



Ruth Elaine (Crandell) Parsons

December 11, 2019

Ruth Elaine (Crandell) Parsons was born May 15, 1944 in Saginaw, Michigan, the daughter of Muriel (Smiley) Crandell and Howard Crandell. A 1965 graduate of the University of Michigan Music School, she taught elementary music in both Fenton and New Buffalo, Michigan. She was a violinist with the Saginaw, Michigan Civic Symphony Orchestra during her high school years and served as a church choir director during her college years. In 1969 she married John Thomas Parsons. Ruth is survived by her dear husband John and was the mother of three wonderful children...John A. Parsons of Mason, Ohio, David M. Parsons of Plainfield, Illinois (wife, Cheryl) and Nancy Parsons of Gilbert, Arizona.

She was the proud grandma of 7 grandchildren: Jake Riley and Hannah Elizabeth Parsons, Brianna Elyse, David Alexander (Alex), and Cameron Wesley Parsons, and Henry Matthew and Miles William Drucker and recently became a great grandmother to Evelyn Rae Ochoa.

During her lifetime Ruth devoted several years to running a very successful walk site in Naperville, Illinois for Multiple Sclerosis. Because of her hard work she was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award from the National MS Society in Chicago, Illinois, the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award and the Naperville Family Spirit Award. She loved and admired all the young teenagers who came out to support her work...she considered them the hope for our future.

In retirement, Ruth took on the responsibilities of the presidency of the Glen Lakes Florida Garden Club. She accepted willingly the chance to share her love of nature and gardening with others. She was responsible for starting a scholarship program for young men and women going into the field of horticulture which still is given each year. At LVE she started a Women's Club, ran a Writing Your Own Memoirs Group, ran two canasta groups and put on a benefit concert during the Christmas holidays for many years. She was also active in the choral groups at LVE.

A memorial service will be held on December 28th at the Lanier Village Estates Chapel at 1:30 PM. Memorial offerings may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Alzheimer's Foundation, a charity benefiting Parkinson's research or a charity of your choice.

Ruth's favorite saying throughout life was a quote by Grellet "I shall pass this way but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness I can show my fellow man, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Tribute Wall

MP

“ *Ruth was a special lady that I had the pleasure of calling a dear friend. Margie*

Margie Parker - December 20, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *You were My Aunt, but to me You were also my Older Sister, because in my Early Years You were there for me. You were Kind beyond boundaries, Loving, Caring. You were a Mentor to me, and Your ability to multi task filled me with awe. While You have gone ahead, to wait for me, I know when we meet again Everything will be in order and The Best, because that is Your Legacy THE BEST*

Robert Crandell - December 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Ruthie, was My Aunt, but because my early years as well were with her she was like my Big Sister. Ruthie was Caring, Giving, and more energetic and outgoing than anyone else I knew. I lived through her stories, of all she Planned and Did. While she has gone ahead of me I know she is probably busy already, planning and organizing, spreading a caring and compassionate way because everything she did she did to The Best of her ability. And that is her Legacy THE BEST*

Robert Crandell - December 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Ruthie, was My Aunt, but because my early years as well were with her she was like my Big Sister. Ruthie was Caring, Giving, and more energetic and outgoing than anyone else I knew. I lived through her stories, of all she Planned and Did. While she has gone ahead of me I know she is probably busy already, planning and organizing, spreading a caring and compassionate way because everything she did she did to The Best of her ability. And that is her Legacy THE BEST*

Robert Crandell - December 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Ruthie, was My Aunt, but because my early years as well were with her she was like my Big Sister. Ruthie was Caring, Giving, and more energetic and outgoing than anyone else I knew. I lived through her stories, of all she Planned and Did. While she has gone ahead of me I know she is probably busy already, planning and organizing, spreading a caring and compassionate way because everything she did she did to The Best of her ability. And that is her Legacy THE BEST*

Robert Crandell - December 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Ruthie, was My Aunt, but because my early years as well were with her she was like my Big Sister. Ruthie was Caring, Giving, and more energetic and outgoing than anyone else I knew. I lived through her stories, of all she Planned and Did. While she has gone ahead of me I know she is probably busy already, planning and organizing, spreading a caring and compassionate way because everything she did she did to The Best of her ability. And that is her Legacy THE BEST

Robert Crandell - December 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ You were My Aunt, but to me You were also my Older Sister,because in my Early Years You were there for me. You were Kind beyond boundaries, Loving, Caring. You were a Mentor to me, and Your ability to multi task filled me with awe. While You have gone ahead, to wait for me, I know when we meet again Everything will be in order and The Best, because that is Your Legacy THE BEST

Robert Crandell - December 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Please accept our sympathies and best wishes. As with my sister Cathy, I fondly remember our trip to Disneyland in CA with Aunt Ruth. I also remember playing games with her (she went by Elaine back then) when we visited our grandparents in Saginaw as well as visiting her "cottage like" home in a relatively isolated place near some body of water that I don't recall. One night there was a flashlight down by the water that scared Aunt Ruth; some male neighbors of hers went down to investigate & came back jokingly telling Ruth there was a Frankenstein like character walking on the beach chanting her name. Anyway, I mostly recall Aunt Ruth's laugh; she always seemed to enjoy life & had a wonderful sense of humor. She will be missed.

