



Ruth M. Gerdes

March 27, 1927 - May 10, 2023

Ruth M. Gerdes, 96, formerly of Bath, Illinois passed away at 2:27 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb, Illinois. She was born on March 27, 1927 in Peoria, Illinois to Clarence and Ruby (Lindsay) Vestal. She married Verne Gerdes in Petersburg, Illinois on August 8, 1945. He preceded her in death on January 18, 2003.

Ruth is survived by her three daughters, Linda (John R.) Haegele, Judy Schafer (Danny Nall) and Lisa Gerdes; grandchildren, Julie (Mike) Hampson and Brian (Ann) Schafer; great-grandchildren, Megan Hampson (Erik Zimmerman), Luke Hampson, and Jack Schafer; and great-great grandchildren, Olivia and Lincoln. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; sister, Doris Vestal; and twin infant sister.

Ruth was a spunky, amazing, strong woman. She loved watching the St. Louis Cardinals play and always said "Is there really any other team?". She will truly be missed.

Private family graveside services will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made in Ruth's name to the Bath Volunteer Fire Department or the charity of the donor's choice. Online condolences can be left for her family at www.hurleyfh.com.

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olive Cemetery

28334 Oakford Road
Chandlerville, IL 62627

Tribute Wall

MW

“ *I met Ruth late in the game, and I fell in love with her spunk immediately. May her memory be a comfort.*

Mary Warns - May 18, 2023 at 07:35 AM

JH

Thank you. She definitely was a spunky gal. You made me smile.

Julie Hampson - November 26, 2025 at 03:24 AM

DK

“ *Ruth was a wonderful lady who always had a smile. I will always remember my parents, Richard and Mary Ellen, and Verne and Ruth going on trips to Florida or just being together. They had some really good times. Now they will be able to all have some laughs together again.*

My sincere condolences to Linda, Judy and Lisa.

Debbie Kitchen - May 17, 2023 at 11:03 AM

CS

“ *Craig Schaeffer lit a candle in memory of Ruth Gerdes*



Craig Schaeffer - May 17, 2023 at 12:39 AM

SS

“ So sorry for the families loss. Was a great lady.

Susan Brown Showalter



Susan Brown Showalter - May 15, 2023 at 05:34 PM



“ Just wanted to say Ruth is a sweet friend and godly influence in my life. Sandy crater

Sandy Crater - May 13, 2023 at 07:32 PM

JH



Julie Hampson - March 21, 2024 at 09:20 PM

DS

“ What a Fun,Beautiful Lady!! The laugh and her smile!! Great Memories of Ruth and Verne!!! It was always Fun when Ruth, Verne, Dad and Mom got together! They all have a lot of catching up to do😭🙏🙏🙏

David Smith - May 12, 2023 at 10:30 PM

PZ

“ Pam Ziegler lit a candle in memory of Ruth Gerdes



Pam Peterson Ziegler - May 12, 2023 at 06:49 PM

SC

“ Sorry for your loss. Ruth was a lovely Christian women.

Shirlee Clark - May 12, 2023 at 04:34 PM

DL

“ Diana Ed Lind lit a candle in memory of Ruth Gerdes



Diana and Ed Lind - May 12, 2023 at 11:13 AM



So sorry to hear about Ruth. She was always at events while we were growing up. She provided green cupcakes for Judy Lee's St Patrick's day birthday. She was a welcome fixture in Our lives. She will be missed.

Judith Connolly - May 12, 2023 at 09:53 PM

ME

We have many special memories of Ruth and Verne.

Milton and Hazel Edge - May 17, 2023 at 10:12 AM