



Juanita Roodman

December 11, 1943 - August 3, 2025

Nita (Juanita) Varnon Roodman, 81, of Cape Girardeau and Morgan Hill, CA, passed away peacefully on Sunday morning, August 3, 2025, surrounded by loved ones, at Chateau Girardeau in Cape Girardeau, MO.

Her parents, the late John Sam and Pauline Varnon of Morley/Scott City, MO, had ten children, five boys and five girls. Nita was their sixth born.

Nita attended Morley public schools, Scott County Central, and graduated from Illmo-Scott City High School in 1961. After completing her BS in Education from Southeast Missouri State University in 1966, she taught for several years in Missouri.

In 1970, Nita married Toby Roodman, St. Louis. They made their first homes in San Jose/Los Gatos, CA where they lived for years before moving to Morgan Hill. She worked for CA State Fund for 29 years, and when she retired as Assistant Claims Manager, she left a host of close friends/co-workers who highly respected and admired her.

Music, poetry, and being with family/friends were among Nita's "favorite things." While others would search their memories for the words to a song or from a long-ago poem, she could often recite them from her incredible memory. She was a devoted sister who looked for ways to help family

members without waiting to be asked. As a dear one recently said of her, he had never quite seen before the type of love and compassion for others that Nita had.

Nita is survived by her husband Toby of Morgan Hill, CA, sisters Sue Stacy of Cape Girardeau, MO; sister Patt Sharp of Kennett, MO; brothers Tony (Janet) Varnon of Cape Girardeau and Richard (Suzanne) Varnon of Germantown, TN; brother-in-law Joe Raffety of Clarksville, TN; nieces Julia and Mary Raffety, Nikki Varnon, Lily Varnon, nephews Joshua Varnon, Sam Varnon, Jim Varnon, Matt Varnon; great-nieces Brooklyn Varnon and Lucy Varnon, and great-nephews Johnathan, Jacob, and Joey Varnon.

Nita was preceded in death by many whom she loved and who especially loved her, including her sisters Dee Raffety and Betty Cruse, brothers John Sam Varnon, Jr., Stanley Varnon, and Mack Varnon, nephew John Varnon, and brothers-in-law Bob Cruse, Dr. Bill Stacy and Judge Stephen Sharp.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, August 17 at 11 a.m. at Ford & Sons Funeral Home, Mount Auburn Road, Cape Girardeau, with a graveside service following at Fairdealing Cemetery, Fairdealing, MO at 2:30 pm.

Online condolences may be made to www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

MR

“Nita is my "Auntie Never Wrong," the aunt who always wanted to cut bangs in my hair when I was a little girl, the aunt who first brought me out to California and took me for my first taste of sushi, and the aunt who always encouraged me to speak up for myself in my career and relationships. Nita is someone I leaned on for advice and tips. She had wonderful stories to tell. She was one of the smartest people I've ever known. I played a crossword puzzle with her on my last visit to her house in Morgan Hill and, boy, did she smoke me with her knowledge! Nita had the cutest laugh and way of scrunching up her face. She had a fun and unique style and an eye for quality. She cared for and loved her family intensely. Every year she made us a calendar with family birthdays and photos and mailed it to all of us. I took Nita for granted, as I suspect we all do with our aunts and uncles. We just assume they will always be there. Now, my heart hurts with the terrible pain of losing her and I can't tell her about it anymore. I can't cry on her shoulder and hear her say, "Welllllll...it will all work out in the end. You may not like the way it resolves, but it will resolve." I love you, Aunt Nita. I hope you are with Mom, Aunt Betty, Uncle Stanley, Uncle Mack, Uncle Bill, Uncle Stephen, Uncle Bob, Cousin Stephen, Cousin Michael, Aunt Glenda, Sandy, and all the others in your life who've left this earth. You will be so missed here, but I know you'll be very loved among the angels (especially your very loyal parking angel!).



Mary E Raffety - August 15, 2025 at 07:51 PM

ME

“ Mary E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juanita Roodman.

Mary E. - August 15, 2025 at 07:31 PM

CE

“ Carlynn E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juanita Roodman.

Carlynn E. - August 15, 2025 at 06:52 PM

JR

“ I will always remember one of my favorite Aunts. Juanita Roodman. Aunt Nita had so many beautiful qualities. She was loving, generous, kind, helpful, and smart. I am grateful to her for helping my mother in her final days. Because of Aunt Nita my mother received hospice in the comfort of her home surrounded by loved ones. Every day I send a thank you wish to Aunt Nita for that gift she bestowed on us. I have also thanked her for making my 50th birthday extra special. I spent my evening that day with her, her friend (Sandy), and my sister (Mary) having a delicious meal at a fancy restaurant. We looked out at the ocean in California and enjoyed some Champagne. Aunt Nita always remembered my birthday and thought of me at Christmas. She also told me that I had a gift as a poet and encouraged me to keep writing. Aunt Nita was my Aunt but she was also my friend. I will truly miss her. I hope to see her again in the future. I love you Aunt Nita!

Julia Raffety - August 15, 2025 at 05:42 PM

MB

“ My husband Michael Brassil and I both worked with Nita at State Compensation Insurance Fund back in the 70's. She was a dynamic personality one does not soon forget. We kept in touch over the years and attended the reunion of LA SCIF workers some years back on the Central Coast. She was truly a bright light.....we will surely miss her. R.I.P. Nita

Michael and Shelly Brassil

Michael and Shelly Brassil - August 14, 2025 at 01:28 PM



“ I will always remember what a kind soul Nita was and her beautiful smile would light up a room. My parents were good friends with Nita and Toby and growing up I have fond memories of them both. Rest in peace beautiful soul say hello to my parents...love Deanna

Deanna Perry - August 14, 2025 at 02:27 AM

JG

“ Jacqueline Latapie Gomes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juanita Roodman.

Jacqueline Latapie Gomes - August 13, 2025 at 05:09 PM

JG

“ Jacqueline Latapie Gomes purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Juanita Roodman.



Jacqueline Latapie Gomes - August 13, 2025 at 05:09 PM

SR

“ Nita was always friendly whenever I visited at her and Toby’s homes. We had a good relationship . I am sorry she had a difficult time at the end but glad she had her family with her the last years. She was a great wife and support for Toby for many years.
Stan Roodman , Santa Rosa, CA

Stan Roodman - August 13, 2025 at 03:45 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Juanita Roodman.



August 13, 2025 at 02:49 PM



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

August 13, 2025 at 02:49 PM

JD

“ Nita and are friends since high-school. She was so far away for so long and it was great when she moved closer. Had breakfast together with Janet and Diane a few times. We shared a love of poetry and she often posted some of her favorite lines. I will miss her. Rest peacefully friend.

Joyce Moore Daniels - August 12, 2025 at 08:55 PM

PS

“ *Nita memories*

Oh, sweet sister, we shared so so many memories that I'll always hold dear: Riding our bikes to the Morley Spur and the Indian Mounds (Bologna sandwich!), our attending services at probably every church in Morley, practicing our Bible verses for our GA badges, Baptist summer camp and our song in the talent show, picking cotton, proud to wear our new blouses that sister Sue had made for us, enjoying poetry with sister Dee, our being self-proclaimed “sisters of mercy” to our old folks friends, your being queen of the Rose City Rides in Morley that year, our old-time suppers with sister, Queen Betty, our great friendship with Mr. Dyer and his many kindnesses, and on and on through the years—your Christmas presents for Stephen, our adventures with Terry, card playing with the family, and last (for now) “OK, boss, I’m coming.” I will forever love and miss you.

Patt Sharp - August 12, 2025 at 08:33 PM