



Reatha Marie Cochran

March 21, 1945 - March 7, 2026

RAPID CITY – Reatha Marie Cochran, 80, a former court reporter in Michigan, passed on Saturday, March 7th, 2026, at home on the Torch River surrounded by family. Reatha was born to Zelda (Gray) Smith and Orin Gray on March 21st, 1945, in Grayling. She graduated from Kalkaska High School in 1963 and Lansing Community College - Court and Conference Reporting in 1979. She worked as a court reporter for the State of Michigan until her full retirement in 2009. Reatha was married to Max (Mick) B. Cochran on July 9th, 1966, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City due to Mick's severe motorcycle accident two days before their actual wedding date while Mick was on leave from the Navy. As Reatha always joked, their nearly 60-year marriage started with a crash and bang. The couple lived in Vernon, Michigan, for decades, travelling North to their cabin near their beloved Torch Lake and the infamous Elvis Houseboat. As Reatha worked in the court system, Mick worked at Buick-GM Flint until his retirement. The couple had one daughter, Reye Marie (Cochran) Kenney, in 1970. In 2000, they built their dream house on Torch River, enjoying the beautiful views from their front porch and the fun associated with the lake. She spent her retirement years visiting friends and family, playing euchre, or gambling at Turtle Creek Casino. Reatha is preceded in death by her parents, Zelda (Gray) Smith and Orin Gray. She is survived by her beloved husband, Max (Mick) B. Cochran; their child and grandchildren, Reye (Cochran) Kenney, Tanner Kenney, and Taylor Kenney; brother Tom (Julie) Gray; nieces and nephews, Jodi (Gray) Thayer, Krisi

(Gray) Scheidel, Tawni (Gray) Dieki, Rick (Lisa) Knust, Robin (Kim) Knust (Wells), Tammy (Jim) Leithow, and Terri (Cindy) Reasoner.

No services are planned at this time.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving your.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

Kalkaska, MI 49646

Tribute Wall

LB

“ I only had the pleasure of meeting her once, at that time had a lovely visit and also heard the wedding story. So sorry for your loss, sending sympathy.

Linda (Underhill) Bennett - March 13 at 10:03 AM

DN

“ Our deepest condolences.



Deborah Newell - March 12 at 02:38 PM

BB

“ Such a fun beautiful person. We used to spend lots of time together before she moved back north. When the family lived in Vernon they lived in the house my grandparents owned and my mother was raised in which made it so special for me to visit. Had great times up north too. One of my card club friends! I will miss our phone calls !
Love Brenda, Ryan Bohman and Kelly Simmons

Brenda Bohman - March 10 at 08:57 AM

SD

“ It's been a few years since we would party at the Riv, but we always enjoyed your company. It's the end of an era on the river. Sending hugs, Mick. Sherry Day

Sherry Day - March 10 at 01:55 AM



“ 8 files added to the album mom



Reye Cochran - March 09 at 09:31 PM

KS

“ We are so sorry for your loss, our prayers go out to the family. Reatha was such a wonderful lady and I always enjoyed visiting with her, she had a special laugh and enjoyed life.

Kent and Linda Sieting - March 09 at 07:12 PM

SB

“ Reatha was one of the kindest, sweetest, people I have ever known. Always fun to be around her and laugh at the things life throws our way. I will really miss her. 💔
Sending hugs and condolences to her family.

Sherri Barber - March 09 at 01:49 PM

DG

My deepest condolences. If you two weren't on the lake with the blue Elvis boat, it just didn't seem like Torch Lake.

Dianne Gentry - March 10 at 10:32 AM

MC

I had the opportunity to be with Reatha during her last days. She and I have memories of being roommates, each other's weddings and travels. She was one of a kind, thoughtful, intelligent and successful in her career. Reatha will be in our hearts forever. LUB RIP

Michaeline Crawford

Michaeline Crawford - March 11 at 12:17 PM

JB

We 4 girls in grade school and high school and college we were tight as ticks! Karen Stuck, Barb weinerick and I will always remember the great times we 4 girls had! You will always be in our hearts. Love you 🤔🤔

jeanne (petey) johnson berube - March 15 at 06:47 PM

PR

My thoughts and sincere sympathy go out to Reatha's family. She was a jewel and one of a kind. She was always a ball of energy, full of fun & a hearty laugh I loved to hear. She favored her Mother so much! I have known Reatha since she was a young girl at home. Her father & mine were horse lovers & traders so to speak & it was during one of those outings that I met Reatha.

She was such a beautiful lady with a smile to match.

I recall a time many years back when we double dated with a couple of fellows. She went on to school and chose a profession I am very familiar with, because of the work I was involved in. I am sorry I hadn't seen, or been in touch for some time, but it does not lessen the memories of such an intelligent and loving Lady. Rest in Peace Reatha,

Patty Jackson Rodgers

Patty Rodgers - March 18 at 07:10 PM