



Rosina McDonnell Carter

February 24, 1927 - March 10, 2025

Rosina McDonnell Carter, born February 24, 1927 in Memphis TN, died peacefully March 10, 2025 in Roanoke VA, after a brief illness. She was predeceased by her parents, Katharine Lewis McDonnell and Paul McDonnell, six siblings, infant daughter Mary Lewis Carter, and her husband of 63 years, Dean Carter.

Rosina grew up in Memphis and attended Maryville College in St. Louis as a history major. In 1948, Rosina and her sister Frances decided to travel for a year in Europe. On the ocean crossing, Rosina met Dean Carter, the love of her life. They courted in Paris and were married in 1950, the year they moved to Blacksburg, Virginia, where Dean established the Art Department at Virginia Tech. They were blessed with six children and a fulfilling life in Blacksburg.

Rosina continued to be an adventurous traveler. In 1954, the young family (with daughters ages two and six weeks) lived in Rome for a year, where Dean had a sculpture fellowship. Thereafter, the Carter family traveled frequently throughout the U.S. and abroad. A long-time member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Blacksburg, Rosina was a generous donor, volunteer, and Eucharistic Minister. She was an avid bridge player and loved to swim, dance, and go to plays, operas, and museums. Rosina was an accomplished seamstress and weaver, and a member of New River Valley's Handweavers Guild. She was an excellent cook, member of a lunchtime gourmet group, and

an active member of the Virginia Tech Faculty Women's Club. She hosted numerous cocktail parties and dinners for Art Department faculty, visiting scholars, students, and a large circle of friends. She also served as Dean's chief of staff, typing correspondence and keeping meticulous records for him. Her "Dear All" letters (one original with multiple carbons), became legendary among her siblings and her children. She and Dean were patrons of the arts, including the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. As Ut Prosim members, they gave generously to Virginia Tech, including endowing the Dean and Rosina Carter Scholarship in Art.

Rosina is survived by her children: Frances Stephens (Nicholas), Katharine Kerrane (Kevin), Clem Carter (Georgia), Tom Carter (Suzanne), Mary Farrell (Francis); eight grandchildren: Patrick Kerrane (Brittany), Michael Kerrane (Kate), Kate Andresen (Ulf), Dean Carter (Deepthi), Jessica Carter Fox, Thomas Carter, Carter Farrell, and Elizabeth Farrell; seven great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her sister Patricia Hamer (Bob), and sister-in-law Janet McDonnell.

Remembrances may be given to the St. Mary's Catholic Church Building Fund, or to the Dean and Rosina Carter Endowed Scholarship in Art (884039), Virginia Tech Foundation, Blacksburg VA 24061.

Funeral services will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Thursday, March 20th, at 11:00 am, with the burial following at Westview Cemetery. Visitation will be on Wednesday, March 19th from 5-7 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **19**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home Chapel
150 Country Club Dr S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Funeral Service

MAR **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1205 Old Mill Rd
Blacksburg, VA

Tribute Wall

BL

“ *Barry L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.*

Barry L. - March 19, 2025 at 11:44 AM

TS

“ *Tom and Shirin Swanson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.*



Tom and Shirin Swanson - March 18, 2025 at 08:54 PM

MF

“ *Mike and Karyn Farrell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.*

Mike and Karyn Farrell - March 18, 2025 at 02:23 PM

MF

“ *Mike and Karyn Farrell purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.*



Mike and Karyn Farrell - March 18, 2025 at 02:23 PM

JP

“ Joe & Barbara, Hope, Mary & Patrick purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



Joe & Barbara, Hope, Mary & Patrick - March 17, 2025 at 11:59 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

March 17, 2025 at 02:35 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



March 17, 2025 at 02:35 PM

MF

“ Mrs James E McDonnell family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

Mrs James E McDonnell family - March 16, 2025 at 07:23 PM

MF

“ Mrs James E McDonnell family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



Mrs James E McDonnell family - March 16, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

March 16, 2025 at 04:09 PM

LM

“ Love, Paul, Ingrid, Anna, Katie, & Marc purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



Love, Paul, Ingrid, Anna, Katie, & Marc - March 16, 2025 at 11:37 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



March 15, 2025 at 09:35 PM

AB

“ Anne Bomar purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



Anne Bomar - March 15, 2025 at 02:16 PM

AB

“ Anne Bomar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

Anne Bomar - March 15, 2025 at 02:16 PM

CO

“ It was a true privilege to get to know Rosina and her family. May she rest in peace and love to her beautiful family. She was truly a lovely lady.

Crissy Hill, OLOV - March 15, 2025 at 12:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

March 14, 2025 at 08:43 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



March 14, 2025 at 08:43 PM

JG

“ John, Andrew, Mark and George purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



John, Andrew, Mark and George - March 14, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



March 14, 2025 at 12:28 PM

PT

“ Rosina was a brilliant hostess, an enchanting conversationalist, and an expert weaver -- it was the weaving hobby we shared that brought us together, but my late husband's time as a VT professor brought some other memorable opportunities to socialize with Rosina and Dean. She will be missed by her weaving friends in our regional guild and of course by anyone who had the privilege to know her. Rest in Peace, beautiful, spirited lady.

Pat Tracy - March 13, 2025 at 02:19 PM

DR

“ Deanna, Martha, Jim Thurston & Ruth purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



Deanna, Martha, Jim Thurston & Ruth - March 13, 2025 at 02:10 PM

JW

“ Joy and Mark White purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



Joy and Mark White - March 13, 2025 at 10:36 AM

JW

“ Joy and Mark White planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

Joy and Mark White - March 13, 2025 at 10:36 AM

WY

“ Wendy Young purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



Wendy Young - March 13, 2025 at 09:38 AM

WY

“ Wendy Young planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

Wendy Young - March 13, 2025 at 09:38 AM

MS

“ I was blessed to spend time with Rosina and share two faiths, especially since Dean was Methodist. I learned quite a bit of information about life and the Catholic Faith with my visits with her in the evenings. She was a sharp lady with many resources to offer a younger woman like me in my life. She will always be a part of my life and is greatly missed.



Mary Stout - March 12, 2025 at 07:19 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



March 12, 2025 at 06:08 PM

BT

“ Ben Coffman and Mandy Taylor purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



Ben Coffman and Mandy Taylor - March 12, 2025 at 11:03 AM

BT

“ Ben Coffman and Mandy Taylor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

Ben Coffman and Mandy Taylor - March 12, 2025 at 11:03 AM

NR

“ Nancy and Joe Rader planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

Nancy and Joe Rader - March 12, 2025 at 10:55 AM

NR

“ Nancy and Joe Rader purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.



Nancy and Joe Rader - March 12, 2025 at 10:55 AM

NR

“ I will always cherish the many Sunset Beach vacations with the Carter family. Rosina would stop by to visit our beach house with a handful of figs she picked along the way. She loved figs.

Nancy Rader - March 12, 2025 at 10:28 AM

MS

“ Michael and Susan Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosina McDonnell Carter.

Michael and Susan Smith - March 12, 2025 at 10:05 AM

MS

“ *Michael and Susan Smith purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rosina McDonnell Carter.*



Michael and Susan Smith - March 12, 2025 at 10:05 AM