



## Roberta Maria Rossi

January 28, 1954 - April 21, 2019

Roberta Maria Rossi 65, of Miromar Lakes, FL died Sunday, April 21, 2019 at Joanne's House at Hope Hospice. Formerly of Washington, DC, Roberta had been a resident of Naples, Florida for the past 5 years. She was born January 28, 1954 in Joliet, IL a daughter of the late Reynold and Antoinette (Bajt) Rossi.

Roberta obtained her Master Degree from Wheaton College in Illinois. She traveled the world extensively in her work as a Public Affairs Information Officer

She is survived by her loving family; her brother, Robert (Maureen) Rossi; her sisters, Rita (Fred) Guenther and Rosann Rossi; her nieces, Liz (Tyler) Fevold and Ellen Rossi; her nephews, Tom and Joe Guenther and her grandnieces, Franki and Addi Fevold and her grandnephew, Ian Fevold.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held Friday, April 26, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Grow Church 15300 Tamiami Tr. No., Naples, FL 34110.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorials in memory of Roberta may be made to the F.F.B. Foundation Fighting Blindness, 7168 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 100, Columbia, MD 21046. Donations can be made via their website at: [www.fightingblindness.org/](http://www.fightingblindness.org/)

To sign her guest register or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com).

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **26**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Grow Church  
15300 Tamiami Tr. No.  
Naples, FL 34110

# Tribute Wall



“ *Roberta Maria Rossi*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Cookie (Roberta) Rossi and I shared a flat in Jerusalem for a couple of years in the early 80's. I was a volunteer at the ICEJ, and she was working for TBN. She lit up whatever room she entered, and never met a stranger. I'll never forget accompanying her to Beirut to file official papers for the radio station in the south. We joined an Israeli Army convoy going to Halde for peace talks. One funny moment on that trip: traffic was jammed, and she and I had had too much coffee for breakfast. We jumped out of the car and ran around a house to ask to use their bathroom. Behind us we heard shouting, several car doors opening and 5 or 6 IDF soldiers following closely behind! Thankfully our 'business' didn't take long and we were on our way again.*

*In Beirut we stopped in at the US Embassy and chatted (OK, flirted) with the Marines on duty that day. Imagine our shock and grief when months later it was bombed and they were all killed. 😞*

*Cookie came to visit me once in Switzerland after I got married.*

*Then, over the years, we sadly lost touch; but the love for and memories of Cookie remain.*

*Sincere condolences to her family and other close friends.*

JoAnn 'Yona' Salvisberg - February 25, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ *Tom and I are so sorry to hear about Cookie's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. I always enjoyed talking to Cookie and hearing of her worldly adventures. May she RIP.*

Kelly Root - May 14, 2019 at 11:51 AM

AH

“ I am shocked and saddened to learn of Roberta’s passing. I met Roberta a few years ago and liked her immediately. She soon left the country again to work overseas, but I saw her just a few months ago and said hello. I had no idea she was ill. My deepest condolences to her family and friends. 🙏

April Hoover - May 06, 2019 at 01:43 PM

 Samantha Lee

“ Condolences from the extended USAID family - communications team in Jakarta.

Samantha Lee - April 28, 2019 at 09:23 PM

DK

“ I am in shock and grieving Roberta’s loss. Roberta was an incredible human being, a wonderful friend, and an incomparable international development professional. I had the honor of knowing Roberta over the past 16 years since we first met in Baghdad where we worked for the US Agency for International Development and later the State Department. Over the years, we worked in many different countries and also in Washington, DC. Wherever Roberta went, she brought her knock out smile, infectious energy, sense of humor and passion for making a difference in some of the toughest places in the world. She touched so many lives and we are better because of it. My deepest condolences to Roberta’s family and family of friends. May her memory be a blessing forever. Much love to you in heaven.

Donna Kerner - April 28, 2019 at 06:58 PM

MH


“ It was a joy to know Roberta. She has left us with so many wonderful memories. I will cherish them forever. I will always be thankful that I had the opportunity to get to know Roberta and to call her a friend.

*May our Lord bless and comfort family and friends during this time of grief.*

*In Deep Sorrow,  
Marty Hudson*

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**Martha Hudson** - April 27, 2019 at 06:15 AM

 Dario  
Petucco

“ I am absolutely devastated! My lovely Roberta! We met each other in Baghdad and she was happy to hear I come from the Italian area of her relatives. Poor Roberta, a beautiful lady with a great heart and always smiling. I am sure that now she keeps watching over us from the sky. I express my deepest condolences to her family. Goodbye Roberta, I will never forget you.

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**Dario Petucco** - April 26, 2019 at 11:03 AM

 Helen  
LeDonne

“ Although, it has many many years, I remember Cookie's smile while we were in school. I also dated her brother, Bob, The tributes to her give me a sense of who she became!

