

Ruth Bowen James



Ruth Bowen James

02/3/23 ~ 11/23/11

Ruth Bowen James returned home to her husband Wayne on November 23, 2011, passing peacefully to the other side of the veil, surrounded by her loving children. Ruth was born on February 3, 1923, her Mother's birthday, in her family home in River Heights, Utah. Ruth's parents were Lewis and Addie Bowen who served as Bishop and Relief Society President during 11 (concurrently for seven) of Ruth's growing up years. She was truly born of goodly parents and was raised by and with two brothers and three sisters all of whom remained devoted to their faith throughout their lives. This family's bonds of love through their mortal lives was extraordinary. The strength and faith of these eight stalwart individuals has been the greatest of blessings to generations that are following. They are a beacon of light and their warm embraces have resulted in an unending spirit of love. They sacrificed. They worked hard. They were the Greatest Generation. Most of all, they bestowed the gift of unconditional love. We have no doubt about the

glorious reunion that has already taken place on the other side of the veil.

At the beginning of her freshman year at South Cache High School, Ruth had the opportunity to play a cello - high school owned, of course - my Dad always teased, "We were poor (referring to the family he grew up in) but at least we could afford sugar on our bread and milk (inferring Mother's family couldn't). Ruth on the cello and her friend, Norma Kowallis, on the violin, performed together in church, in funerals, and in other activities, including their high school commencement exercises. When Ruth was playing in the school orchestra, she was incessantly teased by a trombone player who sat behind her and would de-tune her cello whenever he got a chance. His name was Wayne James.

After high school, Ruth had the mandatory tonsillectomy and then entered nurses training at the William Budge Memorial School of Nursing. How her parents came up with the \$125 for her tuition, she never knew. After three years of residency (required) consisting of daily eight-hour shifts at the hospital, including the night shift at times, and a full day of school, with pay of \$2 a month for the first year, \$3 for the second, and \$4 for the third, she graduated in June of 1944.

After nine months overseas flying a P51 on combat missions over Germany, with many sweet letters exchanged, Wayne returned on Thanksgiving Day 1944, and a whirlwind romance, engagement and marriage took place within a week. The Pilot and the Nurse were married on November 29, 1944 in the Logan LDS Temple.

Ruth devoted 43 years of her life to the nursing profession. She served as the Night Supervisor of Nurses at St. Marks Hospital from 1964-1984. She was loved by all she served with. What other Supervisor would deliver homemade cookies and grape jelly to the entire night crew every Christmas. She worked the night shift so that she could be home with her children during the day. Don't ask her children when she slept. It was obviously done with mirrors (borrowing a phrase from our Dad).

Mother's service as a nurse did not end at the hospital doors. Mother responded to innumerable calls and visits to the home from neighbors, relatives and friends seeking advice, counsel, and assistance for their pains and illnesses. No one was ever turned away. All knew that they would be lovingly treated and sent out the door with renewed confidence that they were going to get better.

Ruth served in many callings in the LDS Church, and most fittingly, many years in the Relief Society as the Compassionate Service Leader.

Ruth is survived by her four children: Jerry (Georgia) of Holladay (currently serving an LDS Mission in Zimbabwe, Africa), Darla (Dean Davies) of North Salt Lake, Dennis (Jan) of Bountiful, and Janice (Joe Ahuna) of Kaneohe, Hawaii, by 22 grandchildren whom she loved and spoiled, and by 43 great grandchildren. She has one surviving younger sister, Ella Jensen, in Smithfield, one sister-in-law, Donna May, in Orem and another sister-in-law, Alma James, in California.

Funeral services will be held at the Bountiful 10th Ward (1145 N. 200 E.) on Saturday, December 3rd, at 1:00 p.m.. A viewing will precede the funeral from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Relief Society room.

Jerry and Georgia James, Dean and Darla Davies, Dennis and Jan James and Joe and Janice Ahuna offer their special gratitude for the loving care of the Barton Creek staff and nurses, South Davis Community Hospice and other medical providers. We are so grateful for the loving friendship of the Barton Creek residents and the Barton Creek Branch. Most of all, we wish to thank all of the friends, family and associates who have shown continual love and support to our mother throughout her life. Our gratitude to the Bountiful 10th Ward members (past and present) for their lifetime of love and friendship to our family and for their willingness to host the funerals of our mother and father.

Published in Salt Lake Tribune on November 27, 2011