners, holidays, especially when she played Santa at her home for everyone! Just talking about past memories. Going to miss seeing her! I know she is happy back with Scott. Love you

Lisa - February 02, 2020 at 12:00 AM