

Rita Sprague (1932-2010)



Rita Marie Sprague, age 78, passed away at Northern Nevada Medical Center in Sparks, Nevada, on Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

She was born March 2, 1932, in Brownsville, Pennsylvania to Bessie Jane Thompson and John D. Ford. The family moved to Barstow, California in the 1940's when Rita was a teenager. It was here she met her life-long companion, Ben Richard Sprague. Rita and Ben were married November 3, 1956. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2006 with the entire family in attendance.

Rita worked as a grocery clerk for Safeway Stores in Barstow and Sparks. The move to Sparks, Nevada came in 1973 so Rita could be closer to her dear friend, and AA sponsor, Bob Rodgers. She has remained sober for the past 40 years.

She is survived by her husband Ben Sprague of Sparks, Nevada; sons Glen Sprague and his wife Marny, of Barstow, California, Bryan Sprague and his wife Stephanie, of Cromberg, California, and Ben, Jr. and his wife Beth of Las Vegas, Nevada; and sisters Nan and Opal of Barstow, CA. Rita has eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. She is also leaving behind her two pet "babies", Bouncy and Angel.

Rita was most proud of her three sons - Glen, Bryan and Ben. In this family, with three boys, baseball was the sport of choice. She would often joke of giving her brains to her three sons and not having any left for herself. Rita was very dedicated to the entire family and took pride in each and every one of her grandkids.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 6, 2010 at Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery in Reno, Nevada. Pastor Randy Ralstin of Lighthouse Baptist Church will officiate. Walton Sparks Funeral Home, 1745 Sullivan Lane is entrusted with arrangements.

Published in the Daily Press on July 4, 2010