



Bonita L. Rice

October 5, 1952 - January 11, 2022

Bonita L. “Bonnie” Rice, 69, of Clarion, passed away early Tuesday morning, January 11, 2022 at the Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh following a lengthy illness.

She was born on October 5, 1952 in Oil City; a daughter of the late Henry and Grace Wolbert O’Neill.

Bonnie graduated from North Clarion High School in 1970. She then graduated from Clarion State College with a Master’s Degree in math.

She married Joseph G. Rice on September 20, 1980, who preceded her in death on November 1, 2016.

Bonnie was a dedicated 5th grade teacher at the North Clarion Elementary School for 35 years until she retired.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion and the Catholic Daughters of America.

She was also a member of Jaycees which is where she first met her husband.

Bonnie volunteered at the Historical Society in Clarion.

She enjoyed traveling, especially out of the country, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Bonnie was also an avid Pittsburgh Pirates fan.

If you knew Bonnie, you knew how much her family and friends meant to her.

She always put everyone first.

Bonnie is survived by her 3 sons, Gregory Rice and his wife, Sharron, of Alexandria, VA, Ian Rice of Pittsburgh, and Jacob Rice of Clarion; her

daughter, Meghan Reiman and her husband, Andy, of Richland, WA; and her grandchildren who were her pride and joy, Neill Patrick Rice and Amelia Jane Rice, both of Alexandria, VA and Odin Henry Reiman of Richland, WA.

She is also survived by her sister, Joyce Rupert and her husband, Richard, of Cooperstown; her mother-in-law, Dorothy Rice of Clarion; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Bonnie was preceded in death by her sister, Tess Taylor; her brother-in-law, Don Taylor; and a nephew, Matthew Rupert.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the family recommends masks be worn.

Family and friends will be received from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, January 14, 2022 at the Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion. A Christian Wake Service will be held at the end of calling hours.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion with Rev. Monty Sayers presiding.

Live-streaming of the Wake Service and Mass can be viewed via our Facebook page at Burns Funeral Homes.

Interment will follow in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Bonnie's name to the Clarion Sunshine Project, P.O. Box 303, Clarion, PA 16214 or to the Clarion County Historical Society, 18 Grant Street, Clarion, PA 16214.

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 14. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Robert V. Burns Funeral Home
638 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 226-6300
<https://www.rvburnsfuneralhome.com>

Wake

JAN 14. 7:00 PM (ET)

Robert V. Burns Funeral Home
638 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 226-6300
<https://www.rvburnsfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
715 East Main Street
Clarion, PA 16214

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert V Burns Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bonita L. Rice*



Robert V Burns Funeral Home - January 13, 2022 at 10:48 AM

DR

Thank you for putting together this video. I enjoyed seeing you all & Bonnie! My deepest sympathies & prayers for you all! Love, Diane Rhoads

Diane Rhoads - January 14, 2022 at 07:12 AM

MB

Beautiful tribute, sincere condolences.

Molly O'Neill Black - January 14, 2022 at 05:13 PM

DL

What a lovely video highlighting Bonnie's life! Prayers and love for all during this hard time.

Donna Lebda - January 14, 2022 at 06:44 PM

DF

Love the photos! They bring back happy memories of Bonnie.

Debbie Faller - January 14, 2022 at 08:00 PM

SJ

Beautiful tribute and lovely memories for your family. Thoughts and prayers go out to you all.

Susie Jones - January 15, 2022 at 12:43 PM

SJ

“ I remember Bonnie's smile, which she was always quick to share. She and Joe have left a wonderful legacy. I hope you will take comfort in the many memories you've created together. With deep sympathy, Susie Schmader Jones

Susie Jones - January 15, 2022 at 12:52 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Bonita L. Rice.

January 14, 2022 at 04:30 PM

CK

“ Bonnie was my 5th grade teacher many years ago. I probably gave her a far share of grief but she was a good teacher. Prayers to her family.

Courtney Kirkwood - January 14, 2022 at 09:18 AM

AN

“ Bonnie was a friend in the Jaycee/Jaycette days. We had many adventures, working on projects and having fun. It was fun watching Bonnie and Joe falling in love and getting married. My sincere sympathy to her family.

Annette M. Nelson - January 14, 2022 at 06:47 AM

PY

“ One of my sorority sisters,... so sorry to hear this

Paula Yohe - January 13, 2022 at 06:20 PM



“ 29 files added to the album Life Tributes



Robert V Burns Funeral Home - January 13, 2022 at 10:48 AM

RP

🙏 Heaven was missing an Angel, so was Joe
Though our heart's are broken, Bonnie's memories we'll sew
Into our quilts of tomorrow blanketing yesterday
The warmth of her heart will radiate
though a little further away. ❤️

Ramona Piotrowski - January 13, 2022 at 05:08 PM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Bonita L. Rice.



January 13, 2022 at 09:27 AM

LC

“ To Bonnie's children and family,
I worked with Bonnie and truly enjoyed our chats that we would
have occasionally. She was a very dedicated teacher and a
wonderful person. I will treasure our conversations and will pray for
her and for all of you. May God be with you all at this most difficult
time.

Sincerely,
Lisa Carroll

Lisa Carroll - January 13, 2022 at 08:49 AM

DF

“ So sorry for your loss. She had a long siege of it. Your memories
will be precious to you. Our prayers are with you guys.

