



## Mrs. Rita Juenke of Palatine

May 10, 1936 - May 6, 2024

Rita Juenke, 87, of Palatine, Illinois.

Loving wife of Dieter Juenke; devoted mother of Tim (Janice) Juenke and Steve Johnson; cherished grandmother of Jennifer (James) Smith, Ashley Juenke and Keith (Angela) Johnson; beloved great grandmother of Hannah and Henry. Cherished sister of the late Richard Wagner; fond aunt of Ernie (Kathy) Wagner, Ingrid (Jim) Moriarty, and Carol (Mike) Bogar.

A private service will meet on Friday, May 17, 2024 at Memory Gardens Cemetery main office, 2501 E Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 at 1:45 P.M. for a graveside funeral service.

The family has created this Life Tributes page to make it easy to share your memories, photos, and videos. For those of you that would have attended services and would like to express your condolences please click on the "Share A Memory" link above and you can leave a message. If you wish to send a Sympathy Card, please feel free to send it to Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 60169 c/o the Family; we will gladly forward it on to the family.

For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at 847.752.6444. Arrangements entrusted to Morizzo Funeral Home and

Cremation Services, at 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169.

# Cemetery Details

## Memory Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights

2501 East Euclid Avenue  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

# Tribute Wall

EW

“ My Tante Rita was a wonderful, genuine person with a quick wit and great sense of humor. She was a dog and bird lover who loved to putz around in her garden areas at home with her furry or feathery friends close by.

*While growing up she used to tell everyone that I was her favorite nephew and it always made me feel very special. Then one day when I was older and we were together with family she said it again, and it suddenly occurred to me that I was her only nephew. We all had a good laugh about that.*

*During family gatherings around the holidays she would find some time to talk to me directly to learn what was new with me, what and how I was doing, etc. I felt I could confide in her and did so and always got some good advice.*

*Over the "earlier" years, our family times together were less frequent but we would catch up over the phone occasionally and have nice long talks then. I remember, that as she shared her wisdom about any particular topic, there was always a lot of laughter during our conversations.*

*She came to our wedding with my dad Richard and really "cut the rug" on the dance floor. Both of them came to visit us in AZ for a week in the late 90's and we all had a great time together. Over the last 35 years she and Kathy really got to know each other so well that Kathy felt like she was also her "Tante." We both will miss her and are grateful for the good times and talks we all had together.*

*So, while she will be missed greatly here on this earth, I'm sure she is "cutting the rug" in heaven and she is sharing her wisdom, wit and laughter with her other friends and family that have left us.*

*We love You Tante Rita, RIP*

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Ernst Wagner - May 23, 2024 at 10:44 AM

JS

“ I will miss my Oma so very much. She was truly one of a kind, beautiful, classy, smart, funny, frugal, generous and kind. She had the most infectious laugh and was truly loved by everyone she met. Oma could pick up a conversation with anyone, anytime, any place.

When I was little I remember loving going over to Oma and Opa's house! Oma would always take me and my sister around her house showing us all of her little critters and figurines. Then she would take us into her beloved greenhouse and show us all her beautiful orchids, and other flowers that she took such good care of. And then she would take us to my favorite place, her closet, with all of her beautiful clothes, shoes, and of course, her beautiful jewelry.

As I got older, Oma became more of a friend and a confidant. Anytime we would chat on the phone, she would always make me laugh sharing funny stories about her and Opa. She was always a cheerleader in my life. I'll never forget the one time I got a speeding ticket that I had to go to traffic court for, it was my first time, Oma was the one that came with me to help calm my nerves.

What I loved the most, was seeing her get to be a great-grandmother to my children. She loved and adored them so very much, as they did her. It was fun for me getting to “relive my childhood” when she would take them around her house doing the same as she did with me, showing them all of her little critters, figurines and beautiful flowers.

