



Oweda "Ruth" Nickens

January 30, 1931 - March 3, 2020

Oweda "Ruth" Nickens, age 89, of St. Anne, passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

She was born January 30, 1931 in Kankakee, the daughter of Harvey & Beulah Zollicoffer.

Ruth married Melvin Nickens in June of 1948. He preceded her in death in 1971.

She worked as a radiation therapist and a hospital administrator. She was also head of the admissions department at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. Ruth worked in the daycare department at Asbury United Methodist Church for several years.

Ruth was a world traveler. She was recognized as Who's Who in the Midwest. Ruth held a master's degree in Health Administration. She was a true believer in the Lord and His teachings.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Terry & Antje Nickens of Kankakee and Greg Nickens; seven grandchildren, Keyomo Smith, Candice Taylor, Nakia Tetter, Matthew Nickens, Mackenzie Nickens, Mila Nickens, and Niels Nickens; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she is preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorial visitation will be held 9:00 a.m. until the 10:30 a.m. memorial service on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. Deacon Patrick Skelly will officiate the service.

Inurnment will follow at Mound Grove Cemetery in Kankakee.

Cemetery Details

Mound Grove Gardens Cemetery

1000 N. Greenwood
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-6726

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 14. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

MAR 14. 10:30 AM (CT)

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1480 W. Court St.
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Tribute Wall

RH

“ Ruth was my neighbor but more so my friend. We had 38 years between us in age, but that isn't what makes people gravitate to one another. We spent hours talking, sharing and worshipping together. I miss my friend very much but she was excited also for the next step, she had full faith in God's promise and zero fear. Ruthie loved her orange crush soda pop so much that one year for her birthday I made her an orange crush birthday cake 🎂. Not too long before she passed she told me where she is to be buried and that she wanted Pastor Greg from People's Church in BBA to give her Eulogy by her graveside and she wanted a song played by Andre Crouch titled Through It All. Ruth loved that song.

<https://youtu.be/iB2pPCydEjs>

I wasn't aware of her passing so I wasn't at any services that may have been held in her honor, but I don't suppose it matters seeing how we shared such wonderful time's together while we were both alive. I miss and love you dearly Ruth, thank you for always being my friend! Rebecca Henderson

Rebecca Henderson - February 12, 2023 at 02:49 PM

KF

“ I just found out about this wonderful lady's leaving. I too was blessed to have known her notwithstanding meeting her not so long ago. She was someone you'd definitely remember after meeting her. Her spirit was so beautiful. I used to tell her she reminds me of my mom, i.e. petite, spunky and super sweet! She was a beautiful person inside and out. I know her loved ones must miss her terribly; I can't even imagine... She was one of God's special people. I will miss her smile and spunk! Wish I had the opportunity to have known her for a much longer time so I could have heard some of her travel stories. God bless you Mrs. Nickens!!!! I am so pleased that you chose to know me.



Karren S. Farmer - March 16, 2020 at 04:18 PM

TW

“ Ms Oweda was a true sweet heart. Her and I shared many moments together at the nursing home. She played the piano so well from memory. She was very excited to know she still has it. We also had a deep discussion on black history. It was amazing to see her light up talking about all the great African Americans of the past. She definitely had a heart of gold. She loved her boys and she loved the Lord. I thank the family for sharing such an amazing woman with us. She is truly missed. She touched my life in the few months I knew her. There is no greater lady then Oweda!! Although she is missed, I know one day we will meet again!! This time she will be pointing out the greats to me❤️ enjoy your youthfulness Ms oweda❤️ love you and thanks for letting me get to know you! 🤗

Tea woodle - March 10, 2020 at 06:35 PM

EA

“ *To Terry and Gregory Nickens:
Losing your mother has to be a great sadness for you, but try to remember the joy and love that will be missing from many, many lives. Although we mourn her passing, we should rejoice in the love and joy she brought to the world at large! Not only did I lose a long-time neighbor, I lost a lifetime friend! I will always remember her for the happiness we brought each other as we played cards, visited each other, and cruised the world! Ruth will be missed by many!*
Esthel Allen



Esthel Allen - March 10, 2020 at 01:12 PM

MR

“ *Very nice lady, always a pleasant smile. I remember her from St.Marys 1968-'70..*

