



Ruth M. Boswell

July 23, 1924 - September 14, 2017

After 93 years of living fully, Ruth Maxine Whitten Meese Boswell died peacefully at Memorial Community Care in Aurora, NE, on September 14, 2017.

She was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 23, 1924, the youngest child of Mildred Adelaide Dunton Whitten and Samuel Whitten, with sisters Helen, Jean, and Dorothy preceding her. She graduated from Omaha South High School in 1942 and then studied comptometers at business school. During World War II she decided to enter nursing school thru the U.S. Nurses Corps, graduating from Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in 1947. It was at Methodist Hospital where she met Lee David Meese, a young general practitioner finishing medical school.

On July 29, 1949, they married and left Omaha for Hooper, Nebraska, where Dave started working with a local physician. In April 1950, they welcomed their daughter, Diane Louise Meese. They soon moved to Sutton, Nebraska, where Dave started his own general practice. Ruth stayed at home with Diane while also becoming an active member of the Federated Church in Sutton where she was able to use her musical skills singing and playing for others. After Dave unexpectedly died from polio in August 1952 at age 29, Ruth moved to the Meese family farm near Ithaca, Nebraska, to await the birth of her and Dave's second daughter. Nancy Ellen Meese was born in January

1953, in Omaha, about five months after her father's death.

Ruth spent the next seven years on her own, moving back to Sutton and working at Mary Lanning Hospital in the surgery department- her favorite. She was blessed with many friends who helped with taking care of the two girls when she was working or on call for surgery. Ruth and the girls loved their little brick house!

After marrying Gerald E. Boswell in Sutton on February 14, 1960, Ruth became a mother to two young boys- Larry Eugene Boswell (11) and Kenneth Lee Boswell (8). Jerry and Ruth settled on a farm northeast of Shickley, where she became a farmwife (with much teaching from Virginia Hopken) and helped Jerry with the livestock and farming. Ruth also occasionally worked at Fillmore County Hospital, assisting in surgery. Patricia Kay Boswell joined the family in March 1963, followed by Beth Ann Boswell in March 1966.

After the three older children were off to college, Ruth and Jerry purchased the Ludwig farm southwest of Shickley in 1971. This became their home where family gathered and memories were made- even when Jerry died from cancer on January 24, 1992, at age 68.

Ruth continued to live on the farm independently until 2001, when she purchased a home in Shickley. She adjusted quickly to town life, enjoying walking, exercising, meeting with friends, traveling and attending church and school activities. Visiting her large family was something she loved to do, as well as attending her grandchildren's activities. Ruth's eyesight began to fail as she suffered from macular degeneration and she eventually stopped driving. Her social life continued, though, with the help of her many friends and drivers!

Shortly before Ruth's 90th birthday, she decided to move to assisted living in

Aurora, Nebraska. She enjoyed her life and new friends at East Park Villa until October 2016, when her health made it necessary for her to move to skilled care at Memorial Community Care.

Throughout her entire life, Ruth always loved being with family, enjoying music, watching sporting events, and eating chocolate - and not always in that exact order! Ruth always was smiling (except when disciplining her children or watching Nebraska lose to Oklahoma), and turned into the quintessential sweet little old lady. The family is extremely grateful to Ruth's friends in Shickley and friends and caregivers in Aurora who made her life that much more wonderful in her final years on earth.

Ruth was an independent woman in the 1950s long before "independent woman" became a catch phrase. She insisted all of her children be able to support themselves in life; just as she was able to support herself and her family when she was widowed at a young age.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; sisters Helen James and Jean Morris; husbands Dave Meese and Jerry Boswell; daughter Diane Girmus and former son-in-law Johnnie Dale Girmus.

She is survived by her sister Dorothy Meyer (Cincinnati OH); children Larry and Kate Boswell (Allen NE), Ken and Leslie Boswell (Shickley NE), Nancy and Leon Teetor (Ithaca NE), Patty and John Burke (Lexington KY), and Beth and Scott Johnson (Aurora NE); former daughter-in-law Kathy Boswell; grandchildren Lanny and Beth Boswell, Kelly Boswell and Beth Matschullat, Jason and Michelle Girmus, Kristin Girmus, Tara Girmus, Karen and Brian Labenz, Kendra and Dan Heath, Kristi Boswell, Mark and Sara Teetor, Becky and Andy Unterseher, Caleb Burke, Levi Burke, Samuel Johnson, and Alex Johnson; 24 great-

grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, close relatives, and friends.

Ruth chose to have her body cremated. Her ashes will be laid to rest next to her second husband, Jerry, and his first wife, Betty Gowen Boswell, at the Ong Cemetery in Ong, Nebraska.

A generation has now passed in our family. We continue to live our lives in honor of our moms (Ruth and Betty) and dads (Jerry and Dave) and thank them for the gift of life. We extend our thanks to our family and friends for the many kind words, cards, flowers, thoughts and prayers for our mother, Ruth.

