



Mamie Rosiland Gallahan

April 24, 1936 - March 9, 2023

Mamie Rosiland (Roz) Holmes Gallahan (85) passed away peacefully Wednesday morning, March 9th, 2023 while in hospice care at Manassas Health and Rehabilitation. Her daughter Sandy Wright and son-in-law Richard Wright were at her side constantly through her last days.

Roz was cared for in her last five years by the staff at Manassas Health and Rehabilitation with great care and professionalism. Manassas Health and Rehab provided an exceptional level of care – a level of care Roz had learned to understand and appreciate after 35 years of caring for her paraplegic daughter, Pam Smith.

Roz, born in Alabama in 1936, was an intelligent, athletic, and artistic young woman. She excelled at academics, was a force on the high school basketball team, and performed musically at church on piano and vocals. One of our favorite family stories shares the time when Roz wanted to learn gospel chording on the piano. She bargained with her father to pay for her gospel piano lessons if she could clear a hectare of corn from their Alabama family farm. He agreed, and she talked her siblings into clearing it with her in a day. She was intelligent, resourceful, and persuasive throughout her life.

Roz was driven to leave Alabama as a young woman. She moved to Washington DC immediately after high school, then enrolled and graduated

from a Bible College. She was hired by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as an assistant. She has a signed document from J. Edgar Hoover thanking her for her contributions to the United States.

Roz met, was courted by, and married James C. (Jim or JC) Gallahan in 1957. His brothers told us that she was the most beautiful woman they had ever met. She was intelligent, caring, and enchanting.

Roz and Jim moved to the Manassas suburbs in 1958 and had three daughters, Sandy, Gayl and Pam. Pam -their third daughter - was born with an inoperable tumor on her spine leading to partial quadriplegia. Without health insurance, Roz and Jim had many years of struggle. Roz washed diapers, cared for the hospital oxygen tents at the house, and drove to healthcare appointments – while Jim worked to pay the bills. It was a time when people did not ask for help and when you just did what you had to do. Roz was a source of strength and was devoted to her family. Roz even drove one of Jim's dump trucks when he needed help. Roz loved to tell the story of being pulled over by a policeman because her truck was overloaded. She managed to talk the policeman into letting her shovel off the excess rock while he waited!

Roz loved music throughout her life and continued to play the piano, even teaching piano for some time. She planted and cared for beautiful gardens at her home. She “put up” countless jars of home-grown vegetables which became a cornerstone of the family nutrition. She cooked the best fried chicken and apple pie in Virginia! She loved the outdoors, biking, and camping. She bought a 24' camper, attached it to the family truck, and took her girls camping frequently – on her own. She was a devoted mother.

Roz was an early and influential champion for the rights of disabled individuals in the 1960's. She fought for her daughter, Pam, to attend regular schools in the school district – and she won. She had to become a school driver to make

that happen – fighting for a van, and then becoming the driver. She had to fight for ramps for disabled access to school. She had to fight for a bathroom equipped to change diapers at the school – and she drove every day to change diapers! For a historical perspective, a great movie is Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution, on Netflix.

As time went on, Roz had episodes when she suffered mentally. Today, she would find ready medication and support to bring her forward. Unfortunately, back then, she had to hide her struggles – and she suffered. She managed, she worked hard, she helped raise her grandchildren, she worked nights at 7-11 for many years, and she was strong. And at times, she suffered mental dysregulation. This was hard for her and for those that loved her.

Roz is survived by her daughters, sons-in-law, and their families: Sandy and Richard Wright and family, and Gayl and Tom Loutzenheiser and family. Roz was a daily force for Jennie Strunk and Frankie Smith, Pam Gallahan Smith's children. She is survived by a total of eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Roz is also survived by her sister, Regina Holmes. Roz's husband Jim, her third daughter Pamela Smith, and her dear sister Glenda Neal preceded her in death.

In the spirit of finding cures for mental illness, Roz's brain has been donated to the Harvard Brain Bank, a program that seeks to understand and find solutions for mental illness.

