



Ruth Marie McKenzie

JUL 27, 1935 - DEC 14, 2014



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Ruth Marie McKenzie

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Mrs. Ruth Marie McKenzie, age 79, of Melbourne Beach, Florida passed away Sunday, December 14, 2014 at Sanctuary at the Oaks in Muskegon, MI. She was born in Muskegon on July 27, 1935 to the late Keith and Cornelia (Schutter) Black. She married Ronald David McKenzie in Muskegon on June 17, 1953. He preceded her in death on February 25, 1994. She later married Robert Wilcox on August 2, 1997, who also preceded her in death on April 9, 2008.

Ruth graduated from Muskegon Heights High School 6/11/53; she graduated from Central Michigan University with a B.S. in Education 1/26/1958, and received her Master's degree from Western Michigan University 8/9/1963. She was certified for educational administration from Loyola University. She taught school for a number of years in Illinois and Michigan and retired from the Holton School system in June, 1994, serving 15 years as Principal and Superintendent. She received a Kennedy Center for the Arts award in recognition for establishing a unique program for the arts at Holton elementary school.

Ruth was a dedicated educator and an accomplished musician, having played the viola, piano and organ. She had played with the Muskegon Symphony Orchestra and the Muskegon Civic Opera. She also served as a Choir Director for many years. Ruth enjoyed boating on Lake Michigan and at Big Star Lake. Ruth generously shared her love of cooking and baking; everyone looked forward to enjoying a meal at Ruth's, especially when dessert included her delicious pies, cakes and cookies.

She is survived by her daughter, Captain Ellen J. (Rhett) Sease of Holton, MI; her daughters-in-law, Charlotte McKenzie of Saugatuck, MI and Debbie Farst of Cadillac, MI; 3 grandchildren, Amanda Marie Sease-Baker, Ronald K. Sease and Nicholas McKenzie; 4 great-grandchildren; and her friend and companion, Dr. Robert Newman of Melbourne Beach, FL and Chesaning, MI. She was preceded in death by 2 sons, Keiron David McKenzie and Cornelius "Cubby" McKenzie; and 2 brothers, Keith and Herman Black.



Obituary

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The MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 22, 2014 at Holton United Methodist Church, 9530 Holton Duck Lake Rd., Holton, MI 49425. VISITATION will be at the church Sunday, December 21, 2014 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Holton United Methodist Church or the Salvation Army. Arrangements by the Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral Homes, Inc., 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444.



Events


Ruth Marie McKenzie

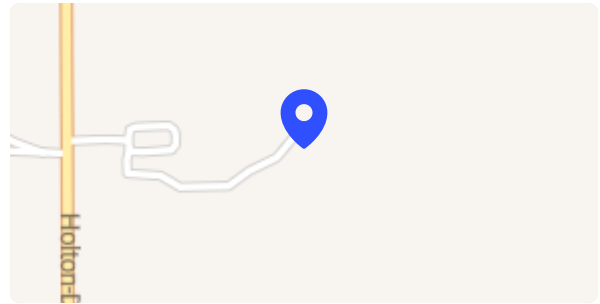
JUL 27, 1935 - DEC 14, 2014

Visitation

 **Sunday**, December 21, 2014

 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET


 **Holton United Methodist Church**
9530 Holton Duck Lake Rd., Holton MI 49425

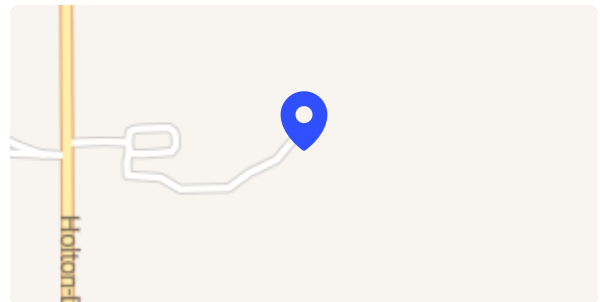


Memorial Service

 **Monday**, December 22, 2014

 11:00 AM ET

 **Holton United Methodist Church**
9530 Holton Duck Lake Rd., Holton MI 49425





Tribute Wall

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MA

Marion posted:

Ruth was a very caring lady, always thinking of others!!!!!!

December 30 at 12:42 PM

MP

Marilyn Pappas posted:

My husband and I had the joy of knowing Ruth for many years. We enjoyed sharing many hours at the lake with her and Bob. I will miss her sweet smile and her gentle ways. You will always be in my heart, Ruth. Marilyn Pappas

December 22 at 5:15 AM

JS

Janet Smith sent a virtual gift in honor of Ruth.

I HAD THE PRIVLEDGE OF BEING ONE OF THE FIRST MUSIC DOCENTS TO BRING THE GIFT OF MUSIC TO THE NORTH END OF MUSKEGON CO WITH RUTHS ENCOURAGEMENT! IN MY CURRENT POSITION AS A MASTERS LEVEL SOCIAL WORKER I MEET MANY OF THE GROWN UP CHILDREN I HAD THE PRIVLEDGE TO SIT AND READ AND SING WITH ON A MAGIC RUG IN THE ELEMENTARY LIBRARY AS A PARAPROFESSIONAL. I BELEIVE ALL THESE EXPERIENCES GUIDED ME TO TH E RETURN TO COLLEGE AS A MIDDLE AGE ADULT. RUTH ALSO ALLOWED ME TO RECOGNIZE LEADERSHIP I THOUGHT AT TIMES WAS sassiness IN MY MIDDLE DAUGHTER. BOTH SHE AND RON PROVIDED LOVING UNCONDITIONAL REGARD TO MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER AS SHE FACED A REMARKABLE RECOVERY AND HOURS OF THERAPYFROM A TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY. YOU HAVE THAT PLACE IN HEAVEN NOW!!!!!!



