



## Rita Mae Bowsher

October 14, 1928 - September 23, 2018

Rita M. Bowsher, 89, of Kankakee, passed away September 22, 2018 at Presence St. Mary's Hospital. She was born October 14, 1928 in Kankakee to M.D. and Charlotte (Geisinger) Beasley. Rita married Robert J. Bowsher December 29, 1947 and he died June 1991.

Beyond the activities of her busy family, Rita spent the majority of her life dedicated to a variety of charitable and philanthropic efforts. As a very young mother she organized and participated in door to door collections for March of Dimes. She held all offices and remained active in the Women's Club of America organization for more than 68 years. She was a founding member/director of the Harbor House Women's Shelter for many years, even lobbying in Springfield for funding to get the program started. She played a similar role as one of the first organizers/directors for the Kankakee Valley Hospice program. From its beginning she was very actively involved in all of their annual fundraising projects. She was also very involved in Asbury United Methodist church, her church of 90 years. She served on numerous boards throughout the years and supported youth programs throughout. Rita was extremely artistic and a very talented decorator. As a mother, she vigorously supported the activities of her four (4) children.

Rita is survived by a son and daughter-in-law; Steven (Janet) Bowsher of Wind Point, WI, 2 daughters; Becky B. Shea of Lombard, Christine J. Orenbas of Bradley and a son-in-law Kevin Kupper. Also surviving are 7 grandchildren

and 8 great grandchildren, a sister-in-law; Marge Bowsher, many nieces, nephews and friends she accumulated over the years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a daughter, Holly Kupper and a son-in-law, Daniel Shea,

A visitation will be 4-8 pm, Friday, October 12, 2018 at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee Chapel and 9-10 am Saturday, October 13, 2018 at Asbury United Methodist Church. The funeral will be 10 am October 13, 2018 at Asbury United Methodist Church. Burial will follow at Kankakee Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to Harbor House, Hospice of Kankakee Valley or Asbury United Methodist Church.

Please sign her guestbook at [www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 South 3000 E. Rd.  
Kankakee, IL 60901

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **12.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel  
1900 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-2421  
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

## Visitation

OCT **13.** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church  
196 S. Harrison  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-4408

## Service

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OCT **13**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church  
196 S. Harrison  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-4408

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rita Mae Bowsher*

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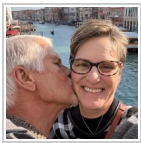
February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Dear Rita, a wonderful lady, warm and compassionate. A great hostess, always helpful. It was an honor to work with Rita especially with the Hospice fundraising Christmas events. I'm so sorry we were out of town for the wake and funeral. Rita is one of those people who is not easily forgotten. We thank the Lord for her life. Theresa and Albert Diepeveen.*

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**Theresa Diepeveen** - October 16, 2018 at 11:54 AM



“ *My condolences to you Chris, and your family. Your mom was a spirited, gifted, kind woman and will be remembered fondly. May your years with her and the memories you shared protect you from any sadness you might feel.*

*Teri (Menard) Worth*

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**Teri Costanza Worth** - October 15, 2018 at 11:15 AM

SG

“ Dear Bowsher Family: I am sending my condolences to Becky, Chris and all of Rita's family. Rita was such a special friend to my Mom, Marilyn Craig. We all loved her, and she was such a very caring and warm person. I am so sorry you lost her unexpectedly, and I wish all of you the comfort that comes with all of your wonderful memories. This is a beautiful picture of her. We will all miss her!

Sally Craig Gannon

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Sally Gannon - October 13, 2018 at 09:00 PM

SC

“ Rita was a great friend to my mother, and to me. What fun she was--a terrific travelling companion and always up for dinner or an evening out with friends.

I'm sure she is playing cards with my mom and Betty Carlson somewhere in heaven.

Love and condolences to the family.

