



Rose Marie Stevens

May 27, 1938 - September 1, 2021

Rose Marie Stevens Nielsen was born to Barnabas Ventress Stevens Jr of Memphis, TN and Mary Nell Culp from Bells, TN on May 27th, 1938 in Dyersburg TN. She was the first born of six children, all of the Memphis, TN area: Kay Jeannine Stevens, Michael Ventress Stevens, Mark Culp Stevens, Timothy Lee Stevens (d. 2001) and James Joseph (Jody, the baby) Stevens. There is also an honorary brother, Mr. Lewis Fuller, who was very supportive and protective of Rose Marie.

Rose Marie with financial assistance from the Sisters of Loretto, studied and received 3 degrees in education: B.A. in Education from Webster College (1961) in St. Louis MO, M.A. in Elementary Education at Vanderbilt University, M.A. in Special education at Freed Hardeman in Henderson, TN. She also studied Piano Pedagogy for 2 years at the University of Memphis.

Rose Marie Entered the Convent of the Sisters of Loretto in September of 1956. As a Nun she worked in education and taught in Louisville, KY, St. Louis, MO, Chicago, IL, and Denver, CO. After she left the Convent, in 1972, she relocated from Denver to Memphis, TN and continued her work in education.

She married Walter Author Nielsen (d. 2013) of Denver, CO in 1973. They moved to Santa Rosa, CA in 1980 where she and Walter adopted 3 children:

Candice Rose Nielsen Fisher, Christopher Walter Nielsen, and Randal Arthur Nielsen.

Rose worked as the Administrator and Social Work Supervisor for Partners for Adoption in Santa Rosa, CA. Rose was the Founder and Administrator of Adoption Advocates, Inc. Santa Rosa, CA.

When Walter retired in 2000, they relocated to Selmer, TN. Rose Marie moved to Menden Wood apartments in Memphis in 2019 where she died of natural causes Sept 1, 2021.

The spirit of Rose Marie's love and caring will be greatly missed by the special needs children that she helped to reach their fullest potential.

There will be a Mass and memorial service held at St. Mary's Church in Bolivar, TN

The service will begin with visitation at 10:00 am and Mass starting at 10:30 am