



Ruth Mauldin Harris

February 4, 2019

Ruth Mauldin Harris, age 93, of Leesburg, FL and previously of Seneca, SC has died on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at University of Florida Shands Hospital in Gainesville. Ruth was born on August 18, 1925, in Newry, SC to the late Marvin T. and Nelle McGuire Mauldin, of Seneca, SC. Ruth lived her first 17 years in Oconee County, SC. Afterwards, her education, marriage, and career took her to a variety of places. Ruth received her Registered Nursing Degree from the Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, LA, and her BSHA, (Bachelors' of Science, Hospital Administration) from St. Joseph's College, North Windham, ME. During her career some of her positions included Operating Room Nurse in Oconee County and at Anderson Memorial Hospital, both in SC, and in the 1950's in Marietta, GA. She was Staff Nurse on the campus of Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC, in the 1940's, later taught student nurses in Anderson, SC (1950's), Charlotte, NC (1961-62), and Jacksonville, FL (1962-63); did Private Duty at Orange Memorial Hospital in Orlando (1963-65) and joined the Head Start Program in Miami with the Dade County Health Department, and worked for Baptist Hospital and was Director of Nursing in Nursing Homes in Miami in the mid and later 1960's. In the 1970's as a part of the Alachua County Health Department she received training at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, FL which changed her career and her personal life. It was then that she received encouragement to continue her education and became a B.S. degree-seeker, achieving that goal through courses at Santa Fe Community College, and

finishing with a term in Maine to receive the degree, B.S. in Healthcare Administration. While in Gainesville, she was active at Parkwood Baptist Church, and a member of the Pilot Club. Following this, she worked with Florida State Department of Licensure and Certification in Tallahassee and Jacksonville. She returned to south Florida in the 1980's where she worked as Director of Nursing and in Quality Assurance in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Her final work years were spent as a Consultant with companies and their Rules and Regulations Documents to obtain or renew their state licenses; and in Human Resources to assist with the employment of medical personnel for Home Health Care. She was married on September 9, 1949, to William Thomas (Tom) Harris who had a career in the insurance industry, first in Sales in SC, GA, NC, and then received transitional training in Jacksonville, FL, and was employed as a Manager in the Business Offices in Winter Park, FL, and Miami, FL. His last position was with Baptist Hospital's Business Office until his death from cancer in 1970. Ruth and Tom had one daughter, Sara Elizabeth. Ruth remained a widow. She was an active volunteer from early teenage years within her church community. She was pianist, organist, and soloist for a daily Christian Radio program in Anderson, SC, (1940) pianist at her home church in Seneca, SC (from age 12-17), and taught Sunday School in a variety of churches as her career moved her around. She was part of a church group who took meals to Homestead, FL, following Hurricane Andrew. At Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Margate, FL, (2000-2002), she began an inter-generational Bible Study class with attendees aged 18 to 92, (older than she was at the time). In 2006-2007 she was substitute Sunday School teacher and sang with the JOY (Just Older Youth) Singers in Seneca, SC. At FUMC Boca Raton West Campus, she was a Substitute Sunday School Teacher (2011-14). She loved spending time with her family and friends. She loved to host a Family Dinner for any occasion, or in memory of her adolescent years at home with similar menus and lots of pictures. Her greatest joys, were her two grandsons, Benjamin and Thomas and to spend days with them at Ormond Beach, FL, and on vacations in her beloved

Maggie Valley, NC, or Thanksgiving in Davenport, FL were treasured memories; being able to see them graduate from high school, then college, and help plan their Graduation Dinners, as well as later the Rehearsal Dinners for each of their weddings, was very special. She enjoyed spending time with their brides, Jill and Jayne. Her three great-grandsons, she said, were her "heart", and she felt blessed to live to see each of them enter this world and loved being with all of her "little boys". Besides her talent in music she also was a creative seamstress and enjoyed crocheting. She sewed for family and friends. She worked on a project to make crocheted blankets for each of her older grandson's wife's nieces and nephews - all 11 of them then. She enjoyed making hats for her granddaughters-in-law last Christmas. She was called, "Queen of Christmas", by her family and spent hours painting her Christmas Village decor which she took annual delight in arranging. Ruth is preceded in death by her parents; Marvin T. and Nelle (McGuire) Mauldin, brothers; Marvin T. Mauldin II, Charles A. Mauldin and wife Patricia, James Douglas Mauldin and wife Nelma, and Wallace Dean Mauldin, Sr. Ruth is lovingly survived by her daughter, Elizabeth (Libby) Harris Haire, of Leesburg, FL grandson, Benjamin Haire and his wife Jill of Boca Raton, FL and their sons, Aiden & Cooper, grandson, Thomas Haire and his wife Jayne of Land O Lakes, FL and their son Everett. Ruth also leaves behind her sister, Betty M. Crandall, of Central, SC, and sister-in-law, Pat Mauldin, of Aiken, SC, and nieces and nephews.

