



## Rita K Lum

September 22, 2025

No obituary found for this tribute.

# Tribute Wall

CK

“ Rita Lum, MD died on September 22, 2025 at home under the care of hospice with leukemia. Dr. Lum in her career in Child Psychiatry helped many in times of trouble. After studying biology at the Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women) she attended Medical School at University of Mississippi School of Medicine, graduating in 1972 when nationally, women were 9 percent of medical school graduates. She completed her Psychiatry Residency and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry fellowship at the hospitals of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and began her career at UAB. After a couple of years, she moved to Atlanta as the Medical Director of the inpatient Child unit at the Georgia Mental Health Institute. She remained there for 10 years, treating patients, overseeing clinical staff, medical students and psychiatry residents.

In 1994, she and her husband Henry Kratt relocated to Meridian Mississippi to be closer to her aging parents, and she continued in private practice treating adults as well as children.

Rita valued excellence, likely learned at home. Along with her meticulous professionalism, she pursued her hobbies with enthusiasm. She took up knitting, producing scarves, sweaters, hats and slippers for grandchildren and other family, as well as prayer shawls with the church knitting group. She played piano for many years. She delved into her spiritual education reading widely about spirituality, church history and theology, through her Education for Ministry group. She attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Meridian for the 21 years she lived there and found great connection there as well as spiritual growth through fellowship and learning, and music. On moving to Foley, AL, she took up bridge, belonging to 2 bridge groups, studying on line and with a mentor. During the last year of her life, in Foley, AL, she was grateful for the spiritual care of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Foley, AL.

Rita Kaye Lum was born September 6, 1946 in Forest, MS to Kelly Bailey (KB) Lum, and Daree Waggoner Lum, RN. She was the eldest with 2 brothers. Her parents were life long residents of Scott County, MS with the exception of a brief time in Hawaii when they

were first married. KB was a welder and pipefitter and his work took him far afield including to rebuild Pearl Harbor after the bombing. He was curious about ideas and people and modeled life long learning, including an interest in philosophy which he shared with his children. Rita noted that "he taught me to try to learn to think". Daree was a help to many in medical need over her career as a nurse, and an accomplished home cook, known for her ample table at Sunday dinners.

Facebook was made for Rita, and she enjoyed keeping up with cousins, friends from across the span of her life, and extended family. She enjoyed travel through out her life, including Alaska, Russia and Egypt. A memorable trip was taking her parents back to Hawaii, where they had married, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

She married Henry Kratt in 1983, gaining 3 step children, Hank, Charlotte and John Kratt. Henry died in 2010. She married John Woods in 2011, gaining another step daughter, Bobbie Norwood. John died in 2016.

She leaves behind her brothers Don (Virginia) Lum, Jim (Susan) Lum, nieces and nephew Lauren, Elizabeth and Daniel Lum, step-children, grandchildren, and her loving partner Bert Burns.

Rita always had a listening ear, a ready smile and a kind voice.

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**Charlotte Kratt** - November 17, 2025 at 01:55 PM