



Ms. Ruth G. Smith

October 3, 1927 - September 29, 2021

Ruth Green Smith, 93, of Blythewood, formerly Wilmington NC died on September 29, 2021. Born in Bellwood, PA, she was a daughter of the late Mildred and Paul Green.

She was a loving “Mama” to her daughters and a beloved “Gaga” to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren. She was a good companion and friend to many, but especially to members of her card-playing groups and her church.

Her faith was formed as a child by loving and devout parents in the Lutheran Church. Her faith continued to grow, and she modelled Christian living throughout her life.

Ruth lived a life full of positive energy and optimism. She always had an encouraging word and was a wonderful listener. She gave freely of herself and required nothing in return – no conditions or demands – but she did love a thank you note!

Her giving and nurturing personality led her to a career in nursing. She graduated from Hahnemann University Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia, PA, in 1949. She brought a deep dedication to others, an abundant sense of responsibility, and mind, and a famous devotion to cleanliness to her career choice. She held positions in women’s health care, private physician’s offices, private duty nursing care and hospitals. Her varied nursing career in Wilmington included practice at Bullock’s, James Walker, Babies and Cape Fear Memorial Hospitals. She retired as Director of Surgical Services from Cape Fear Memorial Hospital after 29 years of hard, rewarding work.

Ruth will be remembered for her loving of her home in Bellwood, Pennsylvania. Though she spent 65+ years living in the South; her heart remained in the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania.

The gifts she has bestowed on us – her legacy – are resilience, gentleness, integrity, persistence, faith, patience, and kindness. She had a sense of adventure that did not wane with age.

Ruth was a lover of the arts and volunteering her time with the Wilmington Symphony and

the Thursday morning music club. She also sang with the Valley Voice well into her 80's.

We will miss Ruth everyday but will always treasure and emulate these wonderful gifts for the remainder of our lives.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert W. Smith, a daughter, Mildred Ruth. Survivors include her two daughters, Brenda Gross (Nick) and Betty Jo Bennett (Bill); grandchildren, Ryan Gross, Kyle Gross (Sarah), Chad McCorkle (Maria) and Allison McCorkle; Great Grand child, Hannah Jane McCorkle. Her Step Grandchildren Charlie Bennett (Amy), Zack Bennett (Jenna), Stephanie Bennett. Step Grandchildren: Caleb, Joshua, and Tristan Rose, Christopher and Brandon Bennett, Landon, Hunter, Carly and Issac Bennett.

A memorial Service will be held at a later date in Wilmington, NC. Her ashes will be scattered in the Allegheny Mountains. The family thanks the Prisma Health Hospice team for their caring and compassionate care. Memorials may be made to St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church, 612 South College Road Wilmington, NC 28403. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family.

Comments



“ Ruth was a very sharpe bridge player!! Once she met you she never forgot you and would greet you with a beautiful smile.
Brenda, I am so sorry for your loss. She will be missed.

Eliabeth Lucas - October 07 at 12:16 AM



“ I had the pleasure to work with Mrs. Smith when I first started my nursing career. She was so admired and respected by the staff and surgeons who worked with her. The love for her career influenced me in many ways.

On many Fridays, Mrs. Smith would have on her operating room cap and thru it you could see the old fashion pink foam roll curlers in her hair. We would joke with her and she would say that she and Mr. Smith had Friday evening plans and her hair had to look good.

Such a beautiful lady inside and out. I know this beauty shows in Betty Jo (I also knew her in my nursing career) and Mrs. Smith entire family.

Sorry for your loss,
Mary Keplinger Anderson
Former nurse at Cape Fear Hospital

Mary K Anderson - October 06 at 06:12 PM



“ I can barely find the words to say how much Aunt Ruth has meant to me throughout my life. She shared a large part in my growing up and I have so many fond memories of spending every summer and every Thanksgiving with Aunt Ruth and her family. She had a special way about her that drew you in and gave you a feeling of care and comfort. She exuded kindness yet commanded your respect. I will always admire her for her strength and resilience, as well as her unwavering Faith. I wish for her family a sense of peace and many many pleasant memories. Aunt Ruth, you will be missed. I love you. Rest in peace.
Jeanie Sparagna, niece



Jeanie Sparagna, niece - October 01 at 07:34 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Ms. Ruth G. Smith's passing. She was a wonderful nail client of mine years ago, very sweet lovely lady! She will be missed! Prayers for her family & friends!



Nicole Angevine (Sykes) - September 30 at 11:43 PM