December 18 at 3:27 PM



Happy Grower posted:

God has took you, so many things you have done in this life, thank you for making things a better place for all. I see now where Captin Ellen gets her love of the water and her loving personality. GOD bless, Lisa Pelf

December 18 at 1:28 PM



Tribute Wall

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MR

Mary Jane Rogers posted:

what I remember most about ruth is her smile and optomistic look at life.I am very sorry i will not be able to attend her memorial. I am recuperating from back surgery and have an appointment for therapy monday. I am very sorry for your loss. she will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. cousin, mary jane rogers.

December 18 at 11:02 AM

CZ

Christy Zerlaut posted:

Ruth was my co worker, my mentor, and my friend. I loved and respected her. I am glad she is now at peace. She will always be remembered as a fine educator and even finer person. My condolences to her family.

December 18 at 6:30 AM

TV

Tamara Ylitalo Vogel posted:

I have fond memories of Mrs. McKenzie. My deepest sympathies to her family and friends.

December 17 at 6:42 PM

MS

Margot Slater posted:

Mrs. McKenzie, I was a young Mother when my children attended Holton Elementary School. We had the pleasure of sharing time together in your office, always pleasant! Upon one of those visits, I commented on the picture hanging on the wall in your office, you promptly turned, took it off the wall and handed it to me. You were loving, nurturing and generous. And I loved your sense of humor. I respected the lovely lady you were. God Bless you and your family. Memories of you are profound with smiles, love and gratitude.Margot Slater and family

December 17 at 6:37 PM

SD

Sherri Dollaway posted:

Deepest condolencesSherri Dollaway Schroeder

December 17 at 12:54 PM



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Suella Dykema-Bailey posted:

I will never forget Ruth. I was a newbie at Holton teaching 1st grade. It was my second year of teaching at HPS. Ruth was a class act, professional, role model, maternal, and devoted to her "calling". A well-rounded individual with such poise and articulation. She was extremely helpful to me as a new, young, teacher, in my first teaching job. Great wisdom and lessons were her specialty. Also; God Bless you Ruth for putting up with my husband, Ed Bailey at the elementary. Oh the stories she shared—all true! You will be missed. Love, Suella Dykema-Bailey

December 17 at 12:53 PM



Pam Stenberg posted:

Ruth will be greatly missed. She was a very special lady to me. I am blessed to have known her. Pam Stenberg

December 17 at 10:52 AM



Sheila Sanchez (Bean) posted:

Mrs. McKenzie, was always happy and caring. The world lost a great Lady! May God rest her soul and treat her as precious as she treated each and everyone she came into contact with. Sheila Sanchez (Bean)

December 16 at 7:19 PM



Terese Moore lit a candle in honor of Ruth.



December 16 at 6:31 PM

CS Carolyn Schotts December 17 at 2:29 AM

I have so many fond memories of Ruth. I am so glad I got to visit with her this past summer and we talked and laughed over so many things that we shared over the years. My deepest sympathy goes to family. She is at peace now.

TM Terese Moore December 16 at 6:34 PM

Ruth was such a wonderful person who cared deeply for the students. Rest in peace.



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KB

Katie 'Desarmeaux' Brock posted:

When it was a rough day at school, a great big hug from Mrs McKenzie made it all better! What a wonderful, loving woman she was. Comfort prayers to the family.

December 16 at 4:59 PM

KB

Kirsten Karnes-Beattie posted:

I've known Ruth since I was a mere 6 yrs old! She was an awesome lady and I loved spending days at the cabin in big star lake with her!! So many memories in her big round house with her, Ron and Dave! She will be missed and forever in my heart!

December 16 at 4:54 PM

KB

Katie 'Desarmeaux' Brock lit a candle in honor of Ruth.



December 16 at 4:50 PM

CS

Cathy Raby Stewart posted:

To the family of Ruth McKenzie, your mother was a wonderful person to work with. She always put the children first. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

December 16 at 4:28 PM

GR

Galina Martin Rodriguez lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

You were a wonderful lady Mrs. M. I remember growing up in Holton Schools with your love and care. You brought us through many hard times, including the loss of David. You will be missed. My deepest sympathy to your family. Be at peace.



December 16 at 4:04 PM



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Jason Kennedy posted:

On behalf of Holton Public Schools, we send our condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. McKenzie, and thank her for her dedicated service to the children of Holton Public Schools. The greater school community, faculty, and staff of Holton Public Schools mourns the loss of Mrs. McKenzie, and is forever grateful for the work that she did with the children of our school district and community. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Mrs. McKenzie during this difficult time. With Great Respect, Jason J. Kennedy, Superintendent Holton Public Schools

December 16 at 1:56 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ruth by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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