



Rita Drone

March 10, 1929 - June 2, 2022

Rita (Ata) Drone, 93, of Big Lake, MN passed away on June 2nd, 2022. She was born on March 10, 1929 to Andrejs and Emilija Bankovics in Svitene, Latvia. Rita spent her childhood years in Latvia. In 1944, as the Russian army invaded Latvia, Rita and her family fled to Germany, where they spent the next 5 years in displaced persons camps. The family arrived in the US in 1950; first living in Michigan and soon after relocating to Minnesota. Rita studied at the U of M and received her Master of Arts degree in Library Science in 1958. Rita met and married Arvids Drone and in 1963, daughter, Anda was born. Rita worked as a librarian in the Mpls school system until she retired. Rita was very active in the Latvian community both in the US, and in later years, in Latvia as well. Rita loved books, art, music, gardening and traveling- always ready for a new adventure!

Proceeded in death by her brother, Vilnis Bankovics. Survived by daughter Anda (Richard) Campion; grandchildren, Richard III (Angela) Campion and Dustin (Rhonda) Campion; great-grandchildren; Austin, Nora and Felicity; brother Alnis (Seidy) Banga; niece, Lija Karolin; nephews, Andris (Dace) Bankovics and Ramsey (Trisha) Banga; and many family and friends.

Memorial Service to be held on June 28, 2022 at 11 AM at Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3152 17th Ave S, Mpls. Visitation one hour prior. Burial will take place at a later date at Juglas Cemetery in Latvia.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **28**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church
3152 17th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN

Memorial Service

JUN **28**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church
3152 17th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita Drone.*



June 27, 2022 at 04:16 PM



“ *Sindija Hartmane-Sulte ar gimeni purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Rita Drone.*



Sindija Hartmane-Sulte ar gimeni - June 26, 2022 at 06:17 PM



“ *Rita was a part of the foundation of and a pillar in Latvian society and the Latvian Lutheran Church. Her wisdom and energy were always much appreciated by me and Pastor Maija Cepure-Zemmels.*
My deep condolences to Rita family members.
We all mourn the passing of Rita, but I know that God has a special place for her.

Ivars Zemmels - June 23, 2022 at 06:09 PM

DA

“ *My deepest condolences to Rita Drone's loved ones. I will remember Rita very fondly and her great love of Latvian music and the arts. It was a great pleasure to work with Rita on various concerts organized by the Minnesota Latvian Concert Association; she was a kind soul and also a wonderful conversationalist. Izsaku dziļāko līdzjūtību tuviniekiem. Sirsnībā, Dace Aperāne*

Dace Aperane - June 22, 2022 at 11:24 PM

RI

“ *So sad to hear about Rita's passing. She was my grammar and literature teacher on Saturday's at the Latvian School in Mpls when I was in middle school. She expected a lot of us and I'm not sure I every fully realized what an amazing teacher she was until I was a little older. As I matured she called me 'varda masa' (name-sister) and smiled at some local LV event. Respected always. Novēlu viegals smiltis, Tev, Rīta!
Rita Pelece ar gimeni*

Rita - June 22, 2022 at 05:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rita Drone.*



June 22, 2022 at 05:14 PM



“ *Sentimental Dreams was purchased for the family of Rita Drone.* ”



June 15, 2022 at 02:38 PM



“ *Santiago Lions purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Rita Drone.* ”



Santiago Lions - June 15, 2022 at 02:21 PM