



Kay Johnson Ruff

October 7, 1935 - August 9, 2020

Carita Kay Johnson Ruff - a beloved grandmother affectionately known as “Nanny”; a devoted mom who was very much loved by her children; a near perfect mother-in-law who was cherished by her daughter-in-law and son-in-law; and a kind and thoughtful friend to so many special people, was called by her Lord and Savior to “come home” on Sunday evening, the 9th of August, 2020. She was 84 years young. While others who have gone before her are no doubt finally glad to see her again, those of us who remain behind will miss her greatly. Nanny was so loved.

It could truly be said of “Miss” Kay that she did nothing through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind esteemed others better than herself. She looked out for the interests of others ahead of her own. (Philippians 2:3-4) But, her grandchildren, children and in-laws also had to do right; otherwise, she’d let you know! She had no small amount of spunk ...

Kay retired after many years of working as a nurse for Dr. Robert L. Sawyer - “Doc”. She had a special gift for taking care of people which naturally resulted in her loving and becoming attached to the patients she served. Kay was also a faithful member of Salem Baptist Church.

Kay was married for 59 years to her committed husband and friend, Bobby K. Ruff, who predeceased her in November 2016. She is survived by her two children and their spouses, Ken and Lisa Ruff, and Lea Ann and Stephen Sorensen; as well as her six grandchildren, Cole and John Ruff and Tyler, Lydia, Jesse and David Sorensen. She was also predeceased by a sister, Julia Ann Manheim.

Kay’s family would like to express their deepest appreciation and gratitude to the amazing staff and caregivers of Evergreen at Eden Terrace of Spartanburg. They exhibited a selfless devotion to Kay and worked tirelessly to ensure that her needs and desires were provided for her. During the three short years Kay lived there, these precious individuals truly became part of her family.

A celebration of Kay's life and the worship of her Lord will be held at a graveside service at 3:00 PM on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at Salem Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Connie Maxwell Children's Home, PO Box 1178, Greenwood, SC 29648 or Salem Baptist Church, 2226 Denny Highway, Saluda, SC 29138.

Cemetery Details

Salem Baptist Church Cemetery

2226 Denny Highway
Saluda, SC 29138

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 13. 3:00 PM (ET)

Salem Baptist Church Cemetery
2226 Denny Highway
Saluda, SC 29138

Tribute Wall

CT

“ Kay was one of the sweetest ladies I have ever known. She loved her family and she was a caring Nurse at ole DR SAWYERS office..... She will forever hold a special place in my heart ...R I P Kay RUFF.....I love you.....Carlene L Temples

Carlene Temples - August 24, 2020 at 10:46 AM

JS

“ Ken, Lee Ann and families

Sorry for the loss of your Mom. "Bird Legs" was one of a kind person. She will surely be missed. Prayers for the family.

Janice Berry Schmieding

Janice Schmieding - August 15, 2020 at 08:12 AM

GW

“ We are so sorry to learn of Kay's death. We remember her as the lovely person, described so beautifully in her obituary.

We send our love, sympathy, and prayers to her family and friends,

Jimmy and Glenda Jones Wood

(loyal attendees at the Ruff Reunion / sister and brother-in-law of George and Judy Jones)

Glenda Wood - August 14, 2020 at 11:35 PM

CE

“ I remember Kay so fondly from both Salem Church and Doctor Sawyer 's office. She surely made a difference in the lives of others.

Cornelia Ruth Edwards - August 13, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ May God bless you and your family during this time of sorrow. We loved her. Benard and Marsue

Marsue Brazell - August 13, 2020 at 08:59 AM

RF

“ Robin. & Mose Salters And Family lit a candle in memory of Kay Johnson Ruff



Robin. & Mose Salters and family - August 12, 2020 at 11:10 PM

JS

“ Kay’s beautiful obituary described her so well. She was always glad to see you and she’d leave you with a laugh. What a joyous, God-filled person she was.

Jewell Scott - August 12, 2020 at 01:41 PM

GA

“ I will never forget sweet Kay and how friendly she was to everyone. She meant a lot to me and I will surely miss her. I'll always remember her calling us "little bugger." ❤️

Gwen Angeli - August 12, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ Donna Padgett lit a candle in memory of Kay Johnson Ruff



Donna Padgett - August 12, 2020 at 10:17 AM

WW

“ Wayne And Liz White lit a candle in memory of Kay Johnson Ruff



Wayne and Liz White - August 12, 2020 at 09:31 AM

AB

“ *Almastine Butler lit a candle in memory of Kay Johnson Ruff*



Almastine Butler - August 11, 2020 at 09:50 PM



“ *Marilyn Grant lit a candle in memory of Kay Johnson Ruff*



Marilyn Grant - August 11, 2020 at 09:50 PM

KL

“ *One of the nicest ladies that I ever knew. I will always remember her working at Dr. Robert "Jug" Sawyer's office. Condolences to the family.*

Keith Lester - August 11, 2020 at 08:37 PM

JE

“ *Your Family are In Our Thoughts and Prayers. Brenda, Jerry, and Your FRIENDS at The HARDWARE Store.*

Jerry - August 11, 2020 at 08:19 PM

WG

“ *William And Naomi Goodman lit a candle in memory of Kay Johnson Ruff*



William and Naomi Goodman - August 11, 2020 at 07:04 PM

TH

I send my prayers and condolences to all of you. Kay was a special person to me. When she, Julia Ann, and I lived across the street from each other, we pretty much kept the newly built sidewalk ablaze with our tricycles. Everytime I go to "the corner" I think of the kids who once congregated there to decide on the day's activities. Trilby Higbee

Trilby D Higbee - August 12, 2020 at 10:50 AM

MS

“ I will forever cherish the memories I have with "Miss Kay"!

Maria W. Stevens - August 11, 2020 at 01:51 PM

FJ

One of lifes greatest gift of her service to others has met Jesus face to face. Kay was an example for Jesus every day, her love n generosity touched countless others. She will b missed. Love, prayers n compassion to family

Faye Jones - August 12, 2020 at 02:44 AM

OC

Kay's mom and my mom were both named Ethel.....Kay's Ethel like mine were one of a kind ladies.....Ora Crouch Corley

Ora C. Corley - August 12, 2020 at 08:41 AM