



## Mrs. Leslie Byrd Rice

July 4, 2015

RICE, Leslie Suzanne Byrd, 52, of Plant City, Florida, entered into eternal rest on July 4, 2015, at Moffitt Cancer Center. She graduated from American High School in Incirlick, Turkey, and from the University of Florida with her BA and MA degrees. She had taught at Plant City High School (PCHS) since 1987, where she was a beloved member of the English Department. She is survived by her husband Dale, her sons Dane and Drew, her parents Larry and Sally Byrd, her brother Scott Byrd (Roxanna), and her cats Sami and Jimi. A celebration of a legacy will be held on Saturday, July 11 at 4:00 P.M. at the PCHS gymnasium. Please wear casual attire in PCHS colors. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Leslie S.B. Rice Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Platinum Bank, 1804 James L. Redman Parkway, Plant City 33563. Expressions of condolence at [www.HopewellFuneral.com](http://www.HopewellFuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

CD

“*Mrs. Rice, you taught a whole lot more than English. You taught your students how to live and how to think for ourselves. I know I owe a lot to you, and I know I'm far from the only one. Thank you for being one of the best teachers I've ever had, in school and in life. I love you more than I ever told you, but we both know that. Rest In Peace Mrs. Rice, you always were an angel.*”

Chase Dunn - July 15, 2015 at 08:53 PM

JH

“*Julia Fuentes Hudson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leslie Byrd Rice*”



Julia Fuentes Hudson - July 11, 2015 at 11:57 AM

SD

“*Mrs. Rice was a champion for her students and our son Chase loved talking with her and learning from her; she was one of his favorite teachers. She was an outstanding and insightful teacher and will be missed greatly by all who had the blessing of knowing her. As parents, we love those who love our children. Mrs. Rice was much loved. She made a lasting positive and personal impact on her students - she showed them that she cared about them and believed in them - even if they didn't believe in themselves. She made a difference in the lives of others, and that truly is the meaning of a life well lived. Thank you for sharing her with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time. -- Stacy, Jeff, Chase, Blake and Ashley Dunn*”

Stacy Dunn - July 10, 2015 at 02:42 PM

EH

“ *Mrs.Rice was and always will be an inspiration to me, and I can only think of how I can use her advice to further my education.*

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**Emmalise Hunter** - July 09, 2015 at 08:27 PM

BS

“ *Our most sincere condolences to the Rice family. She was very much loved as a teacher and her family and friends are in our prayers for comfort in these hard moments.*



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**Blanca Sanchez-Cantu** - July 09, 2015 at 09:08 AM

CI

“ *Such a wonderful woman - heaven has aquired a one of a kind angel. ♡ {hugs} to Dale and boys.*  
*Cindy Storie*



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**Cindy** - July 09, 2015 at 08:05 AM

YH

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the family...she will be missed by all!*

*Yvonne Henson*

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**Yvonne Heson** - July 09, 2015 at 07:30 AM

 Lesa  
Chandler  
Hughes

“ *Lesa Chandler Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leslie Byrd Rice*



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**Lesa Chandler Hughes** - July 09, 2015 at 06:48 AM

TF

“ *The Ryan Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leslie Byrd Rice*



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**The Ryan Family** - July 09, 2015 at 06:26 AM

RF

*The Ryan Family (Michelle, Jim, Emily, & Kristen) ... sending thoughts & prayers of healing peace & strength to the whole family.*

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**Ryan Family** - July 09, 2015 at 06:27 AM

AG

“ *Allison Guthrie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leslie Byrd Rice*



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**Allison Guthrie** - July 09, 2015 at 02:08 AM

NS

“ *Natasha Sherman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leslie Byrd Rice*



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**Natasha Sherman** - July 08, 2015 at 10:57 PM

DB

“ *In all the years I've lived here...it never fails ..when her name is mentioned every parent will quietly say "my \_\_\_\_ had such a bond with her"...or "she and my \_\_\_\_ had a special relationship." I often wondered what was the magic that Leslie had...how did every student, every friend, feel like they were something special? What is that quote about the difference you make in the life of a child... let's just stop and hold sacred the impact she had on so many of our children's lives....and how her impact will carry forward..as she taught everyone -not just English - but taught everyone how to be a fully engaged loving, caring humans and championed the ability to inspire. The greatest honor we can bestow upon her is to try our best to be the same. Two children...have two parents who are amazing people - who loved each other - and have both positively influenced so many lives. Sir Rabindranath Tagore said "death is not extinguishing the light ...it is simply putting out the lamp because the dawn has come." Her light will go on forever....and one day again she'll be teaching us the way. What a life! What an honor to have known her.*

*With heartfelt sympathy... The Bochy Family (Joe,Diane, Hoyt & Virginia)*

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**Diane Bochy** - July 08, 2015 at 10:31 PM

Brenda Medrano Starford

“ Thank you for being a good friend to me Leslie. You were my best cheerleader! I will miss our talks. I will miss you so very much.



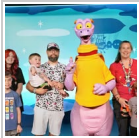
Brenda Medrano Starford - July 08, 2015 at 09:48 PM

NT

“ I'm without words right now....she was my favorite teacher.... RIP Sweet Lady...GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



Nevian Tindal - July 08, 2015 at 09:28 PM



“ I had Mrs. Rice as my English teacher but she was so much more. An amazing women that change the world one classroom at a time and her "Brats" will never forget her. We love you and miss you.



Amanda Grimes - July 08, 2015 at 07:25 PM

SI

“ Never was she without a smile! Her joy lit up the room and whenever you asked how she was would always say Blessed! What a legacy she has left at Plant City High! You will be missed mes Rice!



Sherri Iturriaga - July 08, 2015 at 07:07 PM

LO

“ *Greatness is not measured in possessions and wealth but by the impact that you make on another's life. Leslie Rice achieved that greatness every day with every student. Thank you for the impact that you made on Andrew and James. You will forever be remembered....The Orso Family.*



Lori Orso - July 08, 2015 at 06:43 PM

AF

“ *Aloyo Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leslie Byrd Rice*



Aloyo Family - July 08, 2015 at 06:40 PM

LY

“ *Lynn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leslie Byrd Rice*



Lynn - July 08, 2015 at 06:26 PM



“ *Dale, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your beautiful wife. I pray that you and your boys will find strength beyond measure during this time.*

Tina Belanger - July 08, 2015 at 06:24 PM



“ *Amy Albritton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Leslie Byrd Rice*



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**Amy Albritton** - July 08, 2015 at 05:25 PM

SL

“ *Her passion for teaching was true inspiration! She taught both of my children and we loved her dearly! Her Legacy will live on through her children and the hundreds of students lives she touched!*

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**Sandy liess** - July 08, 2015 at 04:39 PM

LY

*Leslie is loved by so many because she saw each person in her life as a gift. I treasure the time I was able to spend with her.*

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**Lynn** - July 08, 2015 at 06:29 PM