



## Rita Ziliak

February 17, 1957 - June 26, 2021

Rita J. Ziliak, 64, of Haubstadt, Ind., passed away at her home, surrounded by her family, on Saturday, June 26, 2021 after a two-year battle with cancer.

Rita was born in Evansville on Feb 17, 1957 to Francis “Booby” Maurer and Bettye (Waterman) Maurer. Rita grew up in a large, close-knit family that included a twin sister and 10 additional brothers and sisters.

Rita met the love of her life, Mark Ziliak, in June of 1975 on the dance floor at Lamey’s when her necklace broke. Mark helped her find the necklace on the floor, and the rest is history. The two married on Aug. 9, 1980 at St. James.

Mark was drawn to Rita’s bright spirit and contagious sense of joy, which made life more enjoyable for anyone who had the privilege of meeting her. Rita was the first to volunteer to beat you at clabber, the first to pull you onto the dance floor to jitterbug, and the first to strike up a conversation with a stranger ... and walk away with a new friend. She also was the last to leave any party or celebration – never wanting the night to end.

Rita, never realizing how special she was, often questioned what kind of legacy she would leave. Those who knew her undoubtedly would say her legacy is one of incredible love. Her big heart never stopped expanding to accommodate anyone who needed a helping hand or a little extra love. You

always left a conversation with Rita feeling like a million bucks because she saw all your good qualities and never hesitated to tell you about them. She might let you know you're the best mom, the greatest clabber player (though that title really belonged to her), the sweetest person, or the most beautiful person in the room.

Though her heart had room for everyone, Rita reserved a special place in her heart for her kids and grandkids.

As a young mom, Rita sacrificed vacations, new cars, and fancy clothes to be able to stay at home and raise her little ones. She never stopped taking care of her kids, though, even as adults. Rita spent some of her final good days making sure her kids would have everything they needed even after she was gone.

Rita cherished the few years she had with her precious grandbabies. Mimi, as they called her, made life magical with surprise Amazon packages she sent to their doorsteps and egg hunts she organized at all times of the year because fun can't be contained to Easter. The babies loved her so much that they would fight over who was able to sit on her lap at church.

To say that Rita will be missed by many is an understatement.

In addition to her husband of 40 years, Rita is survived by children, Adam Ziliak (Kim), Lindsey Ziliak, and Kelsey Halbig (Andy); grandchildren, Dylan Ziliak and Sadie and Lane Halbig; sisters, Judy Helmling, Mary Maurer, Dorothy Kuper (Mike), and Bet Bow (Jim); brothers, Paul Maurer (Patty), John Maurer (Gail), Mike Maurer, Donald Maurer (Holly), and Stephen Maurer (Karen); brothers-in-law, Mark Loehrlein, Joe Ziliak (Karen), Rick Ziliak (Jeri), Stan Ziliak (Kim), Wayne Ziliak (Kellie), Jeff Ziliak (Laura), Jon Ziliak (Laurie), and Roger Ziliak (Mary Ellen); sisters-in-law, Bobbie Biggs (Keevin) and

Nancy Will (Terry); and many nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews, whom she loved.

In addition to her parents, Rita was preceded in death by infant daughter, Jessica Rose; twin sister, Rose Loehrlein; brother, Kenny Maurer; brother-in-law Danny Ziliak; and mother- and father-in-law, Mary Ellen and Leonard Ziliak.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 1 at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin St., Evansville, Ind., and will continue from 9 to 10 a.m. Friday, July 2 at St. James Catholic Church, 12300 S. 50 W., Haubstadt, Ind. A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10 a.m. Friday at the church, with Father Kenneth Betz officiating. Burial will follow at St. James cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. James Church or Fair Haven Foundation, which provides free housing to out-of-town families receiving treatments at Indianapolis hospitals. Donations to Fair Haven may be mailed to P.O. Box 441683, Indianapolis, IN 46244. Donations also may be made directly online at [www.fairhavenfoundation.org](http://www.fairhavenfoundation.org). Rita's family also encourages everyone to honor her generous and giving spirit by doing something nice for someone who needs a helping hand.