*I will always love you Oma!*

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Jennifer Smith - May 19, 2024 at 10:10 PM

AJ

“ My oma and I were very close. She always understood me and my personal struggles. We shared a special bond and I'm honored to be called "little Rita" by my opa and family. She truly was an amazing woman and grandmother to me. The one thing I miss most about her is her laugh. She had the best most contagious laugh ever. If she started to laugh I guarantee you would be laughing right with her. When she was happy and fun she lit up the room. She truly was a wonderful unique one of a kind woman. She is and always will be my Oma. She will always be in my heart.

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**Ashley Juenke** - May 19, 2024 at 08:15 PM

JJ

“ I actually have so many fun memories to share about my mother-in-law, Rita, but two funny ones I'll share now.

*The first one is from way back from many years ago in our past. I was just starting to "date" Tim and had walked (yep, we walked everywhere back in the 70's) to his house with my best friend, Kathy Graves (now Ley and still our best friend). We were supposed to go out and hang out with friends. Tim wasn't ready yet so his mom offered to make us a cup of coffee. As she poured the boiling water over this funnel looking thing which held the coffee grounds, a dark rich coffee dripped into a glass carafe below. She poured us out each a cup of coffee into delicate porcelain cups with saucers and added real cream. As she prepared all this she chatted away with us and won us over with her wonderful, natural charisma and charm. She was engaging and fun! As we both started to sip our coffee Kathy looked over at me and said, "This is the best coffee I've ever tasted in my life!" I totally agreed. Tim came downstairs ready to go. We didn't want to leave, lol! Rita told him to let us finish our coffee. As she busied herself at the counter, we continued with our coffee and enjoyed his mom! Tim was not happy!!*

*Fast forward several years later.*

*We were now married, and Jennifer and Ashley were young girls. We used to go out to eat quite often with Dieter and Rita at a favorite restaurant near them. One evening as we were finishing dinner a gentleman somewhere near us began to sneeze. He sneezed loudly, and he sneezed over and over and over again several times. I have no idea why, but both Rita and I found this hysterically funny. We both have very LOUD laughs so together we were probably making our own scene. The sneezing stopped so we calmed down, but then seriously like in three minutes he started all over again. We tried not to look at each other, but it didn't work. She was trying to hold the laughter in so hard she began snorting. Well that was it! I was roaring with laughter, she was roaring with laughter. We just couldn't stop ourselves. The hard belly ache kind of laughing when tears are coming down your face. Dieter and Tim*

*got embarrassed. They took the children, paid the bill, and left us there.....laughing. A couple of the young wait staff who cleared the tables came over to smile and giggle with us. We finally calmed down enough to leave. When we walked out most people smiled at us when we walked out. My mother-in-law was always fun to go out with!*

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**Janice Juenke** - May 19, 2024 at 01:34 AM

CB

“ *I know all the Wagner's are so sad to have to say goodbye to our beautiful aunt Tante Rita. What a cool sister our father Richard had! Her presence at our traditional holiday dinners made it extra special. She had a way of lighting up every room she entered, a true fashion diva who sparkled from head to toe with just the right accessories. We will always remember her distinct infectious laugh, her mink stoles and her philosophy on life. "Now children do not forget, you can never be too rich or too thin in this life!" Wise words from a woman who loved to collect owl figurines and had so many that every time we visited her and Uncle Dieter's house we would go on an owl hunt to count how many we could find! She was so special! Our beautiful aunt will truly be missed but never ever forgotten. We were all so blessed to have her in our lives! Rest in peace Tante Rita. Xoxo*

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**Carol Bogar** - May 16, 2024 at 09:36 AM

SM

“ *Rita was such a sweet and funny lady. I will never forget the time she drove us kids to the park one day to play and as we got out of the car she said "Now remember kids, you just got a ride in a Mercedes, a GERMAN car". It makes me laugh to this day. She will be truly missed. Thinking of you all during this time.*

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**Stephanie Miller** - May 15, 2024 at 01:31 PM

DK

“ I know how much time you two spent together. You were virtually inseparable. May all your wonderful memories comfort you during this heartbreaking time. She was just a sweetheart, I will miss her.



Love you all,  
Denise

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Denise Kiolbasa - May 15, 2024 at 11:56 AM

DK

“ Denise K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Juenke.

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Denise K. - May 15, 2024 at 11:49 AM