



Ruth Brown Updike

MAY 6, 1943 - JUL 12, 2022



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Ruth Brown Updike

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A feisty, hardworking and no-nonsense wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt to many, Ruth Brown Updike went to be with her Lord and Savior on July 12, 2022. She passed surrounded by her loving family at her daughter's home after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Born on May 6, 1943, in Culpeper, VA, Ruth grew into a strong, steely woman who could accomplish anything she put her mind to.

Ruth lived life on her own terms. She enjoyed calling people out with a well-placed joke or shocking them with a little off-color banter. She was admired for her strength of character and her "way with words". Ruth didn't mince words, but if she loved you — you knew.

Ruth had a special talent for cooking, just like her mother. She loved blessing people with mouthwatering meals and is responsible for countless inches added to family and friend's waistlines. She could frequently be found in the kitchen, whipping up mac and cheese, scalloped potatoes or biscuits and gravy. Her recipes were freely and fondly passed to friends and family.

She was a determined professional and steadfast community leader. She was the first-ever woman elected as chairman of the board of the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors, and served for 12 years as the Catalpa district representative.

Ruth worked tirelessly for over 20 years for CCA where she was well-respected and admired by her peers, retiring as a vice president. She and her husband co-founded a successful waste management company. Ruth was a tenacious and charismatic business woman, in many ways ahead of her times.

A lifelong woman of faith, Ruth was an active member of New Salem Baptist Church where she served many years as the Sunday school superintendent, church secretary, and treasurer.



Obituary

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She enjoyed spoiling the children in her large extended family with cookies, chocolate, ice cream and soda ... much to the dismay of their moms and dads. She wasn't one to follow the rules, and believed in breaking the ones she found unnecessary. This irreverence for authority helped her create a special bond with her nieces and nephews who felt protected with just enough space to be a little naughty. These children are now adults and have warm and cherished memories of Aunt Ruth creating bonds and laughs over their little escapades.

Ruth's greatest joy and blessing was her family. Her love for them was palpable and her devotion, unwavering.

Her husband EB stayed by her side throughout her two-and-a-half-year battle, tending to her every need. Ruth was also supported and taken care of by her daughter, grandchildren and by a very special niece and nephew.

Ruth died as she lived: fighting, relentless and unyielding. She was unwilling to give up or give in to the devastating disease.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Billy and Virginia Brown; and her sister, Betty Lou Rooper.

Ruth is survived by her doting husband EB Updike; her daughter, Tonya Updike; her grandchildren, Alexa, Morgan, and Adrian Updike; granddaughter-in-law, Audrey Updike; two great grandchildren, Ashton and McKenzie Updike, all of Culpeper; and many beloved brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law-, nieces and nephews.

Ruth's quick wit, kind nature and devotion to her family will never be forgotten, as she'll live on in the hearts of all those who were lucky enough to know "Grammy"; "Aunt Ruth." In the words of John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

The family is receiving guests at her daughter's home in celebration of Ruth's life. It will take place at Tonya Updike's residence, 13258 Updike Dr., Culpeper, VA, 22701, on Saturday, July 23rd from 6 to 8 p.m.

An online guestbook and tribute wall are available at www.foundandsons.com

Found and Sons Funeral Chapel of Culpeper is serving the family.



Events

Ruth Brown Updike

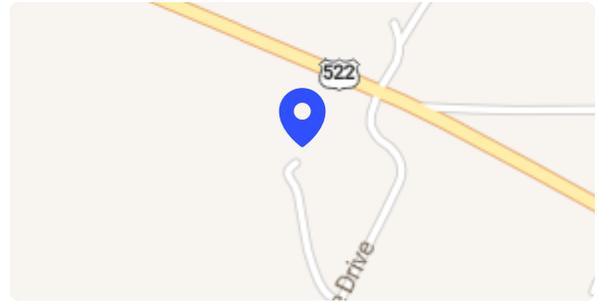
MAY 6, 1943 - JUL 12, 2022

Visitation

 **Saturday**, July 23, 2022

 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

 **Family Home**
13258 Updike Dr, Culpeper VA 22701





Tribute Wall

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Judy Kinzer posted:

I will never forget the many kindnesses Ruth extended to my Aunt Kay. She gave her a lovely apartment, put in an elevator to Aunt Kay's mobility, gave a big party for her among many things. Ruth was one of a kind in the best way possible.

August 9 at 1:18 PM



Mark Jenkins lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

I just wanted to reach out and pass on my condolences. Ruth in my teenage years I grew to know her and really enjoyed our conversations a church. There are not many people who will trust their vehicle with a 18 year old kid for prom... but Ruth did. I wish was would have been able to stay more in touch but as I followed her life remotely she lived a great one. A great person will be missed on this earth with the Passing of Ruth. Thinking of the entire family during this time.



