



## Rita Wright Colina

July 6, 1950 - April 6, 2022

Rita Wright Colina 71, of Houston passed away April 6, 2022. Rita was born July 6, 1950, in Keene, New Hampshire to Elliot and Olga Wright. She is preceded in death by her father Elliot. She is survived by husband Fernando Colina, of 47 years of marriage; children, Joseph Colina and Maria Colina; mother, Olga Wright; and sister, Diane Foley.

Rita grew up in Keene, New Hampshire and graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in language education which she later furthered with a Master's in education from the University of Houston. Her desire to perfect her Spanish led her to live in Spain where she met her husband, Fernando. Throughout her long teaching career, she taught Spanish to Elementary and High School students, as well as adults. Later, she found a passion for teaching English to recent immigrants, helping them acquire the everyday skills necessary to live and thrive in America.

Rita enjoyed travel and she was an avid student of her Catholic faith. She was passionate about helping married couples strengthen their relationships. To this end, she presented Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends with her husband.

Rita was gentle, compassionate, and had a talent for making the people around her feel at ease. A faithful Catholic, she was courageous in defending

her faith with words, deeds, and through the example of her life. She was fierce in the protection of her children and loved ones.

Services will be held Monday April 11, 2022, with visitation beginning at 6:00 PM and rosary service at 7:00 PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079. Funeral Mass will be held the following morning Tuesday April 12, 2022, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail Houston, TX 77079. Rita will be laid to rest at Holy Rosary Cemetery, Rochester, New Hampshire. In lieu of flowers please consider a charitable donation to:

The James W. Foley Legacy Foundation ([www.jamesfoleyfoundation.org](http://www.jamesfoleyfoundation.org) )  
The Fr. Chuck Gallagher Legacy Fund (Worldwide Marriage Encounter)  
(<https://wwme.org/community/supporting-wwme/sharing-your-treasure/fr-chuck-gallagher-sj-legacy-fund/> )

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 11. 6:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home  
14094 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 497-2121  
david@dettlingfuneral.com

## Rosary

APR 11. 7:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home  
14094 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 497-2121  
david@dettlingfuneral.com

## Mass Of Christian Burial

APR 12. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church  
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 497-1500

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rita Wright Colina*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Rita Wright Colina*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Rita Wright Colina*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Rita Wright Colina*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *I am heartbroken to hear of Rita’s death. Rita was my Spanish teacher. She was a remarkable and creative teacher. Then some years later I followed her in teaching ESL with Harris County Education Department. She had left a lasting impression. Lastly, I would meet her at an exercise at the Bear Creek Community Center. I recall how bright and friendly she was. She radiated kindness and goodness.  
My condolence to Fernando and her family.  
Marie Helmy 🙏*

Marie Helmy - April 13, 2022 at 01:07 AM

FE

*Thank you Marie for your kind words.*

**Fernando** - May 12, 2022 at 02:01 AM

MA

“ *We treasure every memory of Rita’s friendship and kindness.*



**Maria Teresa Alvarez** - April 12, 2022 at 11:04 AM

ST

“ *Rita was such a special person and a wonderful mom to our dear friend Maria. She was a mom to all of us and always so kind, caring and positive. She will be greatly missed and will always stay in our hearts. Sending you all much strength and love during this difficult time.*

**Sarah Tranter** - April 12, 2022 at 04:44 AM

FV

“ *Rita is an ángel. Every look or sight was deeply and deeper inside our soul. She has this kind of... This kind of touch our soul with her eyes and smile. This remind Us that there is God inside us because her smile. Bubbles for ever*

**Fernando v** - April 11, 2022 at 11:00 PM

LN

“ Rita was a God-send, a friend, a confidant. She was everyone's cheerleader and everyone's personal welcoming committee. Rita helped me through some of my most difficult times. She was there for me from the moment I met her in ME, through my move to Cali, and upon my return to Houston. She was a living saint saint to me, so inspirational and so God-filled. I cannot believe that you are gone from this green earth, you have left a big hole in our hearts. Fernando, we love you and we are praying for you. May the God of comfort be with you during these days, months, and years ahead. We are so sorry for your loss.

---

**Lia Nguyen** - April 11, 2022 at 06:30 PM

FC

*Thank you Lia for your beautiful tribute.*

---

**Fernando Colina** - May 12, 2022 at 02:34 AM

LN

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



---

**Lia Nguyen** - April 11, 2022 at 06:23 PM

MR

“ *A sweet lady! Her delicate smile and profound faith moved many souls and relationships. She surely is in the presence of Our dear Lord and Father and His loving Mother. Rest in Peace! We will miss you very much. Maritza C. Roman-Pavajeau, Ph.D. and Family*



Maritza C. Roman-Pavajeau - April 11, 2022 at 01:29 PM

FC

*Thank you Maritza!*

Fernando Colina - May 12, 2022 at 02:35 AM



“ *201 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Dettling Funeral Home - April 11, 2022 at 12:29 PM

