



Rita Cassidy

July 16, 2020

Rita (Petrella) Cassidy, 57, beloved wife of Michael Cassidy of West Hartford, died peacefully at her home on July 16, 2020. Born in Hartford, the daughter of Aldo and Imperia (Polce) Petrella of Rocky Hill, she was raised in Rocky Hill and made her home in West Hartford for the past 26 years. She graduated from Rocky Hill High School and Central Connecticut State University. Rita worked as an accountant for Arthur A. Watson and the Watts Group. A devoted wife and mother, she was a constant presence in her family's life. She was active in the school activities of her children, including the PTO and Hall High School Safe Grad. In addition to her husband of 26 years and her parents, she is survived by her three children, Alison Reyes and her husband Juan of Danbury, John and Patrick Cassidy both of West Hartford; three grandchildren, J.J., Isabella and Michael Reyes; her three brothers and their spouses, Mario and Joyce Petrella of West Hartford, Anthony and Carol Petrella of Greenwich, Gregory Petrella of Middletown; her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Margaret Mary and Tim Haire of Waterford, Colin and Kim Cassidy of Monument, CO, Joanne and Wynne Barrett of Woodbridge, John and Susan Cassidy of Woodbridge; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her dear friend Nancy Morin. The family would like to thank Dr. Patricia DeFusco for the wonderful care that she provided. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday (July 21st) at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of St. Timothy, 1116 North Main St., West Hartford. Facial covering and social distancing will be required. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery,

West Hartford. The family invites everyone who loved Rita to join them in fellowship at 64 Brenway Drive, West Hartford between 6:00 and 8:00 PM on Wednesday and Thursday for open air informal gatherings to celebrate Rita. In lieu of flowers, please love your neighbor. Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com .

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Timothy
1116 North Main St
West Hartford, CT 06117
(860) 233-5131

Tribute Wall

CR

“ We are so sorry for your loss! Rita and my cousin Nancy (Failla) Morin shared a special lifetime friendship! When Rita and Nancy were together, there was always love, joy--and laughter! My aunt Millie Failla loved Rita like a daughter. She also sends her sympathy to your family. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Constance (Allen) Rotondo - August 04, 2020 at 10:10 AM

JT

“ I am deeply saddened by the loss of Rita. My sincere condolences to the Cassidy and Petrella family. She was a beautiful person. I grew up with Rita. She was my childhood best friend and i will cherish my fond memories of our friendship. May your memories bring you peace at this difficult time.
Jennifer Matthews Tumpney

Jennifer Matthews Tumpney - July 26, 2020 at 07:48 PM

JS

“ We are So very very sorry for the loss of Rita, she was such a nice person and we will cherish her memory for a long time. Our condolences Mike to you John Patrick and your daughter. Wishing you comfort in your time of sorrow. Jeanne, Roman and Roman jr Szewczak

jeanne szewczak - July 25, 2020 at 12:18 PM

KL

“ So sorry, Mike. She was beautiful, nice (even to me), peppy, so full of life & love. Watson & Watts were both lucky to have hired her. She will be missed. Thoughts are with you & the family.....

Ken Landy

Ken Landy - July 23, 2020 at 12:03 PM

GS

“ Mike- I was deeply saddened to learn of your loss. Hopefully, you and your family will find solace in all the wonderful memories you share of Rita during better times.

Greg Steffon

Greg Steffon - July 22, 2020 at 10:45 AM

BL

“ Mike and Family,

I was deeply saddened to read about the loss of your wife that you and your family have encountered. My condolences.

*Former old neighbor Barbara Langwiser
Coral Springs, FL*

Barbara D Langwiser - July 22, 2020 at 09:31 AM

CM

“ <https://youtu.be/VHJGrA0KLgI>

Link to Mass

Chris Molloy - July 21, 2020 at 10:41 AM

SF

“ *Sincerely, Jennie Foster purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Rita Cassidy.*



Sincerely, Jennie Foster - July 21, 2020 at 08:05 AM

JF

“ *Jennie Foster lit a candle in memory of Rita Cassidy*



Jennie Foster - July 21, 2020 at 07:51 AM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Rita Cassidy.*



July 21, 2020 at 07:07 AM

DR

“ *Mike - So sorry for your loss. I cant find the words but you & your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*
Dave Roberts

Dave Roberts - July 20, 2020 at 07:55 PM

DM

“ Dear Michael, Alison, John, Patrick and family,
We are so saddened to read of Rita's passing. We remember sitting with her at orientation at UConn, seeing her at school events and basketball games, eating with Michael at Panera and running with Michael around town. She had a great spark and sweet spirit. She will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts are with you at this time.

Dorothy Meggie, Steven Kahn & family

Dorothy Meggie - July 20, 2020 at 05:24 PM

CL

“ Dear Petrella family, I'm so sorry to read about Rita's passing. I have such fond memories of our childhood friendship on Courtney Drive. May the memories of your happy times together bring you comfort during such a difficult time.

Charlene Fanelli Lanza

Charlene Fanelli Lanza - July 20, 2020 at 05:00 PM

RA

“ Dear Mike & Family - I am so very saddened for your loss. Rita was such a wonderful person and always kept me in line on our trips to NYC and Saratoga. She had such a zest for life, and loved all of those around her. She will be missed by so many. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

-Robyn Aponte

Robyn Aponte - July 20, 2020 at 04:34 PM

SC

“ Dear Michael, Patrick, John, and Ali, We are heartbroken. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love, James, Susan, and Meaghan

Susan Cassidy - July 20, 2020 at 04:12 PM

SW

“ Mike I am so sorry to hear about your wife's passing. We will say a prayer and keep your family in our thoughts and prayers.

Scott Wiley - July 20, 2020 at 03:53 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rita Cassidy.



