



Ruth Sorensen Beal

March 1, 1943 - August 21, 2020

Ruth Sorensen Beal passed away peacefully from chronic lung disease on August 21st, 2020 at the age of 77. As she had wished, her family was gathered near.

Born in occupied Denmark during the second World War, Ruth's early years were marked by visits to her grandparent's farms in the Danish countryside. As the oldest of four girls, Ruth took on a lot of the home responsibilities of cooking and cleaning while both of her parents worked. These home making skills learned early in life would continue to bless and enrich every aspect of her future life.

Ruth exemplified the best that the 20th century had to offer- she was optimistic, hardworking and approached problems with the idea that they could be solved. As a teenager, she studied hard, earned money, and made her way to Grand Prairie, Texas as a high school foreign exchange student. One year in Texas was enough to sell her on the joys of being an American citizen. After a brief return to Denmark, she worked in a factory to earn money for her trip back to the United States on a steamboat.

She graduated in Nursing from Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho. While in a class on International Relations, Ruth broke with the mold of the class and sat down on the side where the boys were sitting. It was there that she met

Richard Smith Beal. The two hit it off right away but the timing wasn't just right. Richard served a 3-year LDS mission to Denmark while Ruth did a stint as a flight attendant on Pan Am. On January 31, 1969 everything had fallen into place and Ruth and Richard were married.

Richard and Ruth spent 15 short years together in this life as a married couple. In that time, they had five children, lived in multiple states and countries, and eventually settled down in a house in Northern Virginia where Richard accepted a job in the Reagan White House. They enjoyed many of the same things such as classical music, traveling, trying new foods and church service.

Sadly, Richard passed away early at the age of 38, leaving Ruth to raise five children on her own. Ruth was more than up to the task of raising stalwart children, passing her homemaking skills onto her sons and daughters, making a home on a tight budget and utilizing every talent she had been blessed with to guide their lives on a path of stability and encourage her children in their pursuits.

Ruth's talents and skills were legendary. She could put on an entire wedding, including making elegant dresses, wedding cakes and doing all the flowers. She loved growing and using the vegetables and flowers from her garden. She was extremely prepared and uniquely self-reliant in everything except doing her taxes.

She was deeply religious, as devoted member of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Ruth's faith was centered on a practical and pragmatic belief that the Lord loves you and wants to bless you. She viewed trials (of which she had many) through the lens of faith and diligence, allowing them to refine her character and deepen her faith. She accepted many church assignments but especially relished her years teaching the gospel to

teenagers in Sunday School, and her service as an ordinance worker in the Washington D.C. temple.

The fruit of her parenting labors became the addition of two daughters-in-law and two sons-in-law, and 18 grandchildren.

Ruth joins her husband Richard Smith Beal, her mother Magda Schou Nielsen, father Frode Holst Sorensen, and her sister Ulla Foss.

She leaves to cherish her memory her sister and brother-in-law Carla and Mogens Rimm, and her sister Anni Jensen. Her five children Emily (Carl) Nuzman, Jason (Holly) Beal, Trevor Beal, Melinda (Matthew) Davis, and Quincy (Natalie) Beal and 18 grandchildren.

A service will be held for the family only at the church but will be presented live on Zoom for those interested. To get the Zoom info, sign up on the link in order to get an invitation.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054aaaac29aa8-funeral>

All are invited to the graveside service, please wear a mask and practice social distancing at the site. To join the funeral procession, place a paper with the name "Beal" in your front windshield. Meet at the Fairfax Memorial Park Office (Not the funeral Home) 4401 Burke Station Road, Fairfax, Va.22032 and with for instructions from the cemetery when the family arrives.

Cemetery Details

Fairfax Memorial Park

9900 Braddock Road
Fairfax, VA 22032
(703) 323-5202
info@fmpark.com
<http://www.fmpark.com/>

Tribute Wall

SM

“ I will miss Ruth. Her capacity to genuinely care for people and share of herself, her talents and love of gospel truths were a testament to the person she was in life. Most vividly, I admired and, at times, was intimidated with her candor. Early in my association with her, we had a casual conversation about ancestry and genealogy, wherein I was trying to making a connection with her through possible links to Denmark through Danish conquests in England. Most might respond with a word or two on the topic or a nod at the supposition, but she launched quickly into correcting some of things I shared, smiled and walked away. From then on I knew that I could always rely on her for an honest response to questions I might pose. When ill, I could rely on her Christlike loving concern for my family with delicious meals and a kind thought. I could see her love of service again as she regularly visited Sandy as a Visiting Teacher and more pronounced in the way each of her children served faithfully in the Church. What a wonderful legacy to have and by which to be remembered. When this season of Covid is over and I return to church, I will miss seeing and talking to Ruth.

Steve Mason - August 26, 2020 at 12:28 PM

MR

“ I am the only person who has known Ruth since the day I was born as her first little sister. My earliest memory of my life with Ruth is our go-to-bed-ritual. First brushing teeth the in bed in our warm and secure bed recess that our father had made for us. Here we said the Lord’s prayer and later she taught me pray personal prayers too when I was old enough.

Our ways parted when Ruth emigrated to the USA, but she kept the family connections by visiting us as much as she could, so that both I and my husband didn’t have the feeling of a distant family member when she came to see us here in Denmark.

Later it became possible for us to go visit her, the first time for Emily and Carl’s wedding and several times after that. She shared our interest in American history and took us to many historic places.

Each time we went to see her she arranged a family get together where we met all her family and today we really feel that we are part of her family as persons we know and not just distant persons living far away. I think that was a top priority for her.

The last few years none of us have been able to travel, but still we kept in contact by Facetime. That gave us the feeling of being close despite the long distance.

May Ruth rest in peace with the ones she loves. She will always be in our memory.

Lots of love
Carla & Mogens

Mogens Rimm - August 26, 2020 at 06:33 AM

MD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



melinda davis - August 25, 2020 at 08:04 PM

BB

“ Brent and Steve Bowen purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ruth Sorensen Beal.



Brent and Steve Bowen - August 25, 2020 at 09:26 AM

MP

“ I will always remember Ruth. She was such a wonderful sister. We were over at their home to watch President Regan accept a 2nd term as the President and mentioned that Richard was in the hospital fighting for his life. Ruth made the Renaissance dress I wore for Mindy's wedding 20 years ago last Wednesday. Maurie and Jerry Pyle

Maurie Pyle - August 25, 2020 at 12:50 AM

NC

“ NUZMAN FAMILY : DWAYNE,SUSAN,& CHILDREN purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Ruth Sorensen Beal.



NUZMAN FAMILY : DWAYNE,SUSAN,& CHILDREN - August 24, 2020 at 07:28 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth Sorensen Beal.*



August 24, 2020 at 03:48 PM