*Helen (Phillip) LeDonne*

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**Helen LeDonne** - April 25, 2019 at 07:01 PM

JB

“ I'm struggling to write this as it still feels unreal, looking at Cookie/Roberta's lovely photo here. I first met her in summer '79. At the end of a Summer Broadcast Media school in Cambridge UK, Myrna Grant showed up with Cookie (as I then knew her). We had an instant connection, & that friendship continued (tho' I was sad we didn't get to meet when I was last in DC. We had a good catch-up chat though, as ever!)

Roberta was living in London in the early 80s, & I introduced her to the Graham family, with whom she became v. friendly...I think she lodged with them for a while, which meant we could meet more often. She worked at the NBC office, & I in the BBC, & we hung out with friends from the Arts Centre Group.

When she later joined EO in the Netherlands, I would go over to stay with her, & she in turn would come over to London for the weekend, or visit en route to/from many of her filming trips. We always had so much to talk & share about, both pleasures and pains. When she went to teach at Univ of the Nations, I visited at her invitation, & I have her to thank for connecting me with David Aikman, who then became a significant figure in my life and work. Later, as we both moved more into international humanitarian aid and development, we still had lots to discuss, and could compare notes on eg. Kabul or Nairobi. But above all, for 40 years, we shared our faith and the professional and personal challenges we both faced as we lived that out, through good times & bad. I loved her enthusiasm for Italy and so many other places, and her zest for life in tackling all that came across her path.

As someone else said, I'm very sad indeed not to be able to say a 'proper' goodbye, but I will be with you all in spirit as you mourn her loss...and yet we do not mourn in vain, for I know she loved Jesus Christ, and so is where there is now 'no more death or mourning or crying or pain'. With much love, and deep gratitude for our many years of friendship, Julia

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**Julia B** - April 25, 2019 at 06:14 PM

SP

“ Roberta played a big part in my early years growing up in Holland. In fact one of my earliest memories is of her taking me to see the Lion King at the cinema when I was about 3 or 4. I always looked forward to her visits and she never failed to make me roar with laughter. She was always a reassuring and joyful presence in our family.

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**Samuel Perriman** - April 25, 2019 at 03:34 PM

CP

“ Roberta's passing took me by surprise. But that's the way it was with Cookie. The last time I saw her was outside of Constitution Hall in DC, my face in a book when we literally "bumped into each other". It was several years since our time together in Virginia Beach.

Kathy, Sarah and I would follow her amazing career, but one never knew Roberta would show up next. I suspect our mutual friends that have gone to heaven before us will experience that same wonderful surprise as she will "catch them all up" with her Lord-led adventures as she enters the biggest adventure of them all! I will remember Roberta as kind, enthusiastic, hard-working and above all in love with the Lord Jesus Christ.

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**Chuck Pollak** - April 25, 2019 at 11:09 AM

JG

“ I served at USAID with Roberta and she was always a happy and positive force no matter the task at hand. Her work to help communicate about America's generosity and humanitarian programs had a great impact and she will always be remembered for her ability to bring people together. May God Bless our friend Roberta. jeff Grieco

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**Jeff Grieco** - April 25, 2019 at 10:45 AM

CM

“ *Carmelita Maness lit a candle in memory of Roberta Maria Rossi*



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**carmelita maness** - April 25, 2019 at 06:08 AM

DS

“ *Roberta was full of life with a big infectious smile. Very adventurous and a faithful friend. She loved Jesus very dearly and kept her hope in Him till the last moment. She is now enjoying his company face to face.*

*She will be greatly missed, until we meet again.*

*Dani Sleiman*

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**Dani Sleiman** - April 24, 2019 at 08:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roberta Maria Rossi.*



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April 24, 2019 at 06:20 PM

SH

“ *Roberta was always larger than life and such a positive and fun friend whenever we talked throughout our 35 years of friendship. She was such a bright light! Full of joy from our early years in Virginia Beach and around the world as her career took her everywhere. Although I'm deeply grieved by this loss, I am comforted to know we will see each other again one day for we share hope and faith in Christ. My heart goes out to her family. May the peace of God be with you all.*

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**Susan Harrison** - April 24, 2019 at 03:48 PM

MC

“ *Myrita Parker Craig purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Roberta Maria Rossi.*



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**Myrita Parker Craig** - April 24, 2019 at 02:12 PM

BP

“ *So many memories across three decades and three continents. Roberta lived in our home in London when we were in Muscat; she visited us in Dubai when she was working in Kabul. We visited her in the State Department in DC. She helped us out in Amsterdam, even entertaining our son on the evening that our daughter was born. We often laughed together until we cried. And all the emails; so many words; always so much to discuss together across the years and across the miles. Sadly missed.*

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**Belinda Perriman** - April 24, 2019 at 06:09 AM

MP

“ We first met in Kailua-Kona, HI, while we both were working with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). We became instant friends! Over the years we always kept in touch. She'd call me up and yell, "Mel!! I'm in Afghanistan!! Mel, I'm in Holland!! Mel, I'm in Indonesia!!" etc, etc! So wonderful to chat and catch up! She so loved the Lord Jesus. She'd tell what church she was attending or what group of believers she'd found in some of the remote places she was sent to. Talking with her after months of not being able to was immediately like we had been talking just the other day! She is my forever friend! And the best thing is that I know that I know I will see her again!! God was gracious to me to have blessed me with such a wonderful friend!!