# Cemetery Details

## St James Church Cemetery

12300 South 50 West  
Haubstadt, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home  
2601 West Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN 47712  
(812) 423-6471  
info@pierrefuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

## funeral

JUL 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church  
12300 South 50 West  
Haubstadt, IN 47639

## Burial

JUL 2 (CT)

St James Church Cemetery  
12300 South 50 West  
Haubstadt, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rita Ziliak*



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**Pierre Funeral Home** - June 30, 2021 at 11:57 AM



“ *Rita Ziliak*

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January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *Mark and Rita are just GOoD people. They set an example of kindness and morals all should follow! It would be a better world. Prayers for the families, memories of Rita will keep her alive in your hearts*  
*Karen Maurer*

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**karen maurer** - July 02, 2021 at 08:07 AM

DA

“ I can't tell how often Rita would save the day by letting kids in for late night newspaper paste up and walk them up to the newsroom. No matter how out-of-her-schedule it may have been, she was there for the kids of Gibson Southern. She always had a smile for everyone there. Our condolences and sympathies.

*Don and Sue Asay*

Don and Sue Asay - July 01, 2021 at 05:40 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Ziliak.



July 01, 2021 at 12:39 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rita Ziliak.



July 01, 2021 at 10:22 AM



“ Rita was the most friendly girl I've met her and her sisters are all friendly I am honored to have known her and Rita's family. She will be missed from st james area and everyone she touched. Our condolences to the family on your loss

Tom Ambrose - July 01, 2021 at 08:11 AM

BM

*Rita was a beautiful woman inside and out! Always wearing a smile!  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you Mark, family and friends!*

Bill and Lois Martin - July 01, 2021 at 10:17 AM



“Garden Accent Stone - *"Wherever a Beautiful Soul..."* was purchased for the family of Rita Ziliak.



June 30, 2021 at 09:00 PM

LM

“8 files added to the tribute wall



Leah Maurer - June 30, 2021 at 03:14 PM

DS

“ Mark & family you are in my thoughts and prayers. I have many many fun memories with Rita. We hung out together, worked together and went to Florida together along with a great group of girls back in our late teens. She always had a beautiful smile on her face & never met a stranger. I pray God gives you peace and strength.

*Diane (Glaser) Sellers*

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**Diane Sellers** - June 30, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ 126 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Pierre Funeral Home** - June 30, 2021 at 11:36 AM

KB

“ When we were bussed to school in St Wendel we picked up the 3 sisters Rita, Rosie and Dorothy, Rita and Rosie always sat together in the same seat they seem to get along so well and the one thing that all the kids remembered is when they all got on the bus in the morning you could smell bacon and eggs ....made us all hungry 😊  
Prayers and condolences to the other family members  
May she rest in peace 🙏❤️



Karen Benke - June 30, 2021 at 10:29 AM

SC

“ Rita was one of my bus drivers and let me tell u she never failed to put a smile on my face in the morning she had such a sweet soul and she definitely made my bus ride way better she was so sweet and so kind u will be missed dearly u are the best bus driver I've had 🙏☐☐

Samantha Ann cross - June 30, 2021 at 09:01 AM

RL

“ I never had the pleasure of knowing Rita but if she was anything like her husband, she was a great person to know. Our sympathies and prayers for Mark and the entire extended family

Ric and Jenny Lloyd - June 30, 2021 at 08:45 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rita Ziliak.



June 29, 2021 at 11:00 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rita Ziliak.*



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June 29, 2021 at 10:54 PM



“ *Rita had a contagious smile that always lit up the room. When you saw Rita you always knew Rosie wasn't very far away. Say Hi to Colette for me. Mark you have my sincere condolences. Fly high Rita*  
*Mary Wagner*  
*Grade school friends*

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**Mary Wagner** - June 29, 2021 at 10:41 PM



“ *So many good memories with Rita and Rose, from Lamey's to Kramer's, dancing and singing away! You are at peace now, and will always be in our hearts.*

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**Joyce Wilzbacher** - June 29, 2021 at 10:01 PM



“ *Rita and Rose what a pair of twins . The first two girl that could drink me under the table .*  
*That was 1975*

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**Darrel Russelburg** - June 29, 2021 at 09:32 PM

SH

“ Sharon Hale sent a virtual gift in memory of Rita Ziliak



Sharon Hale - June 29, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Ziliak.



June 29, 2021 at 03:48 PM

CG

“ Where there was Rita there was Rose.  
From first grade, sitting together on the school bus, soft ball games in their yard and playing for St. Joe CYO, to picking up straw.  
Rest In Peace Rita you are with Rosie❤️  
And Family.  
Blessings for the Ziliack and Maurer Families

connie e gries - June 29, 2021 at 11:27 AM

MH

“ Martie Helmling lit a candle in memory of Rita Ziliak



Martie Helmling - June 29, 2021 at 06:50 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Ziliak.* ”



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June 28, 2021 at 05:19 PM