BR

“ *Sending so much heartfelt love for your entire family....Rita will be missed from far and near...her beautiful soul will live on in our hearts . I miss her already...Beth and Gregg and Foxy*



---

**Beth Roark** - April 10, 2022 at 11:58 AM

JO

“ *I met Rita in Saint John Vianney Catholic Church about ten years ago. Since that meeting, we remained close. Rita is one of the brightest souls I've met at SJV. I never would have believed that the day we reconnected a few weeks ago, one lovely morning in adoration, would be our goodbye. I will never forget how inspiring her love of Christ was. Her spirit and her great smile were cherished.*

*I pray that her family remains blessed and loved by the lord as they mourn.*

*Rest In Peace, my friend!*

*Juliet Ogah*

---

**Juliet Ogah** - April 09, 2022 at 10:01 PM

FE

*Thank you for your beautiful tribute, Juliet. I know that Rita loved you.*

---

**Fernando** - May 12, 2022 at 01:59 AM

LR

“ I’m heartbroken that Rita is gone and in shock she was a beautiful soul who will be deeply missed. I can still see her beautiful smile. The world was a better place because of her. Sending you lots of hugs and prayers Fernando for strength in the coming days, months and years. Blessings. Lindsay Rusak 🙏🕊️🌸

Lindsay Rusak - April 09, 2022 at 09:39 PM



“We are truly sorry that Rita is gone from this world but are grateful to God for the moments He let us have with Rita and Fernando. We share the love and passion for Marriage Encounter and will miss her on all our activities. We know she will live forever in our hearts and the hearts of all people and couples she and Fernando touched with their marriage. They have been a reflection of God's love and we are quite sure Rita is already with Him. We pray to God for Fernando and his family and hope He provides peace and comfort in these moments. You know you can count on us! May God bless you...”

Carlos and Coromoto Egacila - Houston Texas

Coro Egacila - April 09, 2022 at 09:07 PM

FC

Love you Carlos and Coro.

Fernando Colina - May 12, 2022 at 02:37 AM

FW

“ Father Ron Weber lit a candle in memory of Rita Wright Colina



Father Ron Weber - April 09, 2022 at 08:24 PM

BM

“ We deeply miss our wonderfully loving, joyful friend. We have known Rita, Fernando, Maria and Joseph since we lived in Houston in the eighties and nineties where we also attended the St. John Vianney Church. Friends, we grieve with you, and remain with you in our prayer of faith, hope and love. Bill and Mary Moon and family, Stone Mountain, GA....

---

**Bill and Mary Moon** - April 08, 2022 at 07:29 PM

CC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



---

**Clint Capshaw** - April 08, 2022 at 01:01 PM

LV

*My sweet friend I am missing you so much, I remember yours hugs, and laughs and talking after Mass at SJV Church where we always meet together for our conversation  
I am so sad that you are gone from this world but never from our heart  
❤️  
Rest In Peace my sweet friend you are now enjoying in Jesu's Hands  
Love U 🥰  
Lidia*

---

**Lidia Valdivieso** - April 08, 2022 at 02:20 PM

AT

*Dear Rita,*

*May you be resting in the arms of our Lord whom you loved-  
we miss you...*

*Sam and Annabelle*

*Our 3 o' clock prayer time together is very special and I'm so blessed to  
have you as my prayer partner during this earthly journey and we  
continue praying the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy together until we see  
each other again in His Kingdom my dear sister in Christ !*

*Love you,  
Annabelle*

---

**Annabelle Tabar** - April 10, 2022 at 09:21 AM

KC

“ *No doubt, the gates of Heaven were wide open for Rita. She was  
one of the sweetest, caring souls we ever met. Our deepest  
sympathy to Fernando, Joseph, Maria, Olga, and Diane. Rita will  
reman in our hearts forever. Kathy & Clint Capshaw*

---

**Kathy Capshaw** - April 08, 2022 at 11:34 AM

JV

“ *We only lived in Houston for one year, but fell in love with Rita and  
Fernando and have continued to be friends through WWME after  
moving. Rita's love and laugh is infectious. She and Fernando were  
so welcoming to us and our very young, rambunctious boys into  
their life and home and we will miss her deeply. Her passion and  
love for Christ and then Fernando and their beautiful family were so  
clearly evident in everything she said and did. We find comfort in  
her obvious hope and joy for Heaven and continue to pray for her  
and those that love her here.*

---

**Josh & Angela Vrooman** - April 08, 2022 at 07:18 AM

RB

“ *Rita will be truly missed, she and Fernando are such a huge part of our Worldwide Marriage Encounter group, since 2009. Our hearts ache for her family, especially Fernando. We are much richer for knowing her.*

*Rick & Sandy Buffolano*

---

**Rick and Sandy Buffolano** - April 07, 2022 at 11:08 PM