



Ruth Jakubauskas

April 5, 1925 - July 17, 2011

Ruth Carolyn Friz Jakubauskas, 86, of Fort Collins, passed away July 17 after a short illness. She died peacefully surrounded by family. Ruth always said how blessed and thankful she was to have been in this life and to have had such a wonderful husband, family, children, and friends. Ruth lived every day to the fullest, with an optimistic attitude that inspired everyone she met. In every act of her life she thought of others first. Ruth was born April 5, 1925 in Oak Park, Illinois, the first child of Theodore and Emma Friz, and was a beloved big sister to her brothers, Carl and Ralph, as well as part of a large extended family that was close. As a child, Ruth enjoyed playing baseball with her family and organizing neighborhood plays. She attended York High School in Elmhurst, Illinois, and with the outbreak of WWII, was eager to become an army nurse. She attended Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago and became an R.N. Although the war ended before she could serve, there was a shortage of nurses and she was in charge of an entire ward of patients at the age of 19. She went on to nurse iron lung patients, mainly children with polio, and participated in the first polio vaccination program that eventually eradicated that disease. She then attended the University of Michigan School of Public Health and received her B.S. degree. After graduation, she became a public health nurse and rose to become Assistant Nursing Director for the Madison, Wisconsin, Department of Public Health. Ruth met the love of her life, Edward Jakubauskas, a graduate student in the PH.D program at the U. of Wisconsin and they were married in August of 1959. They had 52 joyous, adventure-filled years together and a marriage many aspire to. They had 4 children, Caroline (Curt Marwitz), Marilyn (Bob Edwards), Mark (Sara Taliaferro), and Eric (Kelsey), with whom they shared their love of travel, exploring most of the US and later, overseas. In addition to raising 4 children, Ruth was passionate about community involvement and volunteered in every place Ed's job as an academic took them. In Ames, Iowa, she helped to found the Open Door Senior Center and was president of the League of Women Voters. In Laramie, Wyoming, their next stop, she was a founding member of the Volunteer and Information Referral Center, and was active with the League of Women Voters there, as well as the ESL program in Albany County, the Girl Scouts, the Red Cross, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, and also managed to work part-time as a nurse for Albany County Family Planning. Leaving their beloved mountains for western New

York, Ruth and Ed embarked on a new adventure at SUNY Geneseo, where he was college president. Besides her role as president's wife and entertaining, Ruth worked as a family planning nurse at the Women's Clinic at Geneseo, and as a school nurse in western New York schools. In addition, she coordinated Red Cross Blood Drives in Livingston County and did development for SUNY Geneseo. After Ed's retirement, they moved back to Colorado and settled in Fort Collins where they found a home with Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. Ruth was active in the Calling and Caring Program at the church, was a church deacon, and served on numerous committees. Her passion was teaching English as a Second Language and working with international students at CSU. She also served as a board member and secretary for CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates). She and Ed were active in the Newcomers program, Friendship Force, and the Aspen Club at Poudre Valley Hospital. She also loved sharing her love of Colorado and of travel by volunteering at the Colorado Welcome Center. In addition to her family, friends, and church, and community, Ruth loved travel! At the age of 60, she accompanied Ed on her first trip overseas, not to Paris or England, but to Soviet Russia, where she awoke on her first day abroad in a hotel overlooking Red Square. Over the next 20 years, Ruth and Ed's zest for travel took them to over 60 countries, including extended stays teaching in Lithuania and Latvia. They also hosted numerous international exchange students and friends from overseas. Ruth loved meeting people from other cultures and everyone became a friend. Ruth's legacy lives on in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Adam, Benjamin, and Alexander Marwitz; Mark and Jack Edwards; Allison and Cecelia Jakubauskas; Christian, Ana, Eve, and Zachary Jakubauskas. She has two great-granddaughters, Annabelle and Micah Marwitz. Though saddened by our loss, we know that Ruth is at peace and we cherish our memories of her. A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, July 23, at 11 a.m. at Plymouth Congregational UCC, 916 W. Prospect Road, Fort Collins, with lunch immediately following. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to Plymouth Congregational UCC.

Comments



“ I was very privileged to have met Ruth. It only took an instant to see that she was a saintly woman. My prayers are with you all. May God be with you in this difficult time.

Bradford Taliaferro - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Ruth & Ed opened their home to us while we were graduate students at CSU. We have wonderful memories of many special times spent with them. Ruth was someone who was always willing to give a helping hand, no matter what the circumstance: the best of friends, an example to us all. We are deeply sorry that we were not able to say one last goodbye, and one last thank you for the very special way that Ruth touched our lives.

Tim, Sandra, & Courtney Snowden - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Ed & Ruth Jakubauskas family,
I am so sorry to hear about Ruth. She will be truly missed here in our Warren Shores homes as well as many many others.
Please know that I care & will be thinking of you.

Fondly, Babe

Babe Burton - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To Ruth's family:

I want to express my condolences to all of you on the passing of Ruth. I knew Ruth through the Colorado Welcome Center and enjoyed working with her so much. She was such a positive person and so interesting. She told me about her life and the different places she had lived and about her foreign travels with Ed. She also talked about her family and I could tell how proud she was of all of you. I was always so happy when I saw that we were working together on a shift. Knew it would be a fun time. I feel fortunate and happy that our lives have crossed. I feel I am a better person having known her. God Bless her memory and all of you, her family.

Linda Halvorson

Linda Halvorson - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We are very much saddened by Ruth's passing. We have many wonderful memories of the time spent with Ed and Ruth both in Colorado and Lithuania. We will never forget Ruth's kindness, generosity, her warm welcome to their home and love to everybody she met.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love. Navickas family.

Violeta Navickiene - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Ruth attended many of our Brain Game classes. She always had a great attitude, provided good suggestions and participated all the time. I looked forward to seeing her and I will miss her.
Rich.

Richard Shipman - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you for the friendship you have given us and for the always warm welcome in your house, your family, and your country. Good-bye, dear Ruth!

Antonio & Melania Cancelliere

Antonio & Melania Cancelliere - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I have sweet memories of Aunt Ruth's kindness, enthusiasm and energy. She taught me how to swim. I can still hear her voice and her laugh after many years.
With much love and deepest sympathy,
Karen

Karen (Jakubauskas) & Jason Griska, Brian and David - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories and hearts. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Love the Phipps Family

Kurt, Leslie and Kelly Phipps - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We are both saddened by Aunt Ruth's passing. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those she has left behind. Our contact with her was, unfortunately, only minimal, however, we still feel the loss of someone we should all emulate. We will try to remind ourselves that our loss is heavens' gain.

Russ and Sue Jakubauskas - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM