



# Leta Lavonne Richardson

APR 25, 1947 - SEP 19, 2022



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## Leta Lavonne Richardson

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Leta Lavonne Richardson passed away September 19, 2022. Leta was born April 25, 1947, in Corydon, IA to Wanetta Fern Richardson (Everman) and John William Richardson, Jr. She was the sixth of their eight children and the first girl. She married David Williams on June 13, 1971, and they had two children, Todd and Tessa. Leta graduated from Cambria-Corydon High School in 1965 and then attended beauty school where she became a licensed cosmetologist. After a brief time in Omaha studying and working in a salon she returned to Corydon and eventually ran her own salon on the west side of the square. After several years of doing hair at the salon, Leta sold the business and became a stay-at-home wife and then mother. With the privilege of being a stay-at-home mom, she was able to volunteer a lot of time at the school for her kids' classes and in the office. She was awarded the Iowa Governor's Volunteer Service Award by Governor Branstad in 1996 for her service to the school. Over the years, Leta enjoyed many arts and crafts type hobbies. She was an excellent seamstress and often made or repaired clothing items and home décor for family and friends. She even made sleeping bags for all of Tessa's Barbie dolls and body bags for all of Todd's G.I. Joe's when the kids were little. She knitted, crocheted, cross-stitched, and did many other unique and fun activities.

She was also well-known as being the "baby whisperer" and the "favorite aunt" to many. Any fussy baby would promptly settle and fall asleep when Leta held them and rocked them. Sometimes she was the only one who could make that happen. She was always ready to play games or watch TV with or give fun snacks to the nieces and nephews.

In 2016 she became Grandma to a grandson, Carson (Tessa) and the following year, granddaughter Ava (Tessa) joined the family. She loved getting to spend time with them and learn about the things they were doing and also spending time watching cartoons, coloring with them, and giving them snacks.



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Leta was preceded in death by her parents, John William Jr and Fern Richardson and four brothers: Larry, Jim, Kendall, and Randy Richardson; and sister-in-law Arlene (Kendall). She is survived by her children Todd Williams and Tessa Yawn (Kevin) and her grandchildren, Carson and Ava Yawn, all of Altoona. Also, her brothers John David Richardson (June) of Chariton and Dennis Richardson (Terri) of Altoona; her only sister, Rita Preston (Doug) of Gardner KS; and three sisters-in-law, Carolyn (Larry), Trula (Jim), and Valerie (Randy) Richardson. Finally, those many nieces and nephews who were so special and important to her: Randy Ray, Vicki, Doni, Melissa, Suzanna, Elizabeth, Melissa, Judy, Tristan, Noah, Peyton, Chad, Dakota, Kevin, Laurie, and John.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers or plants, donations to the family to help cover the costs of her funeral and burial wishes.



## Tribute Wall

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BF

**Barb Fetters** posted:

i was her neighbor when i lived in corydon

September 21 at 7:00 PM

TY

**Tessa Yawn** posted:

Thank you for sharing. When or where was this in Corydon? On Steele/Johnson, N West, or Lafayette?

September 21 at 7:00 PM

RS

**Rachael Whaley Stauffer** posted:

My prayers and thoughts are with the family. Peace be with you.

September 21 at 7:00 PM

JB

**Jane Brees** posted:

Thoughts of your mom going to Todd and Tessa.

September 21 at 7:00 PM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Leta by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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