A gathering to celebrate Mamie Rosiland Gallahan will be held Friday, March 17th, from 4-7 at Pierce Funeral Home, Manassas, VA . A brief graveside gathering will be held at noon on Saturday, March 18th at Hillsboro Cemetery, Purcellville, VA.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Harvard Brain Tissue

Research Center, McLean Hospital, Mailstop 138, 115 Mill Street, Belmont,
MA 02478. Secure online gift:

<https://giving.mclean.org/mclean-brain-bank/>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 17. 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home Celebration Room
9609 Center Street
Manassas, VA 20110
<https://www.piercefh.com/who-we-are/celebration-room>

Reception

MAR 17. 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home Celebration Room
9609 Center Street
Manassas, VA 20110
<https://www.piercefh.com/who-we-are/celebration-room>

Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mamie Rosiland Gallahan.



March 16, 2023 at 08:05 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mamie Rosiland Gallahan.



March 16, 2023 at 05:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Roz



Gayl Loutzenheiser - March 16, 2023 at 09:30 AM



“ Mark, Julie, Ryder, Logan & SK purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Mamie Rosiland Gallahan.



Mark, Julie, Ryder, Logan & SK - March 15, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mamie Rosiland Gallahan.*



March 14, 2023 at 03:00 PM



“ *Debbie, Ken, Stacey, Blane & the boys purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mamie Rosiland Gallahan.*



Debbie, Ken, Stacey, Blane & the boys - March 14, 2023 at 10:55 AM



“ *I vividly remember Aunt Rosiland from my childhood- my dad, Fred, was a brother to Jim. I was always entranced with Aunt Rosiland's deep southern accent & her sweet spirit & lovely smile ! We often went to their home on Sundays to visit & my brother, David & I always had fun playing with Sandy & Gail ! Aunt Rosiland was passionate about life & gracious even when dealing with many hard things life handed her ! She will always hold a special place in my heart ❤️*

Linda Gallahan Brazil - March 12, 2023 at 07:17 PM

MH

“ As a very young child, I remember a time when my father (Herb) and Uncle Jim purchased, raised, and butchered some hogs. At times Uncle Jim and Aunt Roz would visit to check on this joint venture. I remember Aunt Roz as pretty and very kind. She would get on the floor and cut paper dolls out of a catalog and play with me and my sisters. After the hogs were butchered she gave each of us a bracelet with a little heart that had our names engraved on it. To this day, after sixty-something years, I remember her kindness and still have that little bracelet. I'm sure she was a wonderful mother and will be missed. May she rest in peace. Cousin Diane

Margaret Gallahan Hough - March 12, 2023 at 03:18 PM

TC

“ Sandy sorry to hear of the passing of your mother I remember rick you and I working at the manassas postal service may she rest in peace. Toni jordan chapman

Toni jordan chapman - March 12, 2023 at 06:18 AM

MD

“ We are deeply saddened to hear of Roz's passing. She was a very Spirited Lady. And very caring. She cared very much about her children and grandchildren. Many times she would visit us and have Coffee or a glass of Tea. She brought Jennie and Frankie Jr to visit me for Christmas. I enjoyed my time with her. She will truly be missed but not forgotten.

Mary L Smith Doyon - March 11, 2023 at 07:21 PM

MP

“ Sandy and Gail, I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She's with your dad in a much better place and I always admired her for the life she was dealt and her perseverance of making it the best for all other family. I loved your mom and always enjoyed our visits and seeing her great big smile. It amazed me all that she could remember and it was a joy spending time with her. She did love her chocolates and I hope she has plenty in heaven.

Mark Pritt - March 11, 2023 at 03:56 PM

DG

“ I remember my dear aunt Roz as a beautiful lady who was intelligent and charming. She cared deeply for and loved her family. There was no one like her. I loved and admired her. May she rest in peace as she joins her loved ones.

Don Gallahan - March 11, 2023 at 08:54 AM