



Ruthmary Gillespie

September 1, 1933 - February 27, 2022

Ruthmary Jones Gillespie, a long time resident of Royal Oak, passed away on February 27, 2022 at the age of 88. A daughter of James and Mary Jones, Ruthmary was born on September 1, 1933 in Lisbon, North Dakota. She married the love of her life, George, on August 1, 1957.

Ruthmary was a woman of strong faith which she expressed through her care for others, her devotion to the church and through beautiful poetry about God and His work in her life. With God's love, Ruthmary invited many people into the family home, including children needing temporary care, missionaries, and anyone in need of help.

Ruthmary had a lifelong love of music. Along with teaching music to elementary school children in Royal Oak and giving private piano lessons, Ruthmary was also an accomplished pianist. Her greatest legacy will be the ongoing love of music she instilled in her family.

Ruthmary and her family traveled often - every summer they explored the country in their pop-up camper. With George she took mission trips abroad, especially three trips to Russia. She was an intense "word-wizard" and master of puns. Her needlework was intricate and remarkable. Ruthmary will be remembered as a selfless, humble woman with a deep sense of caring for others. She was particularly strong and graceful in her final year of life.

Beloved wife of George, joined in love for 64 years. Loving mother of David (Deborah) and Carolyn. Cherished grandmother of Charles (Jenny) Maldonado and Andrew (Maddi). Treasured great-grandmother of Adeline and Estelle Maldonado. Dear sister-in-law of Tom Knapp. Ruthmary was preceded in death by her parents, siblings William Jones, Richard Jones, and Mariol Knapp. She will also be missed by many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather on Thursday, March 3, from 11:00 am until time of memorial service at 1:00 pm at Royal Oak Church, 411 E. Eleven Mile Rd., Royal Oak, 48067. Inurnment will take place at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.

Donations in Ruthmary's memory may be made to the Royal Oak Church or to Camp Barakel, 1798 Shear Lake Rd., Fairview, MI 48621.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAR 3. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Royal Oak Church
411 E. 11 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Memorial Service

MAR 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

Royal Oak Church
411 E. 11 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall

GI

“ So many loving memories! So grateful you were my second mom. You've helped me in so many ways and I am blessed. You brought me closer to our Lord and Savior. You'll always be with me in my heart. One day we will walk the streets of gold together.

Ginny - March 07, 2022 at 02:32 PM

GI

Dear George , may our precious Lord comfort you with His comfort as only He can do. Love you George

Ginny - March 07, 2022 at 02:40 PM

MB

“ Hello Carolyn, by chance I was on this site. You may not remember me but I was in the Dondero Acapella Choir with you and took piano lessons from Mr. Harrison. So sorry for your loss. It's reassuring to know, however, that your mom lives on through the love of music she instilled in you and your family. Peace be with you.

Mark Boker - March 02, 2022 at 06:28 PM

KA

“ Way back in the '60's she took turns with a few others of us in playing the organ for the 8:30 Sunday service at First Baptist of Hazel Park. She and Mary VerLee sang a classical duet from Vivaldi at my wedding in 1973. During my young married life, I had to call on her a few times, during winter when our vehicle wouldn't start to fill in for me playing the organ at the 8:30 am Sunday service. To get a call at 8:25 and step up to the plate at 8:30 - that's dedication to the Lord. She worked in Sunday School, VBS, Bible Studies, Pioneer Girls, but with youth younger than I, so I only know of her dedication in those areas. She was straightforward, but down to earth. She made an impact on many lives.

Karen - March 01, 2022 at 11:12 AM

JC

Ruth Mary is married to my mothers distant cousin and both she and George took my girls under the wing and into their loving hearts. I'll never forget their kindness and many prayers.

jackie carlesimo - March 01, 2022 at 05:46 PM

BD

We were blessed to have Ruthmary play at our wedding, back in 1981, at First Baptist of Hazel Park. But it was well before that, I realized she was SO very maternal, reminded me of my own mom, always involved in Pioneer Girls at church, had an infectious smile at all times, etc. You and George seemed to be ideal parents and an ideal couple, always putting the Lord before anyone or anything else, EXACTLY as the Bible says! May you enjoy the paradise that He has provided and your children and husband will join you at the appropriate time. Until then though, may they all sense His loving and tender comfort that only He can provide. Love to the family, and make His peace prove to pass all understanding.

Brenda E Dangler - March 02, 2022 at 09:14 AM

TI

Please say hi to her husband George from a person from the past. Will be praying for you dear friend.

Timothykribs - March 03, 2022 at 07:52 PM