Maury Runnion - March 10, 2020 at 10:06 AM

RJ

“ *To Terry, Greg and the entire Nickens Family.
I'm truly sorry for the loss of your Mom, Mrs. Oweda Ruth Nickens. As you, Mrs. Nickens was truly a second mom to me, especially a spiritual mother and my heart grieves with you all in the homegoing of your mother. Be comforted knowing that I'm praying for and with you.* Roland



Roland Jones - March 09, 2020 at 09:08 PM

LO

“ Ruth has been a Teacher I worked on the side of for years! Ruth has been not only a Teacher I worked with as a co-worker also my Mentor and close Forever Friend! Ruth had a serious side she had a humorous side but most of all she had a loving side that included a strong Spiritual side with the Love of God so strong it came through and she loved people in all walks of life. Ruth was an encourager she had a gift of Encouragement in which she encouraged people in their faith of God. She would say yes, you can you can do all things through Christ in His strength you can do all things! Ruth would smile and say Don't take any wooden nickels and keep your faith in who and she would point up to Heaven! Today Ruth is one of God's Angels in Heaven and her memories will live on in my heart daily. I have grown stronger as a Christian woman due to Ms. Ruth's gift of mentoring me in the faith over the years with her teachings of being strong in the Lord and believing "Yes, I can with the Faith of God I can do all things I thought impossible to do." Ruth is in Heaven now along with my Mom who she went to school with years ago. Prayers to the family and friends of Ms. Ruth Nickens who will live on in our hearts daily and we will one day meet again in Heaven!

In Sympathy & Love

Leila Owen

Leila Owen - March 09, 2020 at 04:38 PM

DS

“ There's hardly ever been a day since childhood that my thoughts have not been with the Nickens Family. Gregory, Terry & I were very close friends growing up. Mr. Melvin & Mrs. Ruth Nickens and Family living on Evergreen were a very close family and I was blessed to have been a friend along with so many others. Mrs. Nickens will be missed by all who knew her. Greg and Terry please know that during these times of bereavement in your loss the Lord God Almighty IS with you and Will CONTINUE TO BE WITH YOU NOW and FOREVER MORE. Praying for you my forever friends.



Danny

Danny C. Brewster, Sr. - March 09, 2020 at 01:44 PM

AE

“ She was a beautiful soul and it was my honor to know her. She spread joy everywhere she went. I looked forward to that wonderful smile of hers. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.
Angie Everette

Angie Everette - March 09, 2020 at 01:29 PM

DM

“ She was always a gift to those of us that cared for her. I loved her so and was so happy to be her adopted daughter.

Darlene McGehee - March 09, 2020 at 12:04 PM

ET

“ Sending love & prayers to my cousins Gregory & Terry. Just a few days ago my mother who has Alzheimer's and does not remember too many people was wondering how her cousin Oweda was doing. They were a year apart & grew up together on Evergreen.



Elayne Coffie, Grand Prairie, TX - March 08, 2020 at 07:28 PM

EC

From: Elayne Coffie

Elayne Coffi - March 08, 2020 at 07:30 PM

ME

“ Terry, so sorry for your loss. Ruth was a gift to all of us. She imparted love and joy to all she encountered. Praying for you and your family.

Marsha Easter - March 08, 2020 at 10:44 AM

SS

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Ms. Ruth. She was my daughters 4 year old teacher 14 years ago. We adored her so!

Stacia Sellers - March 07, 2020 at 10:03 PM

KS

“ Condolences to the family. She will be missed. She was my supervisor in admitting. She was a good person. Very a caring woman. Prayers for all.

Kathy Sullivan - March 07, 2020 at 08:58 PM

TD

“ Terry, So sorry to learn of the loss of your mother. Condolences to the entire family. May she Rest In Peace.

Tom Dandelles - March 07, 2020 at 01:50 PM

KE

“ Dearest Terry and Greg. We were very sorry to hear of your mom's passing. Loved coming over and scarfing down her silver dollar pancakes or watching Terry and Randy trying to eat all of the shrimp at Redwood Inn! We also enjoyed our trip to Hawaii/Atlanta, and know that Mom enjoyed traveling with her on their cruise. Please know that we loved your mom and we're sending you prayers and blessings. Kim (Allen) Edwards.

Kim Edwards - March 07, 2020 at 11:44 AM

MM

“ MR MRS lit a candle in memory of Oweda "Ruth" Nickens



MR MRS - March 07, 2020 at 07:36 AM