



Ruby Elizabeth Carpenter Ritchie

September 25, 1935 - January 12, 2021

Ruby Elizabeth Carpenter Ritchie passed away on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at Novant Health Medical Center in Salisbury, NC. She will be greatly missed by her family and all who loved her and whose lives she touched. She was larger than life with a personality that was like no other. Her beauty was breathtaking and her compassion and generosity were overwhelming. She would give you the shirt off of her back. When she walked in a room she definitely made a statement and you knew she had something to say. She desired to always find the solution to any problem and would have changed the world if she could have.

She entered the hospital with an infection that led to major surgery, and during this difficult phase of recovery, she developed Covid and died from it's complications. She fought a hard fight.

Ruby was born on September 25, 1935 in China Grove, NC to the late Connie Wood Carpenter and Franklin Travis Carpenter. She was also preceded in death by her beloved husband, William Ashely Ritchie (Bill), her son, Warren Ray Ritchie and her grandson, William Nathaniel Peeler, whom she adored. Also preceding her in death were her brothers Cecil Carpenter, Bernie Garrett Carpenter, Franklin Travis Carpenter, Millard Carpenter; Kinney Vance Carpenter and sister Wilma Carpenter Martin.

She grew up on the Mill Village in China Grove and attended China Grove High School. After meeting the love of her life and with barely 2 pennies to rub together, they were married and started a family. That marriage lasted 62 successful years. She is now survived by her two daughters Patricia Ann Ritchie (Patty) and Kay Ritchie Peeler. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Joshua Pressley Peeler, wife Brooke, and great grandchildren, Pressley Gail and Kaleb Michael Peeler and William Madison Peeler, wife Maggie, and great grandchild, Nathan James Peeler.

She adored and is survived by her nieces and nephews and their families: Johnny and Martha Carpenter, Jeanie and Wade Beaver, Dale Carpenter (deceased) and Judy Carpenter Julian, Franklin Douglas Martin, Reba Martin Poole, Beverly and Steve Shumaker, Randy and Lynn Martin; Ted and Candice Carpenter; Scott Carpenter and Susie Carpenter (who is also deceased).

After her children started school, Ruby had many different jobs that she pursued. She worked in the canteen at the VA Hospital in Salisbury, Carolina Maid in Granite Quarry, where she sewed buttons on dresses and made many lifetime friends, Belk's Department store, where she worked in fragrances and ladies dresses, and she was very proud of her job with General Electric when it first opened in Salisbury, NC. She also attended Barbizon School of Modeling in Charlotte and Broadcasting school.

She was a believer in Christ and raised her family to believe that faith is the most important thing. She raised her family at Emanuel Baptist Church in Salisbury and currently was a member of First Baptist Church.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Novant Regional Medical Center for its kind and expert guidance and care during her illness and for their commitment to care for patients who are sick and suffering with Covid. Their sacrifice and

love to her will never be forgotten.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or a charity of your choice.

A celebration of Ruby's life will take place when it is safe to gather. All of her family and friends will be invited when that time comes. A memorial video may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xK0u03YZfaA>

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Ritchie family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

GC

“ *Ruby was my Sunday School teacher at Emanuel Baptist church. I always thought she she was the most beautiful lady I had ever known. Not only on the outside but also in the inside. She always had a smile for everyone. I am so very sorry for your loss. She made the world a better place.*

Gwen Jones Conner - October 28, 2024 at 06:16 AM

JD

“ *Kay I'm so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. We are praying for you and your family.*



Jennifer DiFiore - January 27, 2021 at 10:53 PM

JR

“ *Patty and Kay I am so very sorry to hear of the passing of your precious Mother! She was just as beautiful inside as she was outside. Always kind and compassionate to others. May God comfort your family now and in the coming days!*
Sincerely,
Joel & Janet McCall Ridenhour

Janet Ridenhour - January 22, 2021 at 11:50 PM

TA

“ *Patty, Kay, and Family,
Ruby was one of the best! I will always cherish fond memories of her. Please accept my sincerest condolences. The flowers she shared with me will forever remind me of her.
Hold fast to God, Family, and Friends as you face the days ahead.
With sincerest sympathy,
Olivia "Libby" Hubbard*

Tangy - January 19, 2021 at 09:49 AM

BH

“ *Kay and family, So sorry for your loss.
Sincerely, Bob and Linda Hedrick*



Bob and Linda Hedrick - January 18, 2021 at 03:23 PM

GP

So sorry for your loss Patty and Kay. She was a beautiful lady.

Gary Poole - January 26, 2021 at 05:51 PM

PS

“ *Patty and Kay,
We will cherish your mother's friendship. I loved how she referred to your dad as, my Bill. The lovebirds are together again.
Charlie & Pam Smith*

Pam and Charlie Smith - January 17, 2021 at 04:07 PM

JH

“ From swimming at her house as a kid to seeing her eating dinner at the Boat & Ski club as an adult, she was always smiling and happy. Condolences to Kay and Josh and families.

Joel Harper and the Harper family.

Joel Harper - January 17, 2021 at 12:33 PM

DM

“ I will miss talking to Ruby about everything from yardwork to soap operas. She may not have graduated from high school but she was knowledgeable and self taught.

