



Rhea Anne Patterson

September 29, 1934 - January 19, 2021

Rhea Ann Mott was the 6th child born to Jesse and Florence Mott, in Strong City, Kansas. Rhea, and her identical twin Rita, were easy to care for, according to their mother, because they entertained each other and didn't fuss or require a lot of attention.

Mom was number 6 of eleven children, growing up during the depression with a loving Mom and Dad. Her father was a baker by profession and worked long hours to be a good provider. And even though there were many mouths to feed, there was always food on the table.

Mom had her first date with Dad after he had taken Mom's twin sister to the movies. Dad had gotten excited and was too loud for Rita's taste. Mom and Dad were married in 1952 and it wasn't long until two girls were born. Mom and Dad got to "grow-up" while Dad served in the army, living in various states and Germany. Joanne arrived and right away, Dad was stationed at Frankfurt, Germany. While there, Jeanette was born. Mom had a particularly hard time living so far away from her twin and her family for the first time in her life. But that hardship proved to be the seed of strength Mom needed to keep family together, first and foremost.

Because family was very important to Rhea, her upbringing with her large loving family fostered a desire to keep in contact with the whole family. The

fact that she was reared in a loving, caring family carried through to Rhea's family.

Mom, like all military wives, held the family together during Dad's overseas tours.

Mom made sure Jeanette and I were in church every Sunday and for all Holy Days of Obligation. One of her often quoted sayings was, " you can always move or change addresses, but you can only marry once". Another piece of advice we heard often was, "always pay your bills on time".

Mom (and Dad) loved all animals, especially any pet cat or dog. When their oldest grandson Tyler was working toward his PhD, Mom and Dad came to visit and we thought we'd show them the lab where Tyler was training lab rats to respond to audible stimuli. Mom and Dad proved their staunch admiration for all animals, because neither of them could bear seeing the lab rats in cages.

Mom and Dad had several dogs over the years, but their last dog, Stormy, had some particular habits that most dogs don't have. For example, at 9:00 every night, Stormy would start barking for his bedtime treat of chocolate ice cream. That ice cream treat would typically be offered after an earlier dinner of spaghetti which had to be warmed and chopped.

Mom never had much and I don't remember her ever asking for anything. When Dad wanted a different car, even though the current car was just purchased two weeks ago, she never objected. 😊

Mom didn't believe in fighting a losing battle, so she wasn't bothered with housekeeping. But she did give every guest her undivided attention and she always offered something to eat and drink, multiple times -- if her offer wasn't

accepted initially.

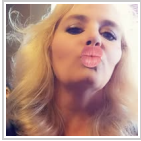
Mom always cared about anyone who was down and out. She extended hospitality and whatever else was needed, helping to fill in the gaps. Mom then became a source of friendship and aide to many people over the years.

She touched a lot of lives because of her accepting, non-conditional personality. Rhea never turned anyone away or made them feel small or unwanted.

John 14:1-4 Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place I am going."

Psalms 121 "I lift up my eyes to the mountains--where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip--he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you--The Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm--he will watch over your life; the lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

Tribute Wall



“ I have so many wonderful memories with my Aunt Rhea. My favourite is when I was little and we would go over to her and Uncle Bill's home. It seemed like we were there a lot and I loved it!!!! Also.... her voice! Love her dearly. The whole family will miss you. Love and prayers to Jody and Jeanne and their families

Audrey Atencio - February 13, 2021 at 12:55 PM

RA

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Renee Anderson - February 13, 2021 at 10:32 AM

DS

“ One of my precious memories was to just watch Aunt Rhea and her twin (my Mom, Rita) just laugh together - no matter how silly. They were always together while we were all growing up and I got so excited knowing that in the summertime we'd get to ride the train to their house (and vice versa). Sometimes we'd all go to Rena and Ted's in Emporia and get to go swimming, buy new shoes, eat ice cream daily, and at least one of those days, visit the nursing home residents hoping to give them a smile. Jeanette and I stuck to each other like glue. I have so many fond memories of my aunt and family. They will always be in my heart. I love and miss her so much - more than words could say. Till I see you again Aunt Rhea..... I love you!

Donna Sweet - February 12, 2021 at 06:50 PM

SL

“ Rhea was a dear friend for over forty years. She was the one I went to when I needed motherly advice or just to share a visit, brainstorm religious education ideas, or just to be. Her smile and laugh were infectious and she always made things seem better than when I first started to talk to her about anything. Even when we left Lawton, Oklahoma many years before she did we kept in touch sporadically. But if I ever came back to Lawton it was like we never skipped a beat. She was extremely proud and happy with her family and that love and happiness grew as the family grew. I have had the privilege of knowing her and loving her. May she rest in peace. ❤️



shannon lutmer - February 12, 2021 at 06:35 PM