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**melodie posada** - April 23, 2019 at 10:28 PM

AM

“ We loved our time with you in Israel, Roberta (Cookie). We know you led a great life here on earth, but know that you are in a wonderful place now. Blessings on your family and friends. Love, Mike and Allison

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**Allison Malpass** - April 23, 2019 at 10:01 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roberta Maria Rossi.



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April 23, 2019 at 07:49 PM

CF

“ Cookie was one of my closest friends in high school. She was larger than life and absolutely hilarious. We got in a lot of trouble together but she always had all is us (those fortunate to be considered her friends) laughing non-stop. I have so many great memories, I don't know which to share. Though I hadn't seen her in a long time, it feels like her passing has left a huge hole in my life. I hope some of my/our friends won't mind if I “take their names in vain” to give her a big group send-off - from Colleen F, Colleen K, Annie E. B., Jane C.R., Myrita P.C., Sue S.G., Madeleine M.D., Teri M.B., Mary Jo F.G., Kathy M. , Marilyn F., Jeanne L.K., ....I'm sorry if I missed anybody. We all loved you, Cookie, and are grateful for all the laughter you brought into our lives. Friends from your SFA Class of 1972.

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**Colleen Feehan** - April 23, 2019 at 07:38 PM

TB

*This tribute is perfect! T y Colleen. I still cannot look at a bag of Cheetos without grinning widely, thinking about the contest Cookie had with Marie P. in the cafeteria to see just how many Cheetos could be stuffed in their respective mouths! Remember Roller Skate Rag and the slumber party at her dad's apt bldg? Always a hoot and game for anything.*

*Cookie, thanks for coming into our lives and sharing your sunshine.  
Love, Teri M.B.*

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**Teri Bannon** - April 28, 2019 at 08:41 PM

CI

“ So very sorry for your loss. Rita and Rosie were such an incredible support to their sister. Sending prayers. Love - Cindy Fellencer

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**cindy** - April 23, 2019 at 06:59 PM

DD

“ *Deb Davison lit a candle in memory of Roberta Maria Rossi*



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**Deb davison** - April 23, 2019 at 04:14 PM

SR

“ *Roberta will be greatly missed! She was full of faith and joy every time we communicated, so much so that I didn't realize how close she was to going to be with Him. She was such a good friend to me and those who knew her. We had many great adventures together in Kabul, dancing at Embassy balls and going out to eat. We encouraged each other in the Lord through the difficult times and laughed a lot along the way. She was a ready and welcome host in Kampala, Uganda, as well and was always ready for a phone conversation when we were both back in the U.S. Roberta was generous and kind, and her heart for the Lord and people extended to many nations.*

*I pray for her family during this time of loss. She often spoke of you! May you know His grace, comfort and peace.*

*Susan Ryan*

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**Susan Ryan** - April 23, 2019 at 01:34 PM

NS

“ It is so hard for me to think that Roberta has passed away. She was so full of life. She was the entertainer anytime I would be with her whether it was in Israel or in Washington, DC. I know she loved the Lord and her savior, Jesus Christ, and believe she has been welcomed into His loving arms, but it is hard to think of her not here on this earth. I would have liked to have said a proper “good-bye”, but I couldn’t be in Florida. I do send my condolences to her two sisters, nephews and brother. She would mention all of you from time-to-time, and I felt as if I knew you. She truly was a person that brought a smile to people all around the world.

*May the Lord she knew bring you all comfort.*

*Nancy Fager Schimp*

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**Nancy Fager Schimp** - April 23, 2019 at 11:44 AM

KE

*Wish I could be with you all in Florida celebrating the magnificent life of Roberta Rossi. Her greatest legacy is the many people she befriended and cared for all over the world. You're not long a stranger when Roberta is on the scene. Will miss her infectious laugh and big, welcoming spirit. Rest in peace, dear friend. Kelsey Menehan*

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**Kelsey** - April 25, 2019 at 11:35 AM

MS

*Cookie was one of a kind! God blessed her with a wonderful loving family and great friends! What an amazing life she led and she will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know her.*

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**Mary Sue(Phelan)Mayer** - April 28, 2019 at 09:29 PM