Dick & Joyce Barnes

Dick Barnes - December 15, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ I have such great memories of Aunt Ruth. I will never forget her laugh, visiting her in Florida with her inside tree decorated for different seasons, and how she was always so busy being involved in her community and helping others out. And even though she was far away she was such a source of comfort for my mom. Those phone calls between Ruth and my Mom were special and I could see and hear what great friends and sisters they were.

Sharon Kelly - December 15, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ So many memories... The trip to Disneyland back in 1968 was a highlight with Cathy, Dick and sue. Her musical abilities were a great inspiration to me in my (feeble) attempts to play the piano. In my mom's last days, calls from Ruth made her feel so good. My condolences to the family.

Michael Kelly - December 15, 2019 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ Ruth left many lasting memories for many different people but nothing is as special as the relationship between her sisters. They were best friends and put family before anything else. Whether getting together for Christmas in Chicago, family reunions in Burlington or hanging with Norma in Sarnia they brought our family's together. I know these memories will be cherished and Ruth will be deeply missed.

Paul & Elaine Kelly

Paul and Elaine Kelly - December 15, 2019 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ Mom I will miss you tremendously. You were the most beautiful soul inside and out. I am so honored to be your daughter. Thank you for the example of kindness you set in this world. I love you always.

Nancy Parsons - December 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ What a blessing to have met Mrs. Parsons! I'll always remember her for her infectious smile and kind soul. To her family, my thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time and may the celebration of her life through wonderful memories ease the pain. It's comforting to know that she is at peace and continually sharing her smile with eternity.

Mars Manderico - December 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Ruth had a wonderful sense of humor...very dry at times...that lightened those tense moments in life. She had a loving heart, especially for those who were struggling with physical, mental and emotional issues. It is an honor and a privilege to call her "sister." She was a wonderful mother who was very proud of her children, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchild. Family, past/present/future, were a source of strength for her. Pictures of all the generations surrounded her wherever she lived. How fitting that our service is at Christmas time...her favorite time of the year... She is with the angels, now!

Adelaide Heyde Parsons - December 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ We send our heartfelt condolences to all of cousin Ruth's family. She was always so fun to be around, I can hear her laughter in my heart even now. God bless each of you, as you come together to celebrate her life and mourn her loss. You are in our prayers. What a talented and accomplished life she led and what a strong legacy of love she left to all of you.

With love, Peter & Arlene Coy

Arlene & Peter Coy - December 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Mrs. Parsons, it's funny..... I'm 43 years old and yet I still refer to you as "Mrs. Parsons". I guess that's because during the most impressionable parts of my childhood, that's who you were to me. And that impressionable part of my childhood is still with me. So many memories that you are a part of. I remember you paying Nancy and I \$15 (\$7.50 each) to do laundry and the same amount to clean a room in the house. I remember you eating at my and Nancy's Cookier restaurant and buying food even though it was your food anyway! I remember Nancy and I having sleepovers on New Year's Eve and you saying "see you next year!" And we would all laugh. I remember you teaching Nancy and I to play double solitaire. I spent as much time at your house as I did my own! Alas, I went to college and you sent me letters and care packages and even sent me flowers on Valentine's Day once. Time passed and you moved to Florida and I got married. Yet, you made sure to come back to Chicago to be at my wedding and it meant so much to have you there. For as long as you were able, you faithfully wrote me and I still have many of those letters. Thank you for being my "second mom." While I cry here on earth as I think of how much I miss you, I smile through those tears as I think of you in your heavenly neighborhood starting up clubs and socials and excursions, your body and mind fully restored! Love you so much..... thank for the memories..... Kerry

Kerry Strom - December 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Such wonderful memories I have of Aunt Ruth - when she visited us when we were young, she would play the piano and sing fun songs with us. And if you ever challenged her to a game of double solitaire, you were bound to lose because she had the fastest hands known to mankind. Then there was the year she took my brother Dick and I, along with my cousins Sue and Mike to Disneyland for Christmas- the poor dear got sick while we were there but she persevered! And it was an honour to be in her wedding party. I loved when the 3 sisters got together because a majority of their time was laughing while they went down Memory Lane. My heart goes out to Uncle John, John, Dave and Nancy at the loss of your wife and mother. She truly was an inspiration ???. I know she's giggling right now with my Mom and Aunt Elinor ???. Rest In Peace Aunt Ruth - Love you!

Cathy Borshell - December 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Such wonderful memories I have of Aunt Ruth - when she visited us when we were young, she would play the piano and sing fun songs with us. And if you ever challenged her to a game of double solitaire, you were bound to lose because she had the fastest hands known to mankind. Then there was the year she took my brother Dick and I, along with my cousins Sue and Mike to Disneyland for Christmas- the poor dear got sick while we were there but she persevered! And it was an honour to be in her wedding party. I loved when the 3 sisters got together because a majority of their time was laughing while they went down Memory Lane. My heart goes out to Uncle John, John, Dave and Nancy at the loss of your wife and mother. She truly was an inspiration ???. I know she's giggling right now with my Mom and Aunt Elinor ???. Rest In Peace Aunt Ruth - Love you!

Cathy Borshell - December 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM