



# Rita Mae Farish

DEC 28, 1931 - SEP 20, 2020



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# Rita Mae Farish

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**O**n Sunday, September 20, 2020, Rita Mae (Taylor) Farish, beloved wife, mother of seven, grandmother and great-grandmother passed away at the age of 88 in Sandy, Utah.

Rita Mae was born on December 28, 1931 in Consumers, Utah to Ruby Theora Seeley and William Melvin Taylor. She had three sisters and grew up and enjoyed a wonderful childhood in Castle Gate, Utah. Rita was an honor student when she attended Castle Gate elementary school, Helper Jr. High and Carbon Senior High and Carbon College in Price, Utah.

Rita married Merlin Edward Farish on April 1, 1953 in the Manti, Utah temple. They lived in Tacoma Washington for a short time while Merlin completed his United States Army service. They then moved to Torrance, California to raise their family. They loved living and raising their family in Torrance for 60 years until July 2015 when they moved to Sandy, Utah.

Rita is described as sweet and kind by almost everyone she knew. She was soft-spoken and had a wonderful smile and laugh. She was not extravagant; she loved a bargain and the simple things in life. Rita worked in her early adult years as a telephone operator for the Mountain Bell Telephone Company. While raising her children, she was a stay-at-home Mom, devoted to caring for her large family and made her home a refuge from the world. Later she opened her home as a childcare business and cared for nearly 200 children over the years, including some of her grandchildren.

Rita had a beautiful soprano singing voice and she loved to sing hymns and in ward choirs over the years. Many of the songs she sang to her children are now sung to grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rita was also an accomplished seamstress, which several of her daughters and now granddaughters have followed. She loved to make quilts for the newly married in her ward. She was also a master at needlepoint and cross stitch and many other handmade, detailed crafts.



## Obituary

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Rita loved the natural world. She had many dogs, cats, birds and fish that she loved over the years. Her last pet was a beta fish that would actually let her pet it. Her children also had pets over the years that she cared for including hamsters that were always escaping, an iguana and even a tarantula. She loved to feed the birds and the squirrels that frequented her yard. Rita loved her plants and had a green thumb like her mother before her. Her back yard was a jungle of plants and flowers.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Arlene Wilstead, her son-in-law Terry Lynn Anderson and her daughter-in-law Allison Jolley Farish. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Merlin Edward Farish; seven children: Michael William (Constance) Farish, Paula Denise Farish, Cynthia Mae Anderson, Allison Lea Vanoy, Loretta Kay (Henry) Araiza, Aaron Taylor Farish, and Larayne Cherie (Jon) Fitisemanu; 33 grandchildren and 56 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters Dixie Lea (James) Richens and Rayona (John) Anderson.

Rita Mae Taylor was a wonderful mother and grandmother. She was the heart of our family and her family was her priority and her greatest joy. She will be missed greatly but her memory brings inspiration and happiness to all of us. Until we meet again...

A private family memorial will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 12:00 noon (Utah time). A live stream of the service will also be available on the Facebook page for Premier Funeral Services. In lieu of flowers, please consider feeding the birds or planting something in her memory.



## Tribute Wall

**Rita Mae Farish**

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DH

**Deeann Hansen** posted:

Sister Farish was small in stature, but a gentle giant. She was the most kind-hearted person I know with a smile on her face at all times. She never spoke any words of negativity about anyone or anything. She loved everyone with such a big and kind heart.

September 26 at 1:09 PM

SB

**Suzanne Bonsall** posted:

I remember sister Farish as always having a smile on her face a kind words for everyone. I'm so sorry for your lost. Suzanne (Andersen) Bonsall.

September 26 at 5:56 AM

SB

**Scott Birk** posted:

Sister Farish was such an important person in my growing up years in Torrance. She was a great example to me and I always enjoyed being at the Farish home for sleepovers and other activities. I remember her making breakfast for everyone under her roof on Saturday mornings, and sometimes there were a lot of people there outside of her family. God bless you all of her remaining family... especially Mike and Bishop for your friendship and kindness.Scott Birk

September 26 at 5:24 AM

DS

**David Spencer** posted:

I always called her Aunt Rita. I loved her simple ways and love for her family. I was at their home much in my High School years. Aunt Rita was a true saint. God bless the Farish family with peace and love at this time.

September 25 at 3:24 PM



## Tribute Wall

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PB

**Pam Blanch** posted:

Dear Farish Family, We are so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. She was always such a kind person. My grandma (Mary Farish Chino) always spoke very highly of Aunt Rita. I was grateful to be able to visit with Uncle Merlin a few years ago at my mother's funeral. What a treat it was to reminisce about the years past. Please give our love to him and the rest of the family. May God be with you all until you are reunited. Sincerely, Pamela Boyle Blanch and Family

September 24 at 6:50 PM

PD

**Penny Dalley** October 8 at 5:34 PM

Aunt Rita always brought a fun time when visiting family in Utah! I loved having our California cousins come. At my mom's (her sister Rayona) 90th birthday it was so fun watching sisters talk and compare each other's legs! I love my Farrish cousins and Uncle Merlin. My heart and prayers are with you!!

PM

**Pattie Moss** October 6 at 1:06 PM

Rita always made me feel a part of the family when I'd hang out at Cyndie's house as a teen. She helped me learn to sew and I got better as year's progressed. She was always making something crafty or cooking something yummy and I was always invited. I wished I was part of the family all the time. It was such a loving home. I knew how lucky those kids were who lived there. I got to take the missionary discussions at their home. Rita had such a fun giggle. I never saw her upset about anything. I loved her and all the Farish family. I am sad for you all. I know she will be missed.

MW

**Marcia West** October 5 at 7:42 AM

Your mom was one of the finest examples of serving - always with a smile on her face to let you know the serving was heart-felt and sincere. All our love to the Farish's! Stephen & Marcia West

LY

**Lynette** September 25 at 7:01 PM

Dear family, on behalf of our Farish family to yours, we are saddened at the loss of your beloved mother. Our prayers are with you all. Lynette Farish Tholkes and family

JC

**Judene Call** September 25 at 2:25 PM

I and Dean have very fond memories of both your parents especially when we all lived in Redondo ward we were one big happy family. Love to all of the family from Dean and Judene Call. Ps I will think of Rita when I feed our chickens and birds and I have a perfect plant for her in my garden of many flowers 🌸 🙏 ❤️

JC

**Joellen Chino** September 25 at 6:21 AM

Aunt Rita was the kindest person I knew as a youth, and she never changed. She set the example of love and service. We all share in this great loss. Love, George and Jo Chino



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Rita by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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