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Susan Craig - October 09, 2018 at 02:27 PM

EL

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



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Elizabeth - October 03, 2018 at 12:02 PM

CO

I love this picture. ❤️

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Chris Orenbas - October 05, 2018 at 06:26 PM

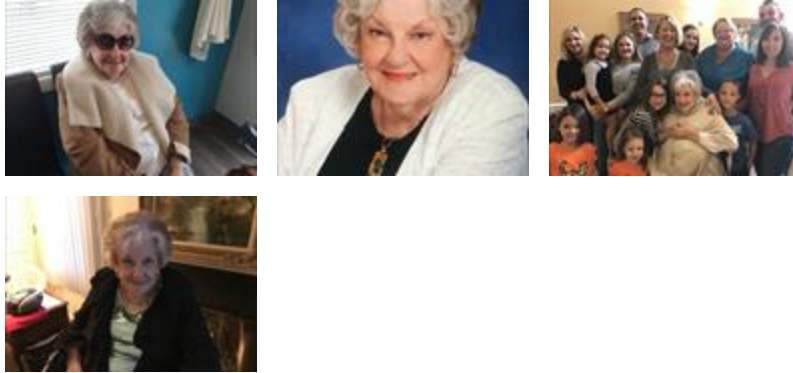
BS

*Thank you Beth! I just love this pic of our Moms!*

**Becky Shea** - October 07, 2018 at 09:57 AM

BS

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



**Becky Shea** - October 02, 2018 at 05:35 PM

LH

“ *I can just picture Marge Pearson, Deedee Nelson, Rita and mom playing bridge together in heaven! Friends since kindergarten, I know my mom always held a special spot in her heart for Rita. Visiting my parents at Westwood Oaks, I always looked forward to seeing her there. She always had a kiss and kind words for us. Mom really missed her when she had to move and we did too! Since my mom passed away in May we wondered how Rita was getting along. Sure enough, she pops up at Heritage where my dad was placed for rehab. One day my brother Kim came to visit and where does he find my dad, sitting with Rita and she was holding his hand. That meant so much to us! That lady had style and class!! Thoughts and prayers to all of you,  
Lynn (Martin) Houser*

**Lynn (Martin) Houser** - September 29, 2018 at 01:35 PM

BS

*Thank you so much Lynn. Such sweet recent memories of our Mom and your folks, her dearest friends! She so loved ALL of you! And your kindness to her did not go unnoticed. Thank you for everything!*

**Becky Shea** - October 07, 2018 at 10:00 AM

MH

*“ This lovely lady shared a heartfelt love of the arts and theatre with me all the years I can remember. From the early days of Kankakee Little Theatre that grew into Kankakee Valley Theatre, she was always in the audience applauding, and sharing compliments with the actors. Her enthusiasm and support was life blood in the early days of growing pains.*

*She often came with her friend, Ruth Henderson, and they both looked like models from a fashion magazine. No blue jeans on these gals! They both always lifted the spirits of those around them. I am confident heaven has two new lifetime members!*

*In sympathy for her family,  
Marsha Hill  
A Director who loved them!*

**Marsha Hill** - September 27, 2018 at 08:59 AM

LP

*“ Steve, Becky and families, so sorry to hear about your mom. She was always a sweet lady, I remember talking to her after basketball games in jr. and sr. high school. May your many memories help during this time.*

**Linda Thomas Pearson** - September 26, 2018 at 11:21 AM



*“ Becky and the Bowsher family, you have my deepest condolences*

**Bob Schneider** - September 25, 2018 at 10:41 PM

WM

“ Deepest sympathy to all of the Bowsher family. May you be left with the best of memories and be consoled by the angels in your grief. Bill Maass, friend and family to Dennis, Allyson, Taryn, and my buddy in heaven, Scott.

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**William Maass** - September 25, 2018 at 02:16 PM

 Nikki  
Dysinger

“ I am truly sorry for the loss of such a sweet lady. She is a beautiful person inside and out and she will be greatly missed ❤️

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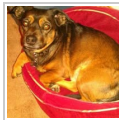
**Nikki Dysinger** - September 25, 2018 at 12:49 PM

LB

“ To all the Bowsher family..I send my sincere sympathy to you on the loss of your mom. She was definitely one of the special moms in my young life. I always loved seeing her smiling face and an encouraging word for everyone. I remember she was always impeccably dressed! I hope your many wonderful memories bring you comfort now.  
Sincerely, Linda Tyson Boecker

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**Linda Boecker** - September 24, 2018 at 05:04 PM



My dearest Aunt Rita....may you rest in peace with Uncle Bob and Holly now....You will be missed by so many relatives and friends. You were a very special aunt to me. I admired you as a young girl and to this day. You were your own unique fashionista and the sweetest lady anyone could have had the pleasure to call a friend. I will miss our conversations when you took me "under your wing" when my own mom died...I will always cherish those moments and remember you so very fondly. Until we all meet again..... I love you, my sweet, special aunt..... Your niece, Taryn (Bowsher) Schuemann

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**Taryn Lynn** - September 25, 2018 at 01:19 PM