



Ruth L. Mankin

NOV 14, 1932 - JUL 3, 2014



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Ruth Larson Mankin, 81 years old, died on July 3, 2014 surrounded by her loving children Margaret, Theodore, and Susan. She was pre-deceased by her loving husband, The Honorable Hart Tiller Mankin. Mrs. Mankin was born Ruth Larson on November 14, 1932 in Conrad, Montana to Ernest Roy Larson and Leila McCartney Larson.

Ruth's earliest years were spent in Shelby, Montana where her father owned and operated the Larson Brothers Department Store. She received her high school degree from the Brownmoor School for Girls in Scottsdale, Arizona. Ruth studied speech and radio/television arts and graduated with the class of 1954 at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. While at Northwestern, she met and began dating Hart Mankin, the love of her life. Ruth and Hart were married in Shelby, Montana on August 14, 1954.

Ruth and her husband, Hart, shortly thereafter moved to Texas to begin their professional careers and to start their family. A daughter, Margaret Ruth, was born in Wichita Falls in 1955, followed by a son, Theodore Howard, in Houston in 1959, and a daughter, Susan Ruth, in 1962 in Houston. As her children grew, Ruth was busy as a Girl Scout leader, with Episcopal Church activities, and with the Houston Headstart program.

Both Ruth and Hart were most active in building the then-nascent Republican Party of Texas. She managed her husband's campaign for the Texas state legislature, wrote a grassroots organizational manual for Texas GOP precinct chairmen, edited *The Banner*, the Harris County (Texas) GOP newspaper, and volunteered in the 1964 United States Senate campaign of George H.W. Bush, and assisted with public affairs outreach for Barbara Bush.

Moving to Washington in 1969, Ruth served as a volunteer in the Congressional office of George H.W. Bush, worked in opposition research at the presidential re-election committee of President Richard Nixon, and did publicity for the Fairfax County (Virginia) GOP committee.



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In 1974, the Mankin family moved to Wilmington, Delaware. Ruth joined the campaign as press secretary for Republican congressional candidate Thomas B. Evans. Following Representative Evans' election in 1976, she became district press secretary and special assistant in his Delaware office. In 1978, she took a leave of absence to run for the Delaware General Assembly in the old 14th legislative district. She won her primary, but lost the general election and returned to Representative Evans' Congressional office. In 1980, she ran Evans' successful re-election campaign.

In early 1981, Ruth was appointed as Regional Director of Public Affairs for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the US Department of Health and Human Services in the first Reagan Administration. In 1983, she became a vice president of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, was responsible for the Chamber's publicity and public relations, and edited the twice-monthly State Chamber News newspaper. During this time, she was co-founder of the Child Care Connection (Family and Workplace Connection), President of the Delaware March of Dimes Chapter, served on the capital campaign of the Girl Scout Council of Delaware, became a board and advisory council member of Wilmington Women in Business, and was active in numerous other Delaware civic organizations. In 1988, Ruth and her husband Hart were named co-chairmen of the George H.W. Bush presidential campaign in Delaware.

In 1990, Ruth and Hart Mankin moved back to Washington as Hart was appointed by President George H. W. Bush and was confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as a judge on the newly created Federal Court of Veterans Appeals. Ruth was named the national director of government and public affairs for the White House Conference on Aging. Ruth completed her distinguished career in public service on the personal staff of First Lady Barbara Bush during 1991-92.

Following her husband's death in 1996, Ruth moved to Lewes, Delaware where she wrote frequently for the Lewes Historical Society Journal, served on the Board of Directors for Clear Space Theater Company, and acted often with the Ad Hoc Reader Theatre, and conducted publicity for Coastal Concerts Inc. Outreach, and took numerous courses at the Southern Delaware Academy of Lifelong Learning. Ruth is survived by her three children, Margaret of Alexandria, Virginia, Theodore of Oak Hill, Virginia, and Susan of Downingtown, Pennsylvania as well as seven grandchildren.



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Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at 10:00AM at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Second and Market Street, Lewes, DE 19958. Arrangements are being handled by Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Lewes, DE.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be made in her name to St. Peter's Episcopal Church at the above address or to the ALS Association of Greater Philadelphia, 321 Norristown Road, Ambler, PA 19002.

Pease sign Mrs. Mankin's online guestbook on this page.

