



Rita Gibson Koman

November 28, 1936 - March 10, 2022

Rita Gibson Koman, 85, died peacefully on March 10, 2022. A native of St. Louis, Missouri suburbs, Rita was the eldest of four daughters to Roy and Marion Gibson. She was married for 56 years to Joseph J. Koman, Jr. who preceded her in death. For their entire married life, Rita and Joe lived and raised their family in Manassas. She is survived by her four children and their spouses: Joseph Koman III (Jay), David Koman and his wife, Bistra, Julia Riddlemoser and her husband, Patrick, and Amanda Koman. She has four grandchildren: Francesca Riddlemoser, Gabrielle Riddlemoser, Sophia Koman, and Caterina Koman. She is also survived by her sister, Rosalie Duke and her husband, Harold, and her many nieces and nephews.

Rita graduated from Coe College in 1958 and obtained her Masters degree from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1961. She had a lifetime drive for learning and a dedication to education, which led her to teaching. This was her passion. Rita wanted to share her knowledge not only with her students, but with the community. She taught history and government at the high school and community college level for twenty years; 13 of those years at Osbourn High School. She enjoyed teaching her students and preparing them for success in their college years.

Rita was active in preserving the history of Manassas as an early member of the Manassas Museum Associates and received a Honorary Lifetime Member of the Historic Resources Board for the Manassas Museum recognition from the city. She worked diligently on behalf of the Museum Board, she volunteered with a variety of their academic programs, and she supported the construction of the museum itself. Finally, she wrote *Manassas Mosaic: Creating a Community* which commemorates the history of the city of Manassas.

Rita taught religious education classes at All Saints Catholic Church where her family were parishioners since 1963. She also wrote a history of the parish entitled, *United Together, All Saints, All People of God Celebrating 125 Years 1879-2004*.

Rita was active in her history teacher chapters of the Virginia Foundation for Women, and Virginia's State Executive Board of Delta Kappa Gamma International. She was active in her national sorority Kappa Delta. She was a voracious reader, loved to travel to historical landmarks and sites all across the country with her husband, and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren. Rita will be remembered for her love of history, her contagious smile, and her thirst for learning.

A viewing will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at Pierce Funeral Home, from 7 to 9 pm. A Funeral Mass will be held at All Saints Catholic Church at 10 am on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

The family would like to thank the nurses, aides, and staff at Manassas Health and Rehab Center who lovingly cared for our Mother during her stay with them. We are eternally grateful.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, alz.org.

Cemetery

Cannon Branch Cemetery

9756 Godwin Drive

Manassas, VA, 20110

Events

MAR **Visitation** 07:00PM - 09:00PM

15

Pierce Funeral Home

9609 Center St., Manassas, VA, US, 20110

MAR **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

16

All Saints Catholic Church

9300 Stonewall Rd, Manassas, VA, US, 20110

Comments



“ Ellie Hill lit a candle in memory of Rita Gibson Koman



Ellie Hill - March 25 at 03:06 PM



“ I am saddened to hear of Mrs. Koman's passing. She definitely challenged her students to excel. Her AP high school classes were legendary. I received her book on the history of Manassas as a gift years ago and enjoy it still. My prayers are with her family as they adjust to life without her.

Rob Weaver OHS '83

Rob Weaver - March 22 at 12:26 PM



“ To the Koman Family,
I was so saddened to hear about the passing of your mother/ grandmother. She played a pivotal role in helping me become the history teacher I am today. I was privileged to have the pleasure to work with her during her last few years at Osbourn. I started working with her in the Spring of 1989. Shortly before becoming department head the Social Studies Department started offering the Manassas History class at Osbourn and was honored to be the first teacher to teach the class. She was pivotal in helping with the development of that class. She allowed me to use the curriculum she developed and the book she wrote Manassas Mosaic was our textbook. She was a fantastic teacher and mentor. I have followed her example of teaching throughout my career and I consider it an honor to have known her and to have worked with her. She is truly one of the best teachers I have known.
My thoughts and prayers are with you all in the days, weeks and months to come.
Sincerely ~ David McGlothlin

David McGlothlin Jr - March 20 at 06:49 PM



“ Julia and Family,
As you know, I did not know your mother well, but will always remember her beautiful smile and love of history. What a wonderful teacher she must have been, after reading from so many of her students!
You, your siblings, and family are in my thoughts.
Peace and Love,
Nancy Riddlemoser



Nancy R - March 16 at 10:01 PM



“ Mrs. Koman was one of the best teachers I ever had both in high school and college. “The Koman Notebook” was the stuff legends are made of! She was so impactful I changed my major to poly sci in college. When I accepted my job working in local government and saw her in church a few years later I told her how much I appreciated all the work she made us do. She was the original “GOAT” AP Government teacher and her passing is truly a loss of a great mind. My sincerest condolences to her family.

Lisa Huffman - March 16 at 02:31 PM



“ Mrs. Koman was an excellent Government Teacher. She left quite and impression on me as one of her students. Sorry for your loss! Carl Hitt - OHS - Class of 1984

Carl Hitt - March 16 at 08:28 AM



“ Lisa Jackson lit a candle in memory of Rita Gibson Koman



Lisa Jackson - March 15 at 06:56 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rita Gibson Koman.



March 14 at 05:01 PM



“ Ms. Koman was an amazing teacher, to this day 35 years later, She is still the one person that I refer to as the teacher that really left a impact on me at Osbourn. I am honored to have known and been taught by her. I send condolences to her family and friends. Carin Campbell

Carin Campbell - March 14 at 02:30 PM



“ Rest In Peace Mrs. Koman. What an incredible and unforgettable teacher she was. She somehow made government interesting and thanks to her I slept through my early morning college Poli Sci classes and still got As! Prayers for her family.
Karen (Kanto) Watson
OHS '85

Karen Watson - March 14 at 01:14 PM



“ Words cannot express what a legend she was. The grants she won my junior and senior year took us to places almost monthly! This wasn't a class she taught, this was an adventure she took us on. Thank you Mrs. Koman! We were the lucky ones!
Lori Karalow Class of '85

Lori Karalow Hartle - March 14 at 12:54 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I had Mrs. Koman for history and government at Osbourn High School. As Nettie noted she always had her nails and jewelry matching every day. She was an excellent teacher and always pushed her students to do better. I also remember helping with her bulletin boards after school. She was an amazing woman. Ellen Patterson OHS 81

Ellen Patterson - March 13 at 06:50 PM



“ As one of her students we could never understand how she would have her nails, outfit and jewelry all match every day. She made learning history fun! She would dress in period costume and make us dive into what life was like in the period. They don't make them like her anymore! Then in the early 80s I was in a van pool with Joe. Both such wonderful people! Our heartfelt condolences to all of her family.
Nettie Shomate Stevens OHS '81

Nettie Shomate Stevens - March 13 at 05:52 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to the Koman family. Mrs. Koman was such a wonderful teacher and advisor to literally thousands of our City of Manassas children.

Maury/Vera Gerson - March 12 at 03:29 PM