Debbie and Ken Ferringer

Debbie Ferringer - January 12, 2022 at 09:58 PM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Basket was
purchased for the family of Bonita L. Rice.



January 12, 2022 at 08:39 PM

NC

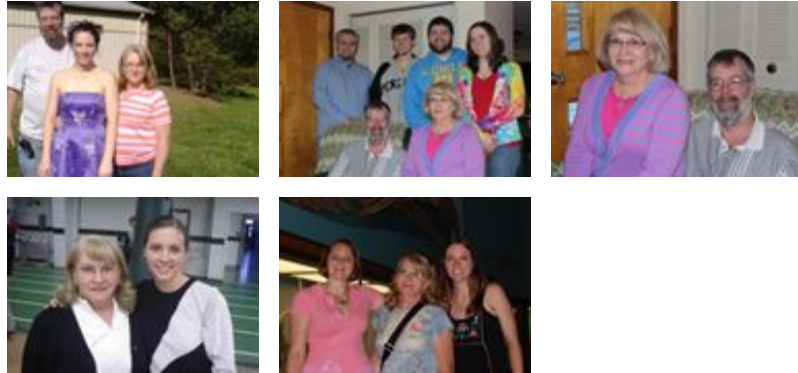
“ So sorry to hear of Bonnie's passing. We
were friends in high school. We had a lot of
fun. Good memories..



Nancy Eiswerth Carroll - January 12, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ 17 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Robert V Burns Funeral Home - January 12, 2022 at 05:31 PM



“ *Fields of Europe for Spring* was purchased for the family of *Bonita L. Rice*.



January 12, 2022 at 04:32 PM



“ *My deepest condolences from our family. Bonnie always had a contagious smile and will always be in our hearts!*



Amy (Skrypzak) Martino - January 12, 2022 at 01:42 PM

RW

“ So Sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom!!
She was a very nice & kind person!! She will
be missed!! MAY SHE REST IN PEACE!!!



Regis & Pat Walters - January 12, 2022 at 01:09 PM



“ It was a long time ago but I was also one of Mrs. Rice's students.
She was firm but fair and I loved that I had her for fifth grade. She
had a passion for her students that was for sure. You will be missed
by so many. You touched more lives than I think you even you ever
realized. To your family, I am sorry for your loss. I pray that you
have strength love and understanding during this very difficult time.
May God bless your family,

With love and respect for a great person
Sheri (Wagner) Wonderling

Sheri Wonderling - January 12, 2022 at 12:22 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White
was purchased for the family of Bonita L. Rice.



January 12, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Lavender & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Bonita L. Rice.*



January 12, 2022 at 08:26 AM



“ *Bonnie was a wonderful, kind, giving woman. She was a math genius and a patient, caring, exceptional teacher. Bonnie was a faithful disciple of God and a loyal friend. She was very proud of her children and grandchildren. Her family was the most important thing in her life. She will be missed by everyone who's path she crossed. "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."*



Gloria - January 12, 2022 at 12:10 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Bonita L. Rice.*



January 11, 2022 at 09:10 PM

BE

“ Prayers of comfort during your time of sorrow. May God's loving arms hold you and guide you through your greiveing. I remember when she was Miss O'Neil and her telling the class she was getting married and we would be calling her Mrs. Rice. Great teacher.
Bessie Sliker

Bessie - January 11, 2022 at 09:09 PM

AS

“ Greg, Ian, Meghan and Jake, so sorry for the loss of your beautiful mother. My heart goes out to you and my prayers are with you. I wish you peace as you grieve.

Aunt Arlene

Arlene Speerbrecher - January 11, 2022 at 08:36 PM

JJ

“ Condolences to the family. She was a brilliant woman!
I was fortunate to have her as my teacher and admired her passion for teaching. One of the best teachers I had in school.



Jordon Johnson - January 11, 2022 at 08:07 PM

DS

“ I offer my heartfelt condolences to Bonnie's family. Bonnie was a dedicated educator who touched the lives of many students. I was fortunate enough to have known her and witnessed her passion for teaching.

Dave Stake - January 11, 2022 at 07:58 PM

LK

“ I enjoyed the thanksgiving g we shared. Was a pleasure knowing you.



linda keller - January 11, 2022 at 06:53 PM

GB

“ I'm so sorry for your loss.
I remember the wonderful trip we had to Greece and Turkey and the fun we had. Being her cousin I have known her since I was little but had not seen her often. On the trip we got to reconnect and really enjoy our time together.
Ginny Gatesman Beichner

Ginny Gatesman Beichner - January 11, 2022 at 06:50 PM

DF

“ She was my teacher when I was in school very nice lady she will be miss Darcy Fitzgerald



Darcy Fitzgerald - January 11, 2022 at 06:42 PM

MH

“ We are so sorry to hear of Bonnie’s passing...a little shocked too. Please know all you kids and grandkids are in ours prayers as well as Joyce and Rich. You all have had so much loss

My fond memories are of spending a week in the summers with Bonnie, especially dressing the cats and dodging the cow patty’s on our way back to the woods! Sleeping in the attic too!
Shelly and Fred

michele harrison - January 11, 2022 at 06:30 PM

SH

“ I’m so sorry, Greg, Ian, Meghan and Jake! Your mother was a wonderful woman. She will be sorely missed by all. Love, Aunt Sherrie & Uncle Brad

Sherrie - January 11, 2022 at 06:24 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Bonita L. Rice.



January 11, 2022 at 05:05 PM