



Ruth Irene Betts

September 6, 1936 - December 27, 2023

Ruth Irene Herron Betts, age 87, was surrounded by her children when she passed from this life to the next on December 27, 2023, at Memorial Hermann Hospital, The Woodlands, Texas. Ruth was born on September 6, 1936, to Ralph Hanley Herron, Sr. and Lora Gay Hamilton in Detroit, Michigan. She grew up the youngest of four children at Briarstone, the family's beloved house on their farm outside of Detroit, moved to Tucson, Arizona while in junior high, then to St. Louis, Missouri where she graduated from Fairview High School.

Ruth attended Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Missouri, where she studied Secretarial Sciences and Music. While there, she met and later married Bruce Betts, eventually settling in Rolla, Missouri with their four children, Brian Betts, Debra Betts Neighbors, Darrel Betts and Norm Betts. Ruth was employed by the University of Missouri, Rolla for many years and her family was very active at First Baptist Church, Rolla.

In 1980, the family moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma and Ruth began a 34-year career at Phillips Petroleum Company. She was known for her warm personality and sense of humor and was selected as the Substance Abuse Testing Coordinator when a new program was instituted in 1990. She loved getting to know everyone in the company and never missed an opportunity to brag about her children and grandchildren to all who were called to her office.

After a brief attempt at retirement, she happily returned to her position and ultimately retired in 2014 at the age of 78.

In May of 2023, Ruth's children finally succeeded in moving her and her beloved cat, Snazzi, to The Woodlands, Texas to be near Debra's and Darrel's families. Sadly, the time she had with them was to be short, but so precious. She suffered an unexpected illness from which she was recovering, when a complication occurred from which she unfortunately could not recover.

Ruth is survived by her former husband, Bruce Betts (Tulsa, OK); son Brian and daughter-in-law Kelly (Navarre, FL); daughter Debra (The Woodlands, TX) and former son-in-law Chris (Pearland, TX); son Darrel and daughter-in-law Tammy (The Woodlands, TX); son Norm (Pasadena, CA); her grandchildren Sarah, Michael, Logan and Hannah; and many, many nieces, nephews and friends.

Ruth was preceded in death by her father (1972), mother (1992), sister Lora Jean Davis (2008), sister Leah Pagel (2015) and brother Ralph Herron, Jr. (2018).

Ruth's greatest joys in life were her children and grandchildren. She was their unending defender and cheerleader, sacrificing and giving and loving beyond measure.

Her celebrations of life will be held March 22, 2024, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, then March 23, 2024, in Rolla, Missouri at the First Baptist Church at 4:00 PM. A visitation for family and friends will be held at the Church prior to the service from 3:00 PM until service time. On Sunday, March 24, 2024, Ruth will be laid to rest with in the Southard Cemetery with her family in a private service.. The family will host a dinner in the fellowship hall at First Baptist Church following her service.

The family wishes to thank the amazing Neuro ICU staff at Memorial Hermann Hospital, The Woodlands, for their competent and compassionate care of Ruth and her children during both her stays there. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the USO at <https://www.uso.org> in Ruth's name to continue her support of this organization.

Cemetery Details

Southard Cemetery

St. James, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 23. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
801 N. Cedar Street
Rolla, MO 65401

Celebration of Life

MAR 23. 4:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Rolla
801 N. Cedar Street
Rolla
Rolla, MO 65401

Dinner will follow in the fellowship hall at the church. Everyone is invited.

Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth Irene Betts.



March 23, 2024 at 04:22 AM



“ Love, Russ and Joanie Pagel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Irene Betts.

Love, Russ and Joanie Pagel - March 20, 2024 at 10:12 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Ruth Irene Betts.



March 20, 2024 at 10:12 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ruth Irene Betts.



March 18, 2024 at 02:19 PM