A Memorial Service for Ruth was held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Shickley, Nebraska. Pastor Martin Leeper officiated the service. Stanley Johnson accompanied the congregation in the singing of "Hymn Of Promise," John Boswell sang "The Lord's Prayer" during the service, and a recorded selection of "23rd Psalm" was played as a recessional song.

Inurnment was held in the Ong Cemetery following the Memorial Service. Farmer & Son Funeral Home conducted the services. Online condolences may be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com. Memorials are suggested to the Shickley United Methodist Church.

Tribute Wall



“ 32 files added to the album *Boswell Photos*



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - September 23, 2017 at 12:25 PM

SA

“ *Scott Rath of Rath Walling and Associates purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ruth M. Boswell.*



Scott Rath of Rath Walling and Associates - September 22, 2017 at 10:38 AM

CM

“ *I remember the vacations, the Weddings, all the parties.*

Cindy Mack

Cindy Mack - September 21, 2017 at 11:22 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ruth M. Boswell.*



September 21, 2017 at 12:29 AM



“ *Leon, Nancy and family. I only know you Nancy and Leon and have heard you talk of your mother often. It is so hard to lose our moms, and to this day I wish I could once again sit with my mom and visit. We know where they are back to their vibrant lives again without eye problems etc. We can only be glad for them but as the days go by you will be held up with prayers from family and friends and share in all the special memories we had with our moms. Stay strong and remember all the good times and be thankful.*

Julie Larson - September 19, 2017 at 04:38 PM



“ *Bob, Linda, Denny, Mike, Tom and Families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ruth M. Boswell.*



Bob, Linda, Denny, Mike, Tom and Families - September 19, 2017 at 02:10 PM

JK

“ Aunt Ruth was an amazing lady, a real inspiration, & always a joy to be around.

Jan James Kunz

Jan Kunz - September 18, 2017 at 04:14 PM

JK

“ Jan & Gary Kunz purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ruth M. Boswell.



Jan & Gary Kunz - September 18, 2017 at 04:07 PM

JF

“ Jason, Michelle, Kristin, Tara Girmus and families purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ruth M. Boswell.



Jason, Michelle, Kristin, Tara Girmus and families -
September 18, 2017 at 03:25 PM

KR

“ Kent Grote and Kelli Ray purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ruth M. Boswell.



Kent Grote and Kelli Ray - September 17, 2017 at 06:35 PM

TA

“ *The providers at Memorial Health Clinic in Aurora purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Ruth M. Boswell.*



The providers at Memorial Health Clinic in Aurora -
September 17, 2017 at 02:58 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth M. Boswell.*



September 17, 2017 at 01:59 PM

AU

“ *I still remember the 4-H song contest practices when Ruth would add all kinds of fun piano jazz and Patty would say "oh, Mom, don't do that" and everyone else would say "yes, keep it up!" Chattanooga Choo Choo comes to mind. She made it much more fun!*
--Angie Paul Unruh

Angie Paul Unruh - September 16, 2017 at 11:25 PM

JM

“ As I read Ruth's beautifully written obituary I was even more impressed with her many strengths and accomplishments. What a strong intelligent woman!

I remember her as always sharing in the joke, constantly smiling and showing interest in all conversations. She would patch us up on the many camping trips and card nights, settle disputes between the children, tuck Patty and Beth into bed and be up to make breakfast in the morning. No matter how vicious the mosquitos and how bad the moods or conditions, she would find the humor and pull us all into her happier place.

Though i am unable to be there my thoughts and memories are with all her family.

Julie Mack

JULIE MACK - September 16, 2017 at 10:29 PM

DJ

“ All our summer vacations with 10 kids will always be remembered...your fried chicken was always a hit!! Ruth was always at music contests in Shickley and loved music. She was a great friend to my parents (Harlan and Twila) and there are many memories of the times our families spent together. She always had a smile and a kind word....she will be remembered fondly.

Deanna Johnson - September 16, 2017 at 07:25 PM

DV

“ Ruth was my aunt but she also was my first piano teacher. She also gave me a baby shower for my first child, Aaron. Ruth was always smiling and her laugh just brightened the room. I loved talking with her at the Gowen reunions. Bless her little soul. Deb Gowen Virchow Seward, NE

Deb Gowen Virchow - September 15, 2017 at 10:10 PM

MH

“ *Mary Jo (Schrock) Hill lit a candle in memory of Ruth M. Boswell*



Mary Jo (Schrock) Hill - September 15, 2017 at 09:36 PM

SS

“ *Ruth was always special to me. I enjoyed playing bridge and being in book club with her. She will be missed greatly.*

Sandra Schafer-Nagy - September 15, 2017 at 04:51 PM