



## Rita Baker

June 17, 1942 - December 29, 2024

Rita Jane “Etzold” Baker, 82, of Hillsboro, Missouri, passed away in St. Clair, Missouri on December 29, 2024. Born on June 17, 1942, in St. Louis, Missouri, Rita was the beloved daughter of the late Edna (Hunning) and Eldor Etzold. Known for her warm and welcoming nature, Rita never met a stranger and was always the first to offer support to family and friends. Her optimistic outlook on life inspired others to seek positivity in every situation.

Rita graduated from Northwest High School in 1960, maintaining lifelong bonds with her classmates and friends. She raised her children in Dittmer, Missouri. Rita began her professional career at the Hillsboro County Courthouse, serving as Circuit Court Clerk. In 1982, she married Douglas Baker, with whom she shared many joyful years. She loved to travel, with Colorado holding a special place in her heart.

Rita believed in being involved in her community. She had a passion for libraries and parks, cherishing their value to the community and instilling that love in her children and grandchildren.

Rita is survived by her loving children, Robin (Alan) Sronce and Bruce (Joy) Weber; four cherished grandchildren: Robert “Mike” (Adriana) Sronce, Cara (Sean) Fitzgerald, John (Joanna Fay) Sronce, and Alexander Pagel; and three adored great-grandchildren: Quinn, Weber, and Leonardo. She is also survived by her sister, Phyllis (Alan) Davis, sister-in-law, Judy (late Martin) Etzold, treasured nieces, dear friend Gary Johnston, and many other family members and friends. The family is especially grateful for the love and care

provided by Gary Johnston, Judy Diehl, and Phyllis Davis during her illness. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Douglas Baker, her sister Judy (Etzold) Ojeten, and her brother Martin Etzold.

Celebration of life service will be held in Hillsboro, Missouri at Chapel Hill Mortuary, Robert Brown Chapel on January 31, 2025, with a visitation beginning at noon and service at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hillsboro Food Pantry, P.O. Box 168, Hillsboro, MO 63050, or Siteman Cancer Center <https://siteman.wustl.edu/give/giving/>

Rita's legacy of kindness, optimism, and community spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

JAN 31. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary, Robert Brown Chapel – Hillsboro  
103 4th St.  
Hillsboro, MO 63050  
(636) 789-4949  
info@stlfuneral.com  
<https://www.stlfuneral.com/>

## Memorial Service

JAN 31. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary, Robert Brown Chapel – Hillsboro  
103 4th St.  
Hillsboro, MO 63050  
(636) 789-4949  
info@stlfuneral.com  
<https://www.stlfuneral.com/>

# Tribute Wall

LJ

“ Love, Stephany and Jon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Baker.

Love, Stephany and Jon - January 28, 2025 at 07:00 PM

LJ

“ Love, Stephany and Jon purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Rita Baker.



Love, Stephany and Jon - January 28, 2025 at 07:00 PM

CR

“ I first met Rita when I was a little girl. Her daughter Robin and I were close friends and sometimes I would Ride the bus to their house after school to play. She was always a nice, classy woman. We lost touch over the years and then by chance met again the last year or so of her life. Miss you Rita!

Carla Raidt - January 25, 2025 at 02:19 PM

CS

“ Crabapple Village Residents and Staff purchased the "On Angel's Wings" Sympathy Gift Wind Chime to Send for Funeral Or Memorial for the family of Rita Baker.



Crabapple Village Residents and Staff - January 10, 2025 at 01:34 PM

BB

“ Rita's birthdate needs to be corrected. You have it as the same year she died!!!!

---

**Barbara Benwell** - January 08, 2025 at 02:20 PM

BC

“ Rita was one of the most beautiful and caring woman that I had the pleasure of being her friend.  
She will be missed so much.  
Loved her ❤️ ❤️

---

**BOBBIE V CONNOR** - January 06, 2025 at 05:18 PM

MH

“ Rita was a wonderful lady and I am blessed that the paths in our life met.

---

**Mary Kay Helldoerfer** - January 01, 2025 at 12:19 PM