



Rita Boranyak Bates

January 7, 1952 - April 6, 2026

Rita Boranyak Bates, 74, Topeka, passed away at Midland Hospice on Monday, April 6, 2026, after an extended illness.

Rita was born on January 7, 1952, in Topeka, Kansas, the daughter of Rudolph and Atha Rounkles Boranyak. Rita graduated from Hayden High School in 1970 and then attended Washburn University.

Rita married John Bates in 1973 at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. John preceded Rita in death in 2018. John and Rita had a beloved daughter, Kelly Marie Bates, who passed away in 1982.

Rita was a devoted caregiver to Kelly during her illness, and later to John during his illness.

Rita was a special education professional for Topeka Unified School District 501 for 30 years, working at Highland Park North and Avondale West Elementary Schools. After retiring in 2017, Rita volunteered at Head Start.

Rita was loved and highly respected by her students and colleagues. In 2000, Rita received the Distinguished Staff Award, the highest honor USD 501 bestows on a staff member.

Rita and John were avid KU fans and members of the Jayhawk Club. They loved traveling, and their favorite destinations were Mexico and Carmel, California.

Rita had many friends. She enjoyed frequent lunches and outings with her friends from aqua exercise classes and with former Miller's Glen neighbors. She was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church.

Also preceding Rita in death were Rita's twin sister, Regina Faidley; nephew Brian Strong and her parents.

Rita is survived by her brother, Mark Boranyak (Sharon); sister, Terri Strong (Mark); nieces, Holly Busey (Matthew), Katie Faidley and Nikki Stiles (Chris); and many great nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be at 10 a.m. Friday, April 17, followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Burial will immediately follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The House at Midland Care, sent in care of the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Funeral Service

APR 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

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2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
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info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rita Boranyak Bates



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - April 15 at 10:26 AM

TR

“ Memories of school together for 12 years and sharing girls scout songs and badges. Rita's adult life was filled with love, loss and grace. May God bless her family and friends with many loving memories.

Terri Rupert - April 17 at 10:26 PM

MD

“ Dear Mark, I am sending my deepest condolences to you and your family for the passing of Rita. I truly enjoyed my time spent with Rita and Regina during our high school years. May God bless you and comfort you in this time of sorrow.
Mary Esser Demars

Mary Esser Demars - April 17 at 11:52 AM

MR

“ I became friends with Rita at the YMCA. She would come and swim early in the mornings and would always chat. She was always very pleasant and very supportive friend. I'm so sorry to hear her passing.



Mary Ramirez - April 14 at 12:08 PM

JW

“ We send our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family. We are so very to know of Rita's passing. She and John were our wonderful neighbors for many years and then we visited them when they moved to Miller's Glen. They were both such great people and we share memories of so many good times with them. Rest in Peace John & Rita in heaven. Our Love Jamey & Jerry Raab

Jamey Warren - April 13 at 03:15 PM

CS

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Rita's passing. I was extremely lucky to work with her at Avondale West. I was able to appreciate the kind, loving, dedicated person she was! She made our lives and the lives of children better because of the love she shared with us and the model she portrayed! Heaven has a blessed angel!

Christine Saunders - April 11 at 07:22 PM

SS

“ My deepest Sympathy to the Bornyak Family. May your Faith and Friends console you at this difficult time. Susie and Bob Sachs

SUSIE AND BOB Sachs - April 11 at 03:44 PM

DA

“ My heart goes out to the family Rita was such a gentle soul and I am sure she will be missed RIP my fellow classmate ☐☐

Debbie Allard-Greeve - April 10 at 07:32 PM

MK

“ Mary Krueger lit a candle in memory of Rita Boranyak Bates



Mary Krueger - April 10 at 04:55 PM

EB

“ Sending condolences to the Boranyak family. Hugs and prayers to you all, esp Terri. May see rest in peace. Sincerely Ellie Gartner Brooke

Ellie Brooke - April 10 at 04:48 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to the extended Boranyak family and friends. May she rest in peace.
Cathy Novak-Wood

Cathy Wood - April 10 at 04:35 PM