



Riitta Tuulikki Hayes

July 9, 1942 - April 25, 2020

Riitta Tuulikki Hayes, 77, was received into the arms of her Savior in the early morning of April 25, 2020. Riitta was born on July 9, 1942 to Levi Pietari and Laila Kyllikki Junes in Helsinki, Finland. Riitta learned multiple languages such as Finnish, Swedish, English, German and French. Riitta completed her education and became a nurse in London, England where she met her husband, Martin B. Hayes. In 1967, they relocated to the United States and lived in Gary, Indiana. The Hayes family welcomed Riitta with open arms to a new country that she would call home. Riitta worked in Nursing and Sales throughout her career. Riitta had several hobbies including skiing, skating, singing, dancing, playing piano, travel, painting, reading and fashion. Riitta was a founding member of the Gary, IN YWCA chapter and enjoyed being physically active. She attended Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Chesterton, Indiana and will be remembered for her Finnish “Sisu” (determination) and love of family and friends.

Riitta was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. She is survived by her 3 sons: Michael (Jennifer) of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Erik (Carmen) of Lenexa, Kansas and Petri (Emily) of Port Saint Lucie, Florida; 9 grandchildren: Michael (29), Kaitlyn (25), Candace (23), Kai (21), Kelsey (21), Kiira (14), Hope (7), Caleb (4) and Mercy (2), sister Ritva Kyllikki Junes of Finland and niece Taru Tuohiniemi of Sydney Australia, and former husband, Martin B. Hayes.

A PRIVATE Celebration of Life ceremony for her sons and grandchildren will take place on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at 11:00 a.m., at Burns Funeral Home, 701 East 7th Street Hobart, Pastor John W. Kost officiating. Due to social distancing, extended family and friends are encouraged to participate in a Celebration Parade/Drive By service from 12:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m, in front of Burns Funeral Home (Hobart). We will also be livestreaming Riitta's service at 11:00 a.m. on the Burns Funeral Home Facebook page. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located at 2050 W 1100 N, Chesterton, IN. 46304, or given online at https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/446937. www.burnsfuneral.com.

Previous Events

Celebration Parade/Drive By in front of Funeral Home

APR **30**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 942-1117
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

RS

“ Growing up, Petri was more like brother my age than cousin. Michael & Erik were like the big brothers I didn't have. Sometimes, I would just walk from my house to Aunt Riita's house just to be around them. When I walked in, she cared for me like I was hers. When I got older and had a family, she invited me to her church Bethlehem Lutheran in Chesterton. When she introduced us as her family, they always turned to Melissa to say how Aunt Riita's a wonderful person. Aunt Riita would have a smug look when she'd tell them, "No, Roy Anthony is my nephew. Can't you see the family resemblance?" My children love her so much. We love her so much.

Roy Summerville - April 30, 2020 at 12:02 PM

PH

Lol. Thank you for sharing. We love you and it was good seeing you yesterday

Petri Hayes - May 01, 2020 at 09:00 AM

KA

“ Riitta always brought a smile to my face, she was friends with my mom Pam . We always had a great time with her. I always loved to hear stories of her childhood, We will miss her deeply.

Love ,
The Aquino & Miller Family



Kama Aquino - April 30, 2020 at 11:43 AM

PH

Thank you Kama. Mom loves Pam and you guys. Thank you for.

Petri Hayes - May 01, 2020 at 09:01 AM

DH

“ I remember any time I was around her I just wanted her to talk because I loved Aunt Riitta accent, didn't care what she said I just wanted to hear her voice. Always a sweet & beautiful woman, love you auntie. Always in my 💕,
JoJo



Damita Hayes - April 30, 2020 at 10:17 AM

PH

Thank you Damita. I love OUR family so much.

Petri Hayes - May 01, 2020 at 09:02 AM

IB

“ When we were very young I remember visiting your home and your Mom was such a gracious host. I remember feeling like I was in the Brady Bunch house and I knew from that moment what I wanted in my home life as an adult. It was a defining visit for me. I really wish I could have spent time with her but her short presence influenced my life. I'm very sorry for your loss. Her presence will never die.
Love, Ingrid Burns-Brownlee

ingrid brownlee - April 30, 2020 at 08:48 AM

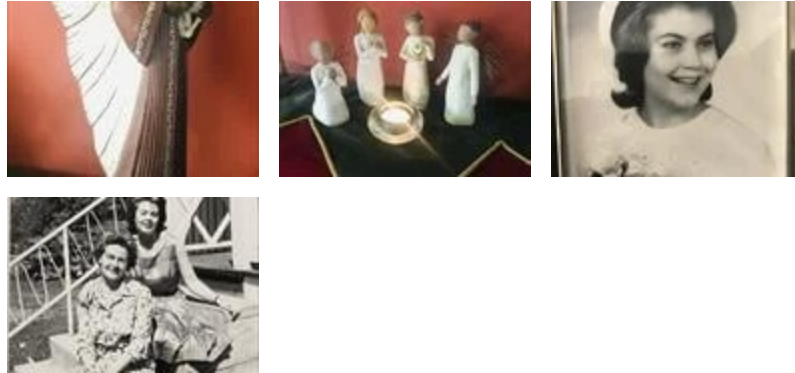
PH

Thank you Ingrid. Riitta loved and influenced so many people throughout her life.

Petri Hayes - May 01, 2020 at 09:04 AM

MS

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Michael Hayes (oldest Son) - April 30, 2020 at 08:25 AM

PH

Thank you for guiding us through this difficult time.

Petri Hayes - May 01, 2020 at 09:04 AM

KF

“ *Korpi Family From Tornio Finland lit a candle in memory of Riitta Tuulikki Hayes*



Korpi family from Tornio Finland - April 30, 2020 at 04:00 AM

PH

Thank you and love you guys.

Petri Hayes - May 01, 2020 at 09:05 AM

MA

“ *Cousin Marja-Liisa from Tornio, Finland lit a candle in memory of Riitta Tuulikki Hayes.*



Marja-Liisa Alamäki - April 29, 2020 at 12:57 PM

PH

Love you so much. It was a “Ihana” celebration of life for Mom.

Petri Hayes - May 01, 2020 at 09:06 AM



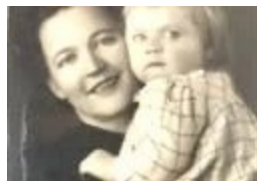
“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Riitta Tuulikki Hayes.*



April 29, 2020 at 11:00 AM



“ *6 files added to the tribute wall*



Michael Hayes - April 29, 2020 at 09:16 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Riitta Tuulikki Hayes.



April 29, 2020 at 08:46 AM



“ Rosie And Alberto lit a candle in memory of Riitta Tuulikki Hayes



rosie and alberto - April 28, 2020 at 08:51 PM



Thank you so much! 🙏

Michael Hayes (oldest Son) - April 28, 2020 at 11:14 PM



“ Yvonne & Rey lit a candle in memory of Riitta Tuulikki Hayes



Yvonne & Rey - April 28, 2020 at 02:44 PM



Thank you so much!!! 🙏🌈🎈

Michael Hayes (oldest Son) - April 28, 2020 at 11:15 PM

MS

“ *Michael Hayes (oldest Son) lit a candle in memory of Riitta Tuulikki Hayes*



Michael Hayes (oldest Son) - April 28, 2020 at 01:16 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Riitta Tuulikki Hayes.*



April 28, 2020 at 12:30 PM