July 26 at 5:36 AM



Kathleen Holter posted:

Adrian, watching you grow up to be the man, husband and father you are....you are a blessing to your parents and to your loving, proud grandparents. Thanks to your parents and Ruth for allowing me to be a part of your lives when you were young. Much love and many hugs! So proud of you!❤️

July 23 at 3:04 PM



Mark lit a candle in honor of Ruth.



July 23 at 7:35 AM



Mitzi Mills lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

I had the pleasure of knowing Ruth most of my life. She was truly a unique Lady, who left her footprints on your heart. I not only knew her professionally but as a friend, mentor and extended family. My sincere condolences to the entire Updike family. May you always cherish all the great memories!! Praying for Gods peace, comfort & strength!



July 23 at 4:10 AM



Tribute Wall

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HH

Helen Huneycutt posted:

I'm thinking of family and friends as I fondly remember Ruth. I knew her as a very capable individual, one who could manage the Board of Supervisors, do almost anything in her church, and maneuver her big SUV just fine! You have my sincere sympathy in the loss of a dear lady. She will truly be missed.

July 22 at 2:16 PM

RP

Ricky A Pinksaw posted:

My condolences to the Updike Family. Ruth was a true Public Servant who served in the best interests of the citizens of Culpeper County. RIP, Ruth you will be missed.

July 22 at 9:28 AM

GW

Gail Wyatt posted:

Much love and prayers for peace to my cousin EB and his dear family .

July 21 at 1:57 PM

SL

Shirley Lewis posted:

Prayers of love, comfort and peace are with EB and family at Ruth's passing to her heavenly home.
Cousin Shirley, Savannah, GA

July 21 at 12:54 PM

BP

Brent Payne lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

Both Darrell and I were so sad to hear of Ruth's passing! I had not seen Ruth in many years but have fond memories of some of our conversations and she was always so kind to me, even if our views were different on some matters. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the family! Brent Payne



July 21 at 12:41 PM



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Steve And Lisa Peacock posted:

Our condolences to the Updike family. Ruth was a good friend of my in-laws, Dan and Marcia Peacock. You are in our prayers as you remember her. Steve and Lisa Peacock

July 20 at 5:33 PM



Barbara Martin Sisk posted:

I worked with Ruth at CCA, and have many fond memories of a lady that most people looked up to, respected, and appreciated. If you were lucky enough to earn her friendship, she always looked out for you. Praying for strength for her family. Barbara Martin Sisk

July 20 at 7:37 AM



Judy Johnson lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

Mrs. Updike was a very dear friend of mine., I loved her dearly. I was her DMV buddy. Praying comfort and strength for the family. I will truly miss all of our texting. Judy Johnson

July 19 at 7:54 PM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Sincerity to the Updike family.

July 19 at 10:08 AM



Karen Whorton lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

Truly a great. Will miss you SO MUCH!! Don't worry—I'll take care of your family!! I love them ALL so much!! Grandma Karen

July 19 at 9:32 AM



KW **Karen Whorton** July 19 at 9:37 AM
A GREAT FRIEND!!!!



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Steve Jenkins posted:

Ruth was a wonderful person and always had the community of Culpepers best interest in mind during her time on the Board of Supervisors. I enjoyed working with Ruth during my time on the Board. She was a Culpeper person and will be remembered fondly

July 19 at 8:43 AM



Tonja Settle posted:

She was one of a kind! To know Ruth you truly knew a friend. My prayers are with you EB, Tonya, Adrian, Audrey, Morgan and Alexis --- I love you ALL dearly!!.....Tonja

July 19 at 4:39 AM



Tonja July 19 at 7:50 AM
Sorry ALEXA!!!.....LOVE YOU!!.....



Tonya Jenkins lit a candle in honor of Ruth.



July 19 at 4:01 AM



Suzette Turner lit a candle in honor of Ruth.



July 19 at 3:30 AM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Updike family.



July 18 at 5:51 PM



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Carol Peyton lit a candle in honor of Ruth.



July 18 at 4:52 PM



Richard Funkhouser posted:

It will be difficult to live in a world without Ruthie in it. We were friends for more than half a century and were neighbors for over 20 years. She and EB always treated us more like family than just friends. I will miss my sparring partner until we meet again.

July 18 at 4:50 PM



Diane Lischke July 19 at 8:26 AM

Ruth will be missed in our community. She was a faithful lady in our church serving wherever she was needed. God bless the family. Diane and Jim Lischke



Dickie Atkins posted:

Ruth was a wonderful lady. She will truly be missed by all. 🙏🙏🙏 for EB, Tonya and the family. I can proudly said I glad I knew Ruth.

July 18 at 2:09 PM



Wanda Tolson lit a candle in honor of Ruth.



July 18 at 1:42 PM



Rachel Garr lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

EB and Tonya so sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family.



July 18 at 1:33 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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