



Ruth Lynn McCrary

December 18, 1940 - May 10, 2022

Ruth Lynn McCrary, age 81, of Chipley, FL passed from this life, following a lengthy illness, on May 10, 2022, in her home, with a beautiful smile on her face, and surrounded by her loving family. She was born on December 18, 1940, in Jackson County, FL to the late Idus and Gladys McDonald.

Ruth was a member of First United Methodist Church in Chipley, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, and the Washington County Friends of the Library.

She graduated from Graceville High School in 1958, married Julian B. McCrary on December 23, 1961, and graduated from Florida State University in 1962. She received her master's degree from Troy State University in 1971 and completed the doctoral coursework at Florida State University in 1994. During these years she gave birth to two of the most important people in her life, her daughter, Kristin Lynn, and son, Michael Ken McCrary.

Ruth retired twice during her educational career. Initially she served 36 years, primarily within the Washington County School District. She began teaching at Caryville Elementary School. She also taught at Kate M. Smith Elementary School prior to becoming the curriculum coordinator and then assistant principal. From 1978-1983, she served as a technical assistant, coordinator, and then administrator at the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium.

In 1983 she was named the Director of Elementary Education at the Washington County School District Office in Chipley. During this time, she was recognized by the Commissioner of Education, Betty Castor, elected to the Florida Elementary and Middle Schools Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and assisted in the school improvement efforts nationally. From 1986-1989, she was the Vernon Middle School Principal, and in 1989 Ruth served as the first female high school principal in Washington County when she was named the principal of Vernon Middle/High School. Ruth was recognized as Florida's Secondary School Principal for Region I prior to becoming the Director of Instruction at the School District Office in 1994 and retiring in 1998.

Her second educational career included assignments as interim principal at Vernon High School and as Principal at the Vernon Place, a Washington County juvenile justice facility serving adjudicated females. She was also assistant and consultant to the Washington County Educational Program at Eckerd which served adjudicated males in the juvenile justice system in Okeechobee, Florida.

Ruth was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Chipley serving as the chair of the lay leader and ministerial committees. She was also a Sunday School teacher and education superintendent at the church.

She was very active in many organizations locally and internationally. Prior to her lengthy illness, Ruth served as president of the Washington County Friends of the Library, an officer in the Woman's Club, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Educational Foundation at Chipola College.

She was a 47-year member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an honorary organization for women educators that has membership in 17

countries. Ruth was active at the local, state, regional and international levels. Inducted into Phi chapter of DKG in 1975, Ruth served as its president and then when the chapter expanded and Delta Theta chapter was formed, she also served as its president. She was inducted into the state organization's Hall of Fame in 2005, and in 2015, received the Sara B, Ferguson Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed by the state DKG organization. She was also very active at the regional and international levels of the organization attending numerous conventions within the 17 member countries.

Following an extraordinary and amazing personal and professional life, Ruth spent her last five years confined to her home being cared for by her faithful husband, Julian; loving daughter, Kris; devoted son, Michael, and daughter-in-law, Pam; Nicole Lewis, Martha Toole, and staff from Emerald Coast Hospice.

Along with her parents she is preceded in death by her brothers-in-law, Park McCrary, Jr., and Roy Vickers. Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Julian B. McCrary, of Chipley; daughter, Kristin Lynn McCrary of Tallahassee; son, Michael Ken McCrary, and daughter-in-law, Pam, of Chipley; sister, Sara Vickers of Augusta, GA; brother, Harry and wife, Cheryl of Donaldsonville, GA; grandchildren, Alan Davis, of Chipley; Chad Davis and wife, Somer of Chipley; great grandchildren, Broxton, Easton, Cooper, and Barrett Davis, of Chipley; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, May 16, at The First United Methodist Church of Chipley. Visitation will begin at 9:00 A.M. with the Celebration of Life Service to follow starting at 10:00 A.M. Interment will follow at Springhill United Methodist Church Cemetery in Campbellton, Florida.

Active pall bearers will be Fred Buchanan, Dan Burdeshaw, Wink Carmichael,

Buddy Dixon, Jimmy Stallings, and Keith Vickers. The honorary pall bearers are Ronnie Daniels, Charles Dunn, Ed Franklin, Henry Grimes, Bert Roberts, and Billy Williams.

In addition to flowers, donations may also be made to St. Jude's Hospital.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 16. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Chipley
1285 W. Jackson Avenue
Chipley, FL 32428

Service

MAY 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Chipley
1285 W. Jackson Avenue
Chipley, FL 32428

Tribute Wall

RH

“ It was my privilege to serve with Ruth on the Parent Advisory Council at both the Vernon Middle and Vernon High School. Here I found out she began her career at Caryville where she taught with my Aunt Cora. She was dedicated to our schools and our children. I was privileged to get to know Julian during that time and share together while I was County Administrator. He was indeed the "gentle giant". To Julian and the children I offer my prayers, support, and thanks for sharing Ruth with the Washington County School System.

Roger Hagan


Roger Hagan - May 15, 2022 at 05:38 PM

LP

“ I worked with Ruth a number of years at KMS as well as working with her while she was at the district office. As a teacher our paths crossed often and our association was always pleasant and uplifting. She was a very positive person both as an educator as well as a friend. She was missed by our education system when she retired and she will be missed by all who knew her. My condolences to Julian, Chris, and Michael (I hope I got everyone's names correct; it's been a while!) and all the family.

L.C. Parish - May 12, 2022 at 08:59 PM

SL

“ I remember Mrs. McCrary @ Kate M. Smith Elementary...Such a sweetheart she was, and so inspiring to all she came in contact with...She will be missed...

Shonna L. Potter, LPN - May 12, 2022 at 06:45 PM