



Helen Ruth Wyatt

July 3, 2021

Our beloved Helen Ruth Wyatt, 97, of Gainesville, Florida, joined her Lord and Savior peacefully on 3 July 2021. She was preceded by her Mother and Father, Laura and Wiley Roberts of Abingdon Virginia, her brothers, Norris and Delano, her sisters, Karlene and Jean, her beloved husband of 53 years, Everett, and her youngest son, Jeff. Her surviving brother, Charles and his wife, Sylvia, are Gainesville residents, ` .

Mom was truly representative of the 'Greatest Generation' whose military husband was active during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Her son, Randy, also saw active service in Vietnam. She was a loving wife and mother, a strongly religious woman who was generous and loving to everyone and was also active in the Church of Christ. Need help, call Ruth. She was also a staunch Democrat. In 2008 she was awarded for fifty years of active service to the Democratic Party. She continued her work for another ten years.

Mom was also inspirational to her 3 children; Randy, Don and Jeff. There was no doubt in her mind that Randy & Don would graduate from college, something that she always hoped to do but never had the chance. Jeff had Down's Syndrome and lived with Mom until he passed at age 54. Ruth was a trail blazer in advocating for services and educational opportunities for special needs children. She formed a small group of Mothers who lobbied the education department to allow their Special Needs children to be enrolled in school in line with laws requiring all children to attend school. She continued to advocate for their human rights and an educational standard befitting all children. Randy and Don both completed college and had successful careers.

In her own career, initially at the University Bookshop, she was responsible for acquisitions of second-hand texts and textbook stock control. She was active in promoting the position of women in the workplace and the community. She worked full time for a major bank in Gainesville, holding levels of responsibility and gaining great respect and solid friendships. She took pride in being able to work until she was 84 years old.

She enjoyed road trips with Jeff, his fiancée Therese and Therese's mother. Later she

loved travelling to see her sister in Indianapolis and relatives in several States with Don and his wife.

Her grandchildren provided enormous happiness and joy once Randy and Don had left home. She was a GREAT Southern cook and loved to feed the kids all their favourite dishes; eggs, biscuits and gravy, fried chicken & okra, etc, etc, etc. She never had trouble getting anyone to the table. She also kept them on the go with trips to the beach, Silver Springs, Disney World and other assorted amusement parks. She enjoyed these attractions as much as her grandchildren did.

She was known and respected in her church and in the Gainesville Community where she was active and supportive of the disadvantaged.

Mom wanted to spend her later years at home. She was blessed by Donna Simpson, a long-time friend who became her full-time Caretaker and the daughter she had always wanted. Donna loved Mom and was with her to the end. God Bless you Donna.

Everyone that was fortunate enough to know Ruth loved and respected her. She will be missed, and may she Rest In Peace.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, July 10, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel of Williams-Thomas Funeral Home Downtown, 404 North Main Street. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service beginning at 12:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Forest Meadows East.

Events

JUL **Family Will Receive Friends** 12:00PM

10

Williams - Thomas Downtown

404 N. Main St., Gainesville, FL, US, 32601

JUL **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

10

Williams - Thomas Downtown

404 N. Main St., Gainesville, FL, US, 32601

Comments



“ I just found that Ms. Ruth Wyatt passed away. Ms. Ruth was my first supervisor at Student Accounts at UF in 1976. I always had the ultimate respect for this very intelligent and compassionate lady, yet she always had time for a smile and was ready to laugh at the funny things that happened day to day. I have never forgotten the work ethic she instilled in me and I appreciated her very much. Rest in peace, beautiful lady. Joyce Coughlin

Joyce Robbins Coughlin - September 09 at 07:49 PM



“ Ms. Ruth was like another one of my Grandmas I will miss those good laughs and making sure she is good and if she needed anything but all I know is I am happy she is no longer suffering in pain and God gave her a beautiful pair of wings to fly and to be there with Jeff and other family and I know it hurts to know she is no longer on earth but she is always watching over us. Love Mylee Brown Simpson. I am also going to miss helping her and my mom that took care of her as her caretaker.

Mylee Simpson - July 16 at 05:37 PM



“ Randy and Don,
I was so sorry to hear of the loss of your mom. Our families shared many wonderful times together. I know that your mom was very proud of all her sons. I wish I had known because I would have attended the service. I have so many memories of your mom and I know she and my mom were great friends. I lost my mom in 2002 and dad the previous year. I have a picture somewhere of a cake that Ruth made for my grandmother and it was taken with the both of them at our old house. I do hope that both of you are doing well and may you be comforted in the memories that you have of your mom. Thoughts and prayers. Love, Nancy Cameron

Nancy Cameron - July 12 at 02:12 PM



“ Service Video



Williams-Thomas Funeral Homes - July 12 at 09:52 AM



“ I was fortunate to have Mrs Wyatt as my boss when I worked in the Campus Bookstore as a student. She was the kindest, fairest person I had met, as beautiful inside as she was lovely outside. I learned a lot from her - in terms of my job, how to find where an error was made in reconciling amounts, how to keep good accounts, how to be an efficient worker. As a person she exemplified the best qualities - she treated everyone fairly and with respect. She always gave you a chance to explain yourself and your actions. She was so loving to her sons when they stopped by to see her on their way to class, or on some outing. We could see how happy it made her just to see them!

My deepest condolences to her sons, your Mom was an angel.

Chetana Mehta

Chetana Mehta - July 10 at 08:47 PM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Carrie Johnston - July 10 at 02:21 AM



“ Dear Grandma

I wish I could be there to say goodbye to you. I love you and will miss you very much. You were always in my heart despite being so far away for so many years. Thank you for always loving me unconditionally, supporting and believing in me and for teaching me to be strong and proud of who I am.

Rest peacefully Grandma, I love you.

Love always
Carrie

Carrie Johnston - July 10 at 01:55 AM



“ Ruth, I miss your visits. We had fun laughing and telling stories about you and Mom (Karlene).

You were a real inspiration to so many.

May you Rest In Peace and may your memory be a blessing to us all.

Love you,

Liz Lovell Lorendo

Liz Lovell Lorendo - July 09 at 11:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Don Wyatt - July 09 at 05:37 AM



“ This is mom at her favorite Mexican restaurant not far from her house. We loved the fact that she enjoyed herself so much.

Don Wyatt - July 09 at 10:13 PM



“ This limited space to reflect on how I knew Ruth, her expressed love for family (especially Jeff), her church, friends, overall commitment to the Gainesville community, and especially Special Olympics was unparalleled. She advocated, and supported Jeff and all competition participants in local, area and state competitions. I miss you my Friend. Personally, Thank You for our time together locally and on the road. God knows ‘You’re one of a kind’.
Family, thank You All for sharing Ruth with Us. I will forever hold her in my heart. God Bless You All.
Naomi Williams



Naomi Williams - July 08 at 10:41 PM