Memorial Service will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Boca Raton --West Campus, 9044 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL, on Saturday, June 1, 2019, Memorial gathering at 10 a.m., and Service to follow.

Tribute Wall



“ *It's January. Almost a year. I miss you, Mom.*

Libby - January 14, 2020 at 11:02 AM



“ *Tomorrow is your Memorial/Celebration of Life Service, Mom.
We have prepared and each of us has played a part.
We all miss you and anticipate our Reunion one great day.
Libby, BJ, Tom, Jill, Jayne, and The Little Boys: Aiden, Cooper, and
our baby Everett.*

Elizabeth Haire - June 01, 2019 at 03:27 AM



“ *And you know she loved you, too.*

Libby - February 06, 2019 at 10:20 PM



“ *Bless you, Lillian, Mom cherished the friendship the two of you had.
We will see her again.*

Libby - February 06, 2019 at 10:19 PM



“ *Thank you. I know we have this in common. Take care.*

Libby Haire - February 06, 2019 at 10:18 PM



“ *Thank you.*

Libby Haire - February 06, 2019 at 10:16 PM

CC

“ Libby,
Thinking and praying for you and the family. I was amazed to see all the things that Ruth had done, she was an amazing woman.
Carl Cox

Carl Cox - February 06, 2019 at 07:24 PM

MM

“ Libby,
What a wonderful and loving memorial you wrote for your mother, and a beautiful song. I'm so happy and thankful that I got to have a long talk with Ruth on the phone. I wished I had been well enough to come and visit. Ruth was very loving and kind to me to the end. I've picked up the phone many times to call you, but I was at a loss for words. Having gone through the same loss so recently, I can say that I know some of the feelings you are having. I love you, and I will see you soon. I pray that God will wrap his loving arms around you and comfort you and give you the strength you need to get through this sorrowful time. I will have you and your family in my prayers. Call me anytime, when you feel ready to talk. Love Margaret

margaret mauldin - February 06, 2019 at 10:00 AM

AH

“ Ruth,
What a talent you were! You certainly used the gifts that were God given to help and nurture others on this earth. What an amazing woman! We are blessed to have been even a small part of your village since 1966.
You will be missed by many whose lives you have touched.
Our hearts and prayers surround Libby and the family who will miss your presence on this earth but know that you are singing with Lord's choir!
Love and hugs,
Allyn and Butch

Allyn and Butch Hammel - February 05, 2019 at 06:14 PM

LS

“ Ruth was one of the most special people I have ever known. She was Baptist and I was Catholic but we became good friends. She was wise and kind as well as very knowledgeable . She thought of others always and then a bit of herself - she was an example of a real Christian. She loved her family and my deepest sympathy to all for this real loss but I know she is watching over each of you with love and prayer. She would often speak to me of her family so I feel like I know each of you. Libby is a special daughter and Ruth's Obituary is truly remarkable - how well she used her talent and time for Jesus . My love and prayers to each of you.
Lillian Shank

Lillian Shank - February 05, 2019 at 06:31 AM

“ Lyrics from the song by Jeff and Sherri Easter, *SHE LOVED*.

*Someone once asked
If only you knew
How short life would be
What would you do?
What would they say
When God called you home?
What would they engrave
Once you were gone?*

*I hope they would see
What I've done in my life
Who I've cared for
And how I survived
I hope they'd say*

*She loved more than anything else
She loved with all of her heart
She loved everyone she believed in
She loved... oh she loved*

*She loved the Lord
And served all her life
A sacrificial mother
And an honorable wife
She gave all she had
And through every trial
Made life much sweeter
Because of her smile*

*Everyone will see
What she's done in her life
Who she cared for
And how she survived
I'm sure they'd say*

*She loved more than anything else
She loved with all of her heart
She loved everyone she believed in
She loved... oh she loved*

*She loved... everyone she believed in
She loved. oh she loved
Oh... she loved*

*And we loved her. And we are missing her. But we will see her
again.
-Libby*

Elizabeth Haire - February 05, 2019 at 02:53 AM