



Ruby J. Rawls

February 6, 1920 - August 13, 2008

Ruby J. Rawls

1920 – 2008

Ruby Lee Johnson Rawls was born on February 6, 1920, in Bertram, Texas. She passed away peacefully in San Antonio on August 13, 2008 at the age of 88. Mrs. Rawls put up a long and valiant effort against Alzheimer's disease. Ruby was raised on a small farm near the Hill Country community of Joppa and was the eleventh of thirteen children born to John Charles and Josie Mae Erwin Johnson. Though three siblings died as children or infants, Ruby grew up with a large, but close-knit family having four brothers and five sisters. She graduated from Briggs High School in 1937, and left the Bertram area about a year later. In 1943 she met and married Simeon L. "Sam" Rawls in Houston. They were married for 51 years until his death in 1994.

Ruby faced many challenges in her life, but is renowned for her positive outlook, sense of humor and wonderful laugh. Her oldest son, Jerry, was born while Sam was piloting bombers in Europe during World War II. After the war, Sam received orders to move to Tucson. In early April 1947, less than 3 weeks after the arrival of their second son Dennis, Mrs. Rawls heard a radio broadcast of the news that a large military transport plane had crashed on take-off from Kelly AFB in San Antonio. Certain that Sam was scheduled to fly from San Antonio back to Tucson, she knew her life was about to change. Ruby was the foundation of the family during the years Sam spent recovering

from his severe injuries. Her ability to do what was needed, when it was needed, and without complaint, was her mark. The countless hours of dedication and sacrifice she made while helping Sam overcome his injuries demonstrated the compassion and caring qualities that would define Ruby. The Rawls family became residents of San Antonio after the crash, and their youngest son, Warren, was born in 1954. Sam, who had returned to work for Shell Oil Co., was transferred to Houston in 1959. The Rawls family lived in Houston until 1972. Ruby worked at a variety of jobs in Houston to help cover the cost of raising 3 boys and ultimately got her real estate license. She had a short but successful career selling real estate during the last 3 years she lived in Houston.

In December 1972, Ruby and Sam moved to Georgetown, Texas. It was there that Ruby rediscovered tennis, a game she hadn't played in decades. She became an active member at the Serenada Tennis Club, where she not only enjoyed the exercise, but also the warm camaraderie of her many good friends at the club.

While living in Georgetown, Ruby was diagnosed with breast cancer. She used her faith and positive attitude to face and conquer the disease. After treatment, she returned to the active life she loved and was cancer-free the rest of her life.

In the summer of 1994, Mrs. Rawls moved to San Antonio where Sam was spending long periods of time in the hospital. She was widowed in September of that year.

When her own ability to live independently declined in 1998, she moved to Freedom House, a new Alzheimer's care facility. Freedom House is where she remained to the end, becoming something of legend for her longevity.

Being a devout Southern Baptist, Ruby was an active member of a congregation wherever she lived. She belonged to Alamo Heights Baptist Church in San Antonio, then to Westbury Baptist Church in Houston, and then to the First Baptist Church in Georgetown. Her faith was strong, and because of it, she never worried. Ruby was enthusiastic about life and loved caring for

all things.

Ruby is survived by her three sons, Jerry S. Rawls Los Altos, CA, Dennis W. Rawls Talent, OR, and Warren L. Rawls Fair Oaks Ranch, TX and their families which include five grandchildren, and her sister-in-law Helen Copeland Houston, TX. A special friend and companion, Connie Sharon, has helped make Ruby's life more fun, fulfilling, and comfortable for the last 14 years. Mrs. Rawls is preceded in death by her parents and husband, her four brothers "J. C.", Alton, Yates, and Ozias Johnson, and her five sisters Ona Glimp, Oma Willis, Eulalia "Johnnie" Hart, Vera Mosbey, and Theatious Miller. The family would like to extend a special appreciation to the staff and caregivers at Freedom House for the attention and love they gave to Ruby. Honorary pallbearers are grandchildren Amanda Genovese, Steven Rawls, Kevin Rawls, Kyle Rawls and Kathryn Rawls, and step-grandson Huron Smith.

SERVICES

Internment will be at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on Monday, August 18th at 11:15 AM. After the burial service, all friends and family are invited to a memorial service and reception at Freedom House, 12455 Freedom Way, San Antonio, TX 78245. The memorial service will begin at approximately 2:00 PM. Food and refreshments will be served at the reception.

For anyone wishing to make a contribution, the family suggests memorials to the Air Force Village Foundation, FBO Freedom House, 5100 John D. Ryan Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78245.

Tribute Wall

EC

“ *Ruby was a great lady, whom everyone loved. She always enjoyed a laugh and/or a dance with my late husband, Vincent Lazarony, while he was at Freedom House. She will be missed by all her loving family and friends.*

Elizabeth R Lazarony Carwile - August 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Jerry,
Never are we ready for an event like this even if circumstances may make it easier. She is in a better place. God looks over us all. We have all been blessed in so many ways. I am afraid I have taken it for granted too many times. She will al*

Mary Ann and Monte Hasie - August 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *My sympathy for your loss. Hope to see you soon.*

Michael B. McKinney - August 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *Jerry, Dennis and Rawls Family*

Your mother must have been quite a lady.

Our prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Bobby and Debbie Gleason

Bobby Gleason - August 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Jerry, Dennis, and Warren,*

Susan and I sent our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. We know your mother was truly an inspiration in your lives. We love you!

Jerry and Susan

Jerry & Susan Pittman - August 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ *Jerry, Dennis and Family: Lorraine and I offer our heartfelt condolences.*

Robert and Lorraine Elliott - August 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GN

“ *Jerry, Dennis and Family. I did not hear of your mother's passing until 9:30PM Sunday. I am sorry that I cannot be there for the memorial service, but Joe Love and I send our deepest sympathy. Be assured of our prayers and sincere regret in your time of*

George Nelson - August 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ *Dennis & Jerry,
Sorry to hear about your mom's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time.*

Gary & Karen Hughes - August 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *It was a great blessing to know Ruby. I love her dearly . My heart goes out to all her family and loved ones. God bless you.*

Maureen Christianson - August 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ We still think of Ruby so often. She was so full of life when she lived here. It sounds like she had wonderful care at Mission Park.

james shepherd - August 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Ruby was a wonderful addition to Ladies' Nite at Serenada Racquet Club on Thursday nites. All her Georgetown friends will be sad to hear that she has passed.

Pam Geurink - August 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Our Deepest sympathy to the Rawl's family at this time. Ruby was one of the greatest neighbors we ever had and she and Sam made our stay in Georgetown very enjoyable. Ruby was a wonderful friend and person. We miss her.

Bob and Leona Leinweber - August 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Hello to you all! I just wanted you to know how special your mother was to me. I will remember her laughter and smile and the way she would speak with her eyes. I took care of Ruby for the last 3 years with Odyssey Hospice and I will miss her so much! The

Toni Salazar - August 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Words cannot express the deepest sorrow for the loss of Ruby. Even though her beautiful smile and eyes faded long before she left this earth, know that all of us at Freedom House will miss her. She will always have a special place in all our hearts. Warr

Shirley Hernandez - August 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM