



Ruth Helen Riggins

February 13, 1920 - August 23, 2020

Ruth Helen Riggins, 100 years old, of Lawrence, Kansas passed away at Pioneer Ridge Skilled Nursing Facility on August 23, 2020.

Ruth was born on February 13, 1920 to Charles and Olga Gilkison in Larned, Kansas. She grew up on a farm near Zook, KS and spent one year in California. Ruth was a big sister to three younger brothers, John, Dwight, and Paul. She loved to laugh and tell stories about how she kept them in line.

Ruth graduated from Larned High School in 1937. In the Fall of 1937, she headed to college in Emporia, KS attending Kansas State Teachers College later know as Emporia State University. While there she met a young man named, William Harper Riggins. After earning her teaching degree, she and Bill were married in Zook, KS on July 20, 1941.

Soon after they were married, WWII began. They resided in Wichita, KS working for Boeing, building bombers. Ruth was a supervisor because she had a college degree which was unusual for women at that time. Later, when Bill spent 13 months in the Pacific serving in the Army, she cared for their two young daughters and managed through war time with many shortages and rationing.

After the war they settled in Severy, KS where Bill took over the family

hardware store, Riggins Hardware that had been established in 1914. Ruth began teaching in the Severy Public Schools. Several years later, much to their surprise, they welcomed a son to complete their family. Ruth finished her teaching career at West Elk Senior High. They moved to Lawrence, KS in 1998 to spend their retired years. Unfortunately, Bill died in August of 2002.

Ruth is survived by her three children, Bill (Stacy) of Lawrence, KS. Rochelle (John) Simons of Hendersonville, NC. Cheri Brown of Kalispell, MT. Ten grandchildren, John, Sonja, Sherri, Jeff, Naomi, Patric, Matthew, Natasha, Nicolette and Nash. Twenty-two great grandchildren, Whitney, Samantha, Jackson, Connor, Rochelle, Riley, Drew, Quinn, Alexandria, Leah Maree, Aiden, Avery, Regan, Cameron, Nicholas, Benjamin, Alida, Elaine, Nova, Reuben, Albert, Busy and one great great granddaughter. Ruth is also survived by her brother Paul (Bettie Jo) Gilkison and sister-in-law Lola Mae Gilkison.

Graveside services will be held at South Lawn Cemetery in Severy, KS. at 11:00 AM on Friday, August 28th, 2020.

Memorial contributions in Ruth's name can be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church in Lawrence or the Severy United Methodist Church and can be mailed to or left with the funeral home.

Services entrusted to:

Countryside Funeral Home, 206 E. Washington, P.O. Box 1233, Howard, KS 67349

Cemetery Details

South Lawn Cemetery

Severy, KS

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

South Lawn Cemetery
Severy, KS

Tribute Wall

KB

“Mrs. Riggins was such a wonderful teacher and role model both as a home economics teacher and librarian. She had such a beautiful way of showing her students how much she cared about us. Sending Stacy and Bill and the rest of her family love and prayers for comfort and peace.

Kathy Bonnett - August 26, 2020 at 07:34 PM

MB

“I'm so sorry to hear this news. I'm glad you have such wonderful memories of this great lady. Our prayers are for all of you at this time.
Gary and Mary Bennett

Mary Bennett - August 26, 2020 at 05:22 PM

CC

“Chip&Nancy Crum lit a candle in memory of Ruth Helen Riggins



Chip&Nancy Crum - August 26, 2020 at 11:30 AM

JH

“Judy (Jackson) Hull sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruth Helen Riggins



judy (Jackson) Hull - August 25, 2020 at 11:29 AM

SZ

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Mrs. Riggins was a big influence on my life. I was one of her student assistants at West Elk. I have used how she worked as the librarian there in my own career as a librarian. She broke the stereotype of the shushing librarian. The radio was always on and she actually interacted with the students. To this day, I am also not a shushing librarian. Noise happens! May our Lord's eternal light shine upon her and may she rest in peace. May His peace and comfort be upon you.

Scotty Zollars - August 25, 2020 at 10:09 AM

LL

“ A great lady and family, lots of fond memories! Condolences to the family.

Linda Laird - August 25, 2020 at 02:32 AM

BC

“ Barbara Clopton lit a candle in memory of Ruth Helen Riggins



barbara clopton - August 24, 2020 at 07:27 PM