



Anita Mary (Reiter) Gerth went to her eternal rest on January 1, 2017 - feast day of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - in Naples, FL at Avow Hospice with family by her side. She was born to Jacob and Esther Reiter on September 19, 1930 in Ellsworth, MN. The family moved to Ashton, IA in 1934 where she grew up on a farm, which she always felt gave her a strong work ethic. She graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing in 1952, and worked as an RN at Milwaukee County General Hospital, then Greenwich Hospital in CT.

While in Milwaukee she met the love of her life, Donald Gerth. They were married on September 25, 1954 at St. Sebastian's Church. Dr. Gerth was in the U.S. Air Force and they spent the first two years of their marriage stationed in Puerto Rico, then moved to Don's hometown of Oshkosh, WI where they raised their family. After her children were in school, she worked in the Mercy Medical Center recovery room and later assisted Don in his dental practice. They lived in Oshkosh for 56 years and retired to Naples. Wherever she lived, Anita was truly blessed with wonderful friends.

Her hobbies were cooking, gardening, reading, traveling, dancing, refinishing furniture and finishing the carpentry items her husband built. She was an avid bridge player and always enjoyed a good game of gin rummy with family, which she usually won!

While in Oshkosh Anita was co-founder of Edgewater Club, past president of Winnebago County Dental Auxiliary, and a member of St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church, Camp Fire Girls Board, Infant Welfare Association, Riverside Antique Club, P.E.O., and Women's Club of Oshkosh. She was a Eucharistic Minister, Hospice volunteer, and actively participated in bridge groups, and a gourmet club. After moving to Naples she was a member of St. William Church, CCW, Rosary Makers, respite volunteer, and also helped coordinate bridge at church.

Anita and Don were blessed with six children, 12 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren with two more on the way; Mary Gerth Kenyon (deceased) (Tom), Susan (Dr. Ferdinand) Chiappetta (Angela, Claire, Kathryn, Emily), Donna (Ted) Karwoski (Lauren, Gina, Nick, Alex), Anne Gerth, Sarah (J.T.) McDonald (Kathleen, Meghan), and Douglas (Margaret Carpenter) (EJ, Audrey). She is survived by her siblings; Dan Reiter, Annette Madden, and Michael Reiter. Anita is preceded in death by her husband, Donald; their daughter, Mary; her parents; two brothers, Lee and James; and sister Elaine.

Our Mom was a success at life - faith, family, and friends were her priorities. She loved effortlessly, prayed fervently and lived life with gratitude. She embraced technology and would often text, e-mail and FaceTime with family and friends. Recently, her conference call Rosary was a daily highlight. The example of her life in faith, and the loving and caring she gave others are lessons we each carry forward in our own lives. We are profoundly grateful, Mom. We love you. The next dance is with Dad in heaven.

A funeral Mass will be Saturday, February 18 at 11 AM at St. William Church in Naples, FL. A memorial Mass will also be held in Oshkosh, WI at St. Raphael's Church on Friday, May 12 for both Anita and Don at 11 AM, with visitation beginning at 9 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the [American Lung Association \(www.lung.org\)](http://www.americanlung.org), St. Vincent de Paul (<http://www.svdpusa.org/Donate>) or Avow Hospice (<https://avowcares.org/donate-now/>)