



Rita Maria Rivera

September 23, 1941 - June 12, 2026

In Loving Memory of Rita Maria Rivera Santiago

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It is with profound sadness and deep love that we announce the passing of Rita Maria Rivera Santiago, who passed away peacefully at her home in Summerville, South Carolina, on June 12, 2026, at the age of 84.

Born on September 23, 1941, in Utuado, Puerto Rico, Rita lived a life defined by faith, devotion to family, kindness, and unwavering strength. She touched the lives of everyone who knew her with her warm heart, generous spirit, and enduring love.

Rita was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Richard Rivera, with whom she shared an extraordinary marriage of 69 years. Their love story was one of commitment, partnership, and devotion, and she now joins him in eternal peace.

She leaves behind a loving family who will forever cherish her memory: her daughter, Terry Uzzo, and her son, Rich Rivera. She was a proud and devoted grandmother to Kenny Rodriguez, Terita Rodriguez Watts, Josephine Uzzo, Richie Rivera, and Amanda Griffith.

Rita's legacy continues through her treasured great-grandchildren: Dominick Rossetto, Brooklyn Uzzo, Hayden Rodriguez, Nick Rodriguez, and Leah Rivera-Buice who brought immeasurable joy to her life.

Rita will be remembered for her gentle wisdom, her love of family gatherings, her resilience through life's challenges, and the countless ways she cared for those around her. Her home was a place of comfort, her heart was always open, and her love knew no bounds.

Though her physical presence will be deeply missed, the love she shared and the memories she created will remain forever in the hearts of her family and friends. We take comfort in knowing that she has been reunited with her beloved Richard and is now at peace.

"Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near."