



## Rita Jane Hecker

August 31, 1957 - April 13, 2018

Rita Jane Hecker, 60, of Columbus, Ohio, died at 5:04 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2018, at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus after a brief illness. She was born Aug. 31, 1957, in Zanesville, the daughter of Waverly F. Tyson and Mary Anne Goelz.

Rita, a former member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, was a 1975 graduate of Bishop Rosecrans High School and earned an associate's degree from Muskingum Area Technical College, after which she worked for a time in a Zanesville law office. She was a longtime employee of Hancock Fabrics in Columbus and most recently worked at the Southeast Branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library.

Rita was a superb seamstress, crocheter and quilter, an outstanding cook, a devoted gardener and a superlative baker known especially well for her colossally creative birthday cakes and the platters of homemade treats she gave away each Christmas Eve. This sweet, gentle, wise woman was loved and appreciated for her beautiful smile, ingratiating laugh, sparkling wit and compassionate concern for all. Those who knew her can confirm that she was the greatest wife, mother, sibling and friend a person could have. The world has lost one of our stellar citizens, but Heaven is all the richer.

Rita is survived by her husband, Robert K. Hecker, whom she married in June 1984; six children, Rita (Jason) Dorstewitz of Columbus, Greg (Kati) Hecker of Erie, Pa., Tim (Jordan) Hecker of Cleveland, and Rachel, Robin and Rebecca Hecker, all of Columbus; three grand-daughters, Lia, Margot and June Hecker of Cleveland; a sister, Mary (David) Daugherty of Dayton, Ohio; four brothers, Ron (Linda) Tyson of Florida; Michael Tyson of Canton, Ohio; Waverly (Cindy) Tyson of South Bend, Ind., and John (Kim) Tyson of Heath, Ohio; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Friends may call from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Friday, April 20, 2018 at the Hillis, Combs & Nestor Funeral Home, 935 Forest Avenue, Zanesville, OH. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1:30 PM on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church 144 North Fifth Street, Zanesville with Fr. Jan C.P. Sullivan as celebrant. Burial will conclude in the Mount Olive Cemetery Zanesville.

To sign the online register book or to send a personal condolence note please visit [www.hilliscombsnestor.com](http://www.hilliscombsnestor.com).



# Cemetery

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## Mount Olive Cemetery

East Pike

Zanesville, OH, 43701

# Events

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**APR** **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

**20**

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Hillis,Combs & Nestor Funeral Home

935 Forest Ave, Zanesville, OH, US, 43701

**APR** **Mass of Christian Burial** 01:30PM

**21**

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St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

144 North Fifth Street, Zanesville, OH, US, 43701

# Comments

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



April 21, 2018 at 08:49 AM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita Jane Hecker.



April 20, 2018 at 07:55 PM

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“ My son worked with Rita at the Southeast Branch and she was always kind and friendly with her coworkers and with all the patrons at the library.. She always had a smile for everyone. I don't think that I ever saw her without a big smile on her face. The Southeast branch won't be the same without her smiling face and her infectious laugh. Mary Ann Anderson

mary ann anderson - April 20, 2018 at 07:27 PM

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“ Kati's Pals @ ERIE purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Rita Jane Hecker.



Kati's Pals @ ERIE - April 20, 2018 at 08:54 AM

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“ Helen Rudesill purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rita Jane Hecker.



Helen Rudesill - April 20, 2018 at 07:47 AM

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



April 19, 2018 at 07:26 PM

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“ Debbie, Geoff & Madison Rudesill purchased the Garden of Memories for the family of Rita Jane Hecker.



Debora Rudesill - April 19, 2018 at 04:15 PM

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“ Love, Brad & Beth Keilholz and Family purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Rita Jane Hecker.



Love, Brad & Beth Keilholz and Family - April 19, 2018 at 02:54 PM

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“ Bob,  
I am so sorry to hear of Rita's passing -- Kathy Showalter informed me.  
My condolences to you and your family.  
Stan Pawloski  
Wheeling, WV

**Stan Pawloski** - April 19, 2018 at 02:38 PM



“ Rita was a lovely person to have worked with my 3 short years at the library. I am glad to have had what small but delightful experience with Rita. I am certain such a person leaves her family and friends wanting so much more. Just my few moments with her was like a memorable sample of her desserts. Everyone should have a slice of Christian life that was Rita. She was diligent in her assignments, kind with staff and customers, and had a sense of humor that demonstrated her deep wit and aura of strength. She will be missed. My true condolences to you, her family, for such a great, personable lady.

Vicki Payne  
Columbus, Ohio

**Vicki Payne** - April 20, 2018 at 02:26 PM



“ Rita was our baby sister. I remember when our mother brought her home as a newborn, her instructions to us were "this child will grow up with love, and I expect that she will always be shown love in our family". Mom would tolerate nothing less as we all grew up. She always said that Rita was the "icing on her cake". And she was indeed that.

I'm convinced that Rita was the best of us. All the qualities we admire in humanity, she had in full measure - kindness, love, faith, steadfastness & courage, humility, loyalty, natural talent, and so much more. Her husband and children are left with wholesome memories of the best wife and mother, and anyone who knows them can see Rita's mark.

We are all devastated by this loss. But we are comforted with the knowledge that she is with our parents in heaven. I can just imagine the reception she received last Friday - right after Our Lord welcomed her - I'm sure Mom and Dad were waiting right there.

**Mary Daugherty** - April 19, 2018 at 01:52 PM



“ To the family of Rita,I just learned today of her passing I am so sorry for your lost.She was a member of my quilting group the Material Girls. She was a special person .