July 20, 2020 at 02:26 PM

AC

“ Michael, we were saddened to hear of Rita's passing. I know you are feeling the loss of a wonderful wife and mother, who has been taken from you too early.

You and your family are in our prayers, to help you through this difficult time.

Love,
Aunt Ann and the Ohio Clan

Ann M Cassidy - July 20, 2020 at 01:59 PM

MB

“ We are so very sorry to hear about Rita's passing. Mike introduced us to this wonderful person many years ago, long before their beautiful wedding in Old Wethersfield. Rita was such a full of life, happy, inclusive person.....getting to know her was so easy and so natural. I felt comfortable with her within seconds, she is that kind of girl. She and Mike made such a great couple and team, and were so much fun to spend time with. I could see and feel the love between these two all the time....such a connection and such a partnership. To my longtime friend Mike and to Rita's family, I was lucky to have gotten to know and spend time with Rita over the years. She really did make me and all others feel so comfortable around her, she's super easy to talk with, and she genuinely cares about people. She is also the one who introduced me to CAbi clothes....as she was the one who wore the super cool CAbi coat and other great outfits!! Wishing you heartfelt sympathy and love and hugs. Your friend and WE HA neighbor, Maureen Boyle-Henninger.

Maureen Boyle-Henninger - July 20, 2020 at 11:42 AM

CD

“ Mike I am saddened for your family's loss. Rita was a wonderful person and she will be missed. Thoughts and prayers for you.

Cindy Donofrio - July 20, 2020 at 10:17 AM

ML

“ Mike, I'm so very sorry for the loss of your beautiful wife. My prayers for you and your children. My heart hurts for you... Mary Lawler

Mary Lawler - July 20, 2020 at 09:19 AM

JD

“ I am so sorry for your loss, Mike. My deepest heartfelt condolences to you and your family.

Jane Daly

Jane Daly - July 20, 2020 at 09:02 AM

JK

“ Mike, I am so sorry. I am wishing you peace and comfort during this difficult time for you and your family. You are in my prayers.

Judy Kolesar

Judith E Kolesar - July 20, 2020 at 08:05 AM

JK

“ Mike, I am so sorry to hear. You and your family are in my prayers.

John Kleca - July 20, 2020 at 07:48 AM

LA

“ I was so sorry to hear of Rita's passing. She was always such a happy presence at the Watson Group and at our Watson gatherings over the years. My heart goes out to you, Mike, and to Mario and Joyce.

Lucy Albetski

Lucy Albetski - July 20, 2020 at 07:35 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita Cassidy.*



July 19, 2020 at 10:50 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rita Cassidy.*



July 19, 2020 at 06:39 PM



“ *We are sorry to hear of the passing of mother and wife, Rita Cassidy.*

We were glad that John and Sam ran together for Hall High School XC.

It was always good to see you at the Malibu 5K on Thanksgiving Day.

With deepest sympathies,

Beth, Stuart and Sam Katten

Stuart Katten - July 19, 2020 at 12:50 PM

PB

“ *Michael & Family. I was so sorry to hear the news. Rita was one of the nicest people that Watsons ever had. My sympathy goes out to you along with virtual hugs. Pam Bergren*

Pam Bergren - July 19, 2020 at 07:49 AM

MD

“ *Mario, Anthony, & the Cassidy Families,
Please except my heartfelt condolences,
May God Bless Rita and her families in this time of sorrow.
Mark DiBella*

Mark DiBella - July 19, 2020 at 04:47 AM

SA

“ *Dear Mike, John, Patrick, and Ali: I'm heartbroken to hear of your loss. Rita was such an amazing person, so bright and funny and down to earth. She was an important part of our lives, raising our young families together when we were neighbors on Pinecrest, with our kids in and out of each others' houses all the time. So many happy memories of her wry sense of humor about the daily challenges of little children. And then, her incredible bravery and strength going through chemo when the kids were so young - I don't know how she did it, She was a very special woman. Sari and David*

Sari - July 18, 2020 at 10:59 PM

MB

“ *There are too many memories to count! I do remember she caught the bouquet at my wedding and you guys were married 5 months later. ❤️ Rita was also the person I was with when I met Joel. I guess we can both say we were responsible for each others future! Rita will always remain in my heart. I will miss her terribly. ❤️*

Maureen Bednarz - July 18, 2020 at 01:05 PM

RC

“ Mike can not believe it has been this long since I was a part of your wedding when I was your bartender. Have many good memories of Rita at The Watson Group and the great laugh she had. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

Rick Carrier

Rick Carrier - July 18, 2020 at 12:24 PM

JO

“ Mike I'm am so terribly sorry for you and the family. What a heartbreaking loss. I worked with Rita at the Watts Group for many years she was an absolutely beautiful person inside and out. She wasn't as crazy as we all were but she sure did have fun with us! Trips to NYC., Saratoga! She was such a great person. How she loved her family! My thoughts and prayers are with you. I hope you take comfort in knowing you have a beautiful angel watching over you. Janet Okeefe 🙏

Janet Goepfert O'Keefe - July 18, 2020 at 10:19 AM

MC

“ Oh Mike, I'm saddened to hear this news. Hope you all find comfort in your many years of memories. I remember some fun times we had in Rocky Hill, including Rita coming over to detangle a brush stuck in my hair. We laughed so hard. Or going out and having a shot of "Riter" She will be missed. Much love, Mary

Mary (Costello) Chester - July 18, 2020 at 09:43 AM

EB

“ *Mike... I am so very sorry for your loss of your beautiful Rita. Working with her at Watson Group were the best of times. Peace and Prayers to you and your beautiful family during this difficult time. With Love and Sympathy...*
Eva Brunelle



Eva Brunelle - July 18, 2020 at 08:48 AM