



## Rita O. Knowles

December 15, 1946 - April 19, 2023

Rita Oletta Knowles, 76, longtime resident of Poneto passed away Wednesday morning, April 19, 2023, at Christian Care Retirement Community.

Rita was born in Portland, IN on December 15, 1946, a daughter of the late Nilah E (Reynolds) and Percy R Smith. Rita is survived by her sister Ghlee Dobbins and preceded in death by her sister Betty Kistler.

Rita married the late Marlin Allen Knowles, Sr in Muskegon, MI on June 3, 1966. Together they raised their four children: Lacey Knowles (Rebecca), Mak Knowles (Jennifer), Sara Muller (Rodney), and Jordan Knowles (Marie). Rita is loved by her seven grandchildren: Emma, Price, Sadie, Emmett, Myrtle, Asa, and Nilah.

Rita was a 1965 graduate of Bluffton High School and attended IU. Rita was a 23-year veteran of the US Postal Service. She was the Director of Transportation at the Council on Aging. Rita most recently was elected Council Member of the Town of Poneto, where she was a proud resident since the age of 4.

Funeral Services will be held at 10 A.M. on Saturday (April 22, 2023) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Burial will follow at Grove Cemetery in Poneto.

Visitation will be held from 3-7 pm, Friday April 21 at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, IN., and for one hour prior to the service on Saturday.

Memorials may be made in Rita's name to the Wells County 4-H Backpack program or to the Poneto Volunteer Fire Department, and can be sent through the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Grove Cemetery

5136 South 100 East  
Bluffton, IN 46714

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 21. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Visitation

APR 22. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Funeral Service

APR 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

# Tribute Wall

LY

“ I always loved going to Rita's house as a kid! I can picture her yelling at Justin and Jordan for whatever mischief they were up to. As I got older I would always walk past her house when I walked the dog because if she was home I knew she would be outside. She would always come and have a chat with me when she saw me. Rita was such a genuine and caring person. She always made you feel special and she gave great hugs!! She was such a great friend to my mom (Lila). I have lots of memories of listening to them and the club ladies chat and and have fun! She will be greatly missed! Sending prayers to you all!!  
Lyndsay (Gardner) Petrich

Lyndsay - April 23, 2023 at 01:32 PM

CM

“ Lacey, Sara, Mak, Jordan and Families, so sorry to hear of Rita's passing. She was a good Mom and she always greeted all with a smile. One thing comes to mind, I was visiting the house one day, and Rita was explaining how she had blown the top off of her pressure cooker. Most of the mess was cleaned up, but you could still see remnants up on the ceiling. Not so funny, but we all laughed. I know you and all of the Poneto community will miss her. Wayne and I would like to share our deepest sympathy during this sad time.



Cindy Monticue - April 22, 2023 at 09:29 PM

BG

“ I will miss Aunt Rita's smile and laugh; as well as her lively discussions and hearing all her wonderful stories and treasures memories of family and life. I am eternally grateful for the time we had together. To Mak, Lacey, Sara and Jordan, you remain in my thoughts during this time and beyond, love Betsy.

Betti Guzman - April 22, 2023 at 05:03 PM

LW

“ Rita was the adventurous one in our group of five friends. It was her idea to get us to go river rafting a few years ago. She so enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Rita made the best sugar cream pies. With her always upbeat attitude and smiles, we shared many good times. She bravely faced her illness and I never heard her complain. She will be greatly missed! We send our sincere sympathies to her family. 🤔

Linda Worman - April 21, 2023 at 10:24 PM

JD

“ Janet DeWitt lit a candle in memory of Rita Knowles



Janet DeWitt - April 21, 2023 at 10:13 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 21, 2023 at 03:45 PM

RA

“ Our sympathies to Rita’s family. Ron was her classmate and I got to know her when our children were young and in school. I don’t remember ever seeing her without a smile on her face. She was always friendly and ready to laugh. She will be greatly missed by many. Ron and Jean Anderson

Ron and Jean Anderson - April 21, 2023 at 02:58 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 21, 2023 at 12:35 PM

BG

“ Rita was like a ray of sunshine and I always enjoyed seeing her and talking with her. Don't think she ever met a stranger. She was an excellent mail carrier for many years and spoke of how she enjoyed seeing the blooming trees and flowers on her mail route each spring. Rita was a joy to know.  
BJ Gray



BJ Gray - April 21, 2023 at 11:30 AM

DS

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you. I went to school with Rita starting in fourth grade and enjoyed talks with her. Marlin and I worked together as teenagers. May God grant you peace and comfort. Dave Smeltzer

David Smeltzer - April 21, 2023 at 10:33 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 21, 2023 at 10:21 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 21, 2023 at 09:06 AM

SS

“ Rita was a beautiful person inside and out and she will be SO missed. In times of sadness, she was there to give the best hugs ever. RIP my friend.

Suzie Smekens Studebaker - April 21, 2023 at 08:54 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 21, 2023 at 08:45 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 21, 2023 at 08:35 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 20, 2023 at 10:36 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 20, 2023 at 08:59 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 20, 2023 at 07:21 PM



“ I hate to think how many Bigfoot pancakes she made during our snow delays back in the day! And my whole family still eats peanut butter on pancakes because of Rita and family! Love her so much!



**Sheri Huffman Worthington** - April 20, 2023 at 06:56 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 20, 2023 at 03:40 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 20, 2023 at 01:49 PM



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



April 20, 2023 at 11:29 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 20, 2023 at 11:21 AM

MM

“ Rita always had a kind word, a smile, and a hug for me every time I saw her. Thinking of her family at this time.



Mindy Monticue - April 20, 2023 at 10:07 AM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Rita O. Knowles.



April 19, 2023 at 10:24 PM

PM

“ Pat Mayer lit a candle in memory of Rita Knowles



Pat Mayer - April 19, 2023 at 09:43 PM

JS

*I've known Rita from 3rd grade at Poplar Grove School through Bluffton High School. Rita was one of the nicest, sweetest people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. I am so sorry for your loss. I'm sure she will be terribly missed.*

Jackie Miller Smith - April 21, 2023 at 07:47 PM

DC

*My sympathies to the Knowles children.*

Della Carr - April 22, 2023 at 10:15 AM