We had a 'hood group that dined in Salisbury every month & had the best time laughing, talking and enjoying ourselves. It won't be the same without Ruby. I can assure you when the gates of Heaven opened and Ruby entered, everyone stopped whatever they were doing and looked at my beautiful and gracious friend. "She walks in beauty like the night." (Lord Byron)

My prayers and sympathy to Patty & Kay and all family members. God bless you all.

dianne mcneely - January 15, 2021 at 11:47 PM

NB

“Ruby has always been close to our hearts. We've known her since we were 12 years old. She didn't graduate from high school with us but she has been a major part of our high school graduating class of 1953 for the last 40 years. Although we have moved around a lot, we never lost touch with Ruby. We went to church with her. My father, Rev. Zeb Baker, baptized Ruby. She mentioned that often. We attended hers and Bill's 50th anniversary. She amazed us with her line dancing talents, especially after having surgery on both knees. She attended our 80th birthday celebration and we attended hers. On numerous occasions, she joined us at Ivan's Restaurant with my sister, Barbara Sims and Gloria and Allyn Adams when we were in town. Since the pandemic began, this has not be possible and we have often expressed regret about how much we missed it. We have always loved Ruby and valued her friendship. We are devastated about her death which leaves a huge vacancy in our lives.

Norma and Max Boger

Norma and Max Boger - January 15, 2021 at 02:49 PM

BM

“Ruby lived up to her name in every way. She was a true rare jewel. She was so very classy and beautiful and yet down to earth and loving to everyone she met. I just remember her as so full of energy and life it felt as though the air around her shimmered from her presence. Some people are referred to as a force of nature, and that would be Ruby. A force for good! Her laughter lifted you, her smile embraced you, her words either comforted or challenged you. And her faith? Even in the face of terrible loss, it stood strong as an immovable mountain. May all who loved her be comforted by the legacy she left, and the hope and promise of Jesus that Ruby continues to shine her light in heaven!

Becky Lipe Morris - January 15, 2021 at 02:48 PM

KH

“ I was so surprised and saddened to hear of Ruby's passing. There's nothing I could add that wasn't covered in her beautifully written obituary. She was truly a jewel and will be greatly missed.

Kay Harviel - January 14, 2021 at 01:44 PM

DD

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I spent lots of time chatting with Ruby while she was exercising at the gym I worked at and she became a very dear friend to me. Praying for peace of mind and heart for your family.

Debbie Dickson - January 14, 2021 at 08:46 AM

SS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Ms Ruby's passing . I have so many fond memories of Ruby and Bill. For so many years they would gather next door and play cards with My in laws, John & Loretta Eagle and The Kesler's would join them or they would go on their many trips. John loved seeing her on Friday nights at Palermos when he would go out to eat.
Prayers for comfort and healing.

Shellie Eagle Stubbs

Shellie Stubbs - January 13, 2021 at 09:33 PM

SC

“ Ruby was a beautiful lady inside and out. There are not enough words to express her beauty and how much she means to so many. I will miss her beautiful heart and smile. Praying her family and friends will feel the comfort and peace that comes from God today and in the days to come.

Sandra Csanyi - January 13, 2021 at 09:29 PM

PH

“ Ruby was a beautiful lady inside and out. She was always smiling and happy. I will always treasure the wonderful times I had at the Ritchie home back during our middle and high school days. She was a very classy lady. Pam Honeycutt

Pam Honeycutt - January 13, 2021 at 06:26 PM

JA

“ Ruby was a beloved neighbor and friend. She took great pride in her landscape and could be seen morning, noon, and night planting, weeding, sweeping, trimming, etc. In fact she quipped about her Daughter, Patty taking over the mowing.

Ruby made time to stop and talk to her many Friends and passerbys, many of whom she befriended along the way. She always had a kind words to say, often with wit and a twinkle in her eye.

Her Family meant the world to her and she loved them all dearly. It was a treat to hear her talk about family, including her "My Bill", Kay, Patty, and Ray stories, as well as her Grands and all. Her beautifully written Obituary says it best.

Ruby was the person most people would want to be like. She was a true gem, through and through.

Juli Alfieri - January 13, 2021 at 06:04 PM

JM

“ Ruby was a beautiful woman and raised beautiful daughters. May God less Patty and Kay

Joy Mull - January 13, 2021 at 03:02 PM

MB

“ Ruby was one of the most beautiful ladies that I have ever known. From the time I became friends with Patty, she and Bill both welcomed me and treated me like one of their own. They were both “there for me” during a very difficult time and their home..and pool!...was always open to me. Ruby will be missed so very much by her family and friends. May she now rest in peace. All my love to Patty, Kay and the rest of the family. Marsha Beaver

Marsha Beaver - January 13, 2021 at 11:01 AM

KL

I can still see Ruby with her dazzling smile and twinkle in her eye. She was always so kind to me. She and her family were blessed to have each other. I know she is in Heaven and no longer suffering. I pray peace for her family.

Kay Linker - January 13, 2021 at 04:15 PM

JM

Such a beautiful and memorable lady. Patty and Kay- I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers that your memories will give you comfort and peace.

Jeanie Moore - January 13, 2021 at 09:21 PM

AC

Ms Ruby was such a beautiful and caring person, and I know she had a great reunion in Heaven with her family. She went thru a lot of grief in life, but handled it all with grace and dignity. She leaves a legacy of two kind, beautiful daughters. God bless this entire family. Love, Ann D. Craig

Ann Craig - January 13, 2021 at 11:09 PM