



## Rita L. Lonergan

January 11, 1924 - January 23, 2014

Rita L. Lonergan of Fort Collins, Colorado died Thursday, January 23, 2014 at Poudre Valley Hospital. She died peacefully and without pain after a sudden reoccurrence of cancer. She had just celebrated her 90th birthday. Rita was born on January 11, 1924 in Marietta, Ohio, one of six children to Chester and Bessie Green. She graduated from Marietta High School in 1942. She married Charles "Pat" Lonergan on June 2, 1956 and the two moved to Fort Collins in 1958. In 1962 Rita gave birth to her only child, daughter Elizabeth. Rita spent most of her working life first as a secretary at First United Methodist Church and then at the 4-H Extension office at Colorado State University. She retired there in 1988. In retirement she volunteered at Poudre Valley Hospital and Lopez Elementary School. She enjoyed church activities, playing bridge, lunch with friends and spending time with her family, most notable her two grandchildren. Husband, Pat preceded Rita in death. She is survived by daughter, Elizabeth Anderson and her husband, Steve; two grandchildren, Rachel and Matt, and sister, Velma Lowe. A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 31, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church Chapel, 1005 Stover. Contributions in memory can be made to the Larimer County Office on Aging, L.C. Volunteers of America and the L.C. Humane Society in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ Rita was a member of the Emanon club with my Mom Hope Marshall. Mom loved her and so did I she was a seer lovely person. I know she will be missed. Maybe she is up there having lunch with the old emanon club right now!

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**Jana** - February 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Elizabeth, I am so sorry to hear of your mothers death. She was just as beautiful as ever! I have lots of great memories of us when we were kids and all the fun things she let us do. She will always hold a special place in my heart : My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. You were so blessed to have such a wonderful mother as she was.

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**Jennifer Lieser** - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I had planned to attend Rita's service until this snow. I usher at the 10:45 service on Sundays, and Rita was often there, smiling, cane in one hand, and sometimes a coffee in the other. I will miss seeing her but was pleased to read that her passing was peaceful.  
Sincerely, Mollie Mercer

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**Mollie Mercer** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ My daughter considered Rita family...I just considered her to be the best friend you could ask for. Her positive attitude got me over a lot of rough spots...and this leaves a large hole in my life, but appreciation for being her friend.

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**Barbara Goff** - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ Rita was simply wonderful, so kind, generous and loving. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We Love you, Kim, Dave, James & Micael.

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**Kim Lonergan** - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Dear Elizabeth, Steve, Rachel, Matt & family, I am sending love and hugs of comfort from Botswana!! I am thrilled that Rita reached 90 years and was peaceful when she went home to eternity. Since 1977 Rita has been a great mentor, friend and joy to me. We met at the 4-H Office. Thankfully we have kept in touch over the decades and I would see her when back in Colorado. It is so special that she wrote a book for Todd & Rachel about her younger years. What a treasure that is now plus all the memories all of you add since then. May the Lord comfort and carry you through this loss and adjustment to her absence. Love, Susan

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**Susan McKean Mogwera** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ I worked with Rita at Colorado State and we sometimes disagreed but were always friends. I remember her high heels clicking down the hall as she came down to discuss a 4-H manual. She was sad when she had to give up high heels some years ago. She always liked to look her best. We last had lunch in November and she was as always Rita.

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**Gail McKee** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MW

“*Rita was one of the most genuine, kind and sweet people I have ever known. She was kind and supportive of her colleagues, friends, and all she knew. Rita is the kind of person who made the world a better place for everyone in it. A very bright candle has gone out on earth, but I know she is still shining brightly above. She will be missed by many.*

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**Martha Denney and Lloyd Walker** - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM