



Nerita E. "Rita" Groy

July 22, 1935 - August 21, 2025

Rita was the daughter of the late Paul V. and Evelyn D. Peiffer. She graduated in 1953 from Lebanon High School where she proudly marched ahead of the L.H.S. Marching Band carrying the U.S. Flag. She went to nursing school and graduated from the Reading Hospital School of Nursing in 1956. On August 4, 1956 she married her high school sweetheart Richard K. Ward. They moved to Newville, PA where Richard was a high school teacher and football coach and Rita a nurse at the Carlisle Hospital. They had two sons: Michael Ward and John Ward. Richard became a General Contractor and Rita became a public-school nurse with the Lebanon City School District. Rita earned her B.S. degree attending Shippensburg University and Millersville University and graduated with a B.S. in Public School Nursing. She went on to earn her M.S. degree and became the head nurse for the Lebanon City School District until her retirement. She was a great asset to the Lebanon community volunteering her nursing skills at several civic organizations and events. At her home in Cornwall, you would often find her walking her many miles per day, in a Zumba class, or checking residents' blood pressure at the community coffee klatch.

Richard passed away in 1972, and in 1976 Rita married Andrew "Bosh" Groy and lived happily until 1988 when Bosh passed away. Rita enjoyed being with her many friends and remained active until heart disease slowed her down and the terrible disease of dementia followed. She lived the remainder of her life at Moravian Manor in Lititz where she was given the very best of care.

Remaining family includes son Michael (Sue) Ward, grandchildren Blair Ward and Brianne Ward, step-grandchildren Collin Backus, Sean Backus, Erica (Backus) Jackson; and son John (Barbara) Ward; granddaughter Victoria (Ward) Gaul; and great grandson Gabriel Patrick Gaul; step-son Scott (Margie) Groy and her sister Barbara Peiffer Palmer of Lititz, PA.

Memorial services will be held Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 11AM from Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc., 618 E. Main St. Annville. Inurnment will be private. A visitation will be held from 10AM until the time of her service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Salem Lutheran Church, 119 N. 8th St. Lebanon, PA 17046.

Previous Events

Public Visitation

AUG 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc
618 E. Main Street
Annville, PA 17003
(717) 867-4811

Memorial Service

AUG 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc
618 E. Main Street
Annville, PA 17003
(717) 867-4811

Tribute Wall

NG

“ So sorry to hear about Rita. I thought of her often but didn't know she passed away until today after the funeral. I would certainly have been there because we had so many good times together. You have my deepest sympathy.

Nancy Gearhart - August 28, 2025 at 02:59 PM

PG

“ Sincere condolences and heartfelt gratitude for Nerita's faithful service to the nursing profession.

Respectfully,

*PA Capitol Region Nurse Honor Guard
pacrnhg@gmail.com*

PA Capitol Region Nurse Honor Guard - August 28, 2025 at 09:56 AM

FS

“ Rita touched the lives of so many people. I was truly fortunate to have the opportunity to be her colleague during my time at Lebanon High School. As a compassionate health practitioner and educator, Rita always demonstrated unconditional love and understanding toward her students and coworkers and made everyone feel supported and valued. Her uplifting personality created a positive atmosphere wherever she went. May her memory be a blessing. With deepest sympathy to Rita's family.
Fred Shattls

Fred Shattls - August 27, 2025 at 02:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nerita E. "Rita" Groy.*



August 27, 2025 at 10:13 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nerita E. "Rita" Groy.

August 27, 2025 at 10:13 AM



“ *Sending up our deepest thoughts and comfort to all the family Barb and Mike and John and children and grand children. Rita is at peace and her beautiful memory will live on in your hearts. Love from Scott, Margie Groy and our family.*

Margaret groy - August 26, 2025 at 05:45 PM



“ *Aunt Rita glad you are home and out of pain. I loved her laugh and she always knew what to say to me. She was practical and I loved her dearly. Condolences to Mike and John and her sister Barbara. Chrissy (groy) and Steve butler.*

Christina Butler - August 25, 2025 at 10:17 AM

JM

“ *I worked down the hall from Rita at the Lebanon School District. She was one of my favorite people. She was down to earth and efficient. Her sense of humor was so refreshing. Rita has blessed many people with happy memories.*

Jean Moncarz - August 25, 2025 at 09:36 AM