PDF Printable Version



Tribute Wall

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JS

Judy Schell posted:

Ruth was such a dynamic lady, a friend and neighbor during our early years in Northern Virginia. She made life interesting and better in everything she touched .Margaret, Susan and Ted we send our deepest sympathy.....you were truly blessed with outstanding parents. Fondly Dale and Judy

December 10 at 8:00 PM

JM

Judy Mccabe posted:

Dear Margaret, Susan and Ted,When I read Ruth's obituary, I remembered all the many times we had together as friends as well as volunteers. She was truly a wonderful person and I am so happy I knew her and your dad and could call them friends. I wish we had kept up with each other over the years, butwe always remained friends. I know your loss is very difficult now, but your memories of her will sustain you and give you happiness in the future as you remember the good times.Our sincerest sympathy and love, Judy, Mike, Rick and Wendy

July 16 at 8:00 PM

TF

Teresa Ford posted:

We will truly miss one of our very favorite customers at Kids' Ketch. Ruth was always a joy to have visit over the years. Her glass was always "half-full" - such a good-natured person. All of us send our sympathy to the family for their loss, knowing you have many happy memories to sustain you.Teresa Ford and all of us at Kids' Ketch

July 14 at 8:00 PM

GM

Gayle Larson Moon posted:

Dear Margaret, Ted and Susan, My sincere sympathy for the loss of your Mom. She was an amazing lady. She had such strength and a love for life, family and friends. What a lovely picture! My thoughts and prayers are with you. Love, Gayle

July 13 at 8:00 PM

TM

Theresa Gawlas Medoff posted:

Your mother was an impressive woman. My sympathy on your loss.

July 11 at 8:00 PM



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WC

Wendy Larson Chuckran posted:

Aunt Ruth was a classy and dignified woman. I always admired her passion for learning and for life. c

July 10 at 8:00 PM

ER

Ellen J. Roberts posted:

My deepest condolences to Ruth's family. I knew Ruth from her State Chamber days; I was among the Wilmington Women in Business presidents who benefited from her wisdom, advice, counsel, and mentoring. I worked with her on GHWB's campaign -- not a popular thing to do in Delaware, since Pete du Pont was also running at the time! That campaign experience earned me a slot in Delaware's delegation to the inauguration and inaugural ball -- what a terrific experience! I regret that I did not stay in touch with Ruth after she moved to Lewes, but I trust that she somehow knew (or at least knows now) what a significant influence she had on my life, how very much I appreciated knowing her, and that I think of her often.

July 9 at 8:00 PM

SM

Suzie Martin posted:

I knew Ruth back in the "Tom Evans" days. She was an inspirational, professional mentor for me when I most needed that guidance. I moved away but often wondered what happened to Ruth. So happy to read the obituary of her very obviously happy and fulfilled life. What a woman!

July 8 at 8:00 PM

MA

Marie posted:

What a beautiful person so sorry ..I knew Ruth from the bank..(Citizens Bank)..I will miss her..Prayers for all the family..Marie Reed

July 8 at 8:00 PM

KK

Kathi Kaier posted:

I had the pleasure of doing Ruth's hair for many years. She was always a ray of sunshine. She shared many wonderful stories and she was very proud of her children and grandchildren. I will miss her deeply.

July 7 at 8:00 PM



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CS

Catherine Silver posted:

Ted and Margaret,I am so very sorry to hear of the loss of your lovely Mother. Her life story is simply extraordinary but not suprising considering what special people you both are. I wish you and all your family comfort during this sad time.Warmest Regards,Catherine

July 7 at 8:00 PM

IR

Irene Raine posted:

I remember Ruth quite fondly as she was my parents neighbor in Lewes. She could put a smile on anyone's face just by walking into the room. She had a very charismatic personality. She also had my husband over quite a few times to work on her computer to keep it up and running smoothly. My favorite memory of Ruth was when I spent the afternoon interviewing her for a project I was working for a sociology class I was taking at the time. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

July 7 at 8:00 PM

CW

Christine Waisanen posted:

Ruth and I had so much fun chairing "Locomotion", the DE train station dedication, and other events together. She was such an energetic, creative and positive person! Where she went, I would follow. I am so sorry for your--and our--loss.C

July 7 at 8:00 PM

RM

Robert & Cathey Mylod posted:

Ruth was our next door neighbor in Lewes. She was kind, welcoming, very special, one of a kind! She loved her family. We will miss her.

July 7 at 8:00 PM

LP

Larry Pelletier posted:

Margaret, Ted and Susan.I am so sorry to learn of your mother's passing.I first met her and your dad when I was Executive Director of the Delaware State March of Dimes and became good friends with both of them.I will always remember her for her energy and positive attitude, and her kindness to all.I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers, and extend my sincere sympathies for your loss.LP

July 7 at 8:00 PM



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Blake Wilson posted:

Margaret, Ted and Susan...As you know, your mother was truly an amazing woman. I first met her when I was a newspaper reporter and she was doing press for Congressman Evans. She was always on top of everything...a real pro. And she was always encouraging to those of us who were still getting their sea legs career-wise. At the Delaware Chamber she raised the organization's stature and visibility in a classy and professional manner. We all learned from her...and will remember her in our prayers. Keep the faith. Blake

July 7 at 8:00 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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