**Bert** - April 19, 2018 at 12:04 PM

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



April 18, 2018 at 10:17 PM

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“ Dear Bob, children and the extended Hecker family,  
It was with great sadness that we learned of Rita's death. We are so very sorry for your loss. Our memories of Rita and your family go back to our shared days at St. Philip grade school. It was always so nice to see all of you, a warm, loving family. I also remember when Rita worked at the Hancock Fabric store not far from our house. She was always so helpful and upbeat when I went there to buy fabric. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. God Bless You All,  
George and Kathy Zimmermann

**Kathy Zimmermann** - April 18, 2018 at 03:56 PM

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“ I worked with Rita at the library. She had the most wicked wit and a great laugh. We laughed so much! She was a great cook and would always bring me cookies and jam and peppers from her garden. She was a great listener and very thoughtful with everyone. Always a great person to get tips from about crafts and crocheting! She will be missed. The family is in my prayers.

**Brittany Carroll** - April 18, 2018 at 11:39 AM



“ Rita was such an amazing friend and co-worker.We loved talking about our children and grandchildren.I miss her dearly.My deepest sympathy.May you find strength and comfort in your our time of sorrow.

**Mary Tanksley** - April 18, 2018 at 11:08 PM

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“ Dear Robin, Deepest condolences on the passing of your mother. We were deeply saddened when Mary Mo informed us of your families' loss. You and your entire family are in our prayers.

Sincerely, Kelly and Bill Moser.



**kelly moser** - April 18, 2018 at 11:22 AM

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“ Bob & Family, so sorry for your loss of Rita your wife , and your Mom. She was such a great friend to me. Almost everyday I would go to her for morning hugs . I used to tell her I'm so blessed by God having her in my life and how lucky I was. That is so true. I just we would have had more time together . I will always cherish our conversations and time we had together. Prayers for your healing and comfort on the days ahead.  
Mary Mennetti

**Ms. Mary Mennetti** - April 17, 2018 at 10:10 PM

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“ My dear Aunt Rita,  
Most people believe we are here to make some great difference in this world, I disagree. Don't get me wrong she made a difference in all the little things she did. She made a difference to my sisters and I. I told her daughter the other day that she left a beautiful legacy.  
But I believe we are here to learn and most of all experience. A writer once said “God is like a book, he has all the knowledge, and he made us and put us here to experience all those things he had knowledge of, and then bring it back to him”. I tend to agree with this perspective. Love, loss, joy, anger, pride, humility and on and on. My Aunt Rita experienced all of this with open arms and embraced it. She was the most humble, loving, giving, self sacrificing person I knew. She was the best person I knew. I will miss her smile, her laugh, the flutter of her eyes and how her text messages were always like a letter greeting you first. But she had nothing more to learn, her soul was full and god needed her to come share it with him. I am the Aunt Rita in my family but I am only a fraction of the woman she was.  
I love you!

**Amanda Daugherty** - April 17, 2018 at 09:49 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Jane Hecker.



April 17, 2018 at 02:06 PM

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“ From your friends and colleagues at OSUWMC. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Rita Jane Hecker.



**From your friends and colleagues at OSUWMC.** - April 17, 2018 at 12:41 PM

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“ So Sorry for your loss!



**Pam & Randy Bishop** - April 16, 2018 at 09:40 PM



“ Many prayers for the family.

**Teri Strauss** - April 17, 2018 at 07:06 PM

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



April 16, 2018 at 05:55 PM

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“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Rita Jane Hecker.



April 16, 2018 at 05:47 PM

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“ Bob and Family. So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family. Uncle Mike and Aunt MaryKay

**MaryKay Kohle** - April 16, 2018 at 05:11 PM

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“ I'll miss you dear friend. You'll live on through your family. Til I meet you in heaven. You'll be in my thoughts always.

**mary hecker** - April 16, 2018 at 06:23 PM

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“ Bob and family, you have our sincere sympathy. We are praying for you all. Karen (Kohler) Deliman and family.

**Karen(Kohler)Deliman** - April 16, 2018 at 05:07 PM

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“ Bob and Family, I am deeply sorrowed for the passing of Rita. Please accept my deepest sympathy. She was a dear friend. Katie



**katie** - April 16, 2018 at 03:03 PM



“ Dear Bob and family, so sorry to hear about your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you, love Aunt Vicki

**Vicki Bagent** - April 16, 2018 at 06:01 PM



“ So sorry Bob and family of the loss of Rita our thoughts and prayers go out to all.....May god bless you all during this sad time!! Mimi and Dave Thomas

**mimi thomas** - April 16, 2018 at 07:27 PM



“ My sincere thought and prayers go to Bob and the entire family; I worked many years with Rita at Southeast and she was such a dear, kind, helpful, positive person. May God bless each of you and hold you in His Loving arms.

**Jinney** - April 16, 2018 at 10:21 PM



“ Praying for the entire family during this difficult time. I worked with Rita at Southeast and enjoyed our many hours of work and talks about our families. Rita was so proud of her children and Grandchildren, spoke often about her great husband. I will always have wonderful memories of Rita and our time together . May God surround the family and give you comfort in the days ahead. Loretta

**Loretta Gilkerson** - April 17, 2018 at 07:52 PM



“ Bob and Family please accept my condolences for the loss of your sweet Wife and Mother. I will be praying for you and keeping you in my Thoughts and Prayers at this most difficult time.

**Emilie Kohler** - April 20, 2018 at 11:11 AM