



Ruth Ann Carathers

March 31, 1944 - May 19, 2026

Ruth Ann Rochelle Carathers, 82, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2026 with family by her side.

A native of Hickman County, she was born at home in Dodd Hollow on March 31, 1944 to Berniece and Tom Rochelle. She was a member of the Fairfield Church of Christ in Centerville, Tennessee.

Ruth Ann was a Teacher's Aid at East Elementary where she made a difference in the lives of many students, helping them improve their reading skills.

She later retired from BellSouth in Green Hills where she made lifelong friendships, sharing a joke of the day with coworkers.

Ruth Ann and her late husband, Gene, enjoyed traveling. She especially enjoyed the vast western landscapes on their road trips to visit Gene's extended family in Texas.

Her many hobbies included collecting vintage pottery and glassware, flower gardening, and ceramics. She shared her time and talents with friends and family by taking cut flowers or painting Christmas ornaments around the kitchen table.

Ruth Ann was an avid quilter and master seamstress. She was a member of the Fairfield Church quilting group who provided handmade quilts as gifts for newlywed church members, newborns, and families in need. Ruth Ann created custom wedding dresses for her two daughters and a niece and beautifully smocked and embroidered dresses for her granddaughters every Christmas, Easter, and birthdays. She made baby quilts, many original designs, for each new baby born into the family.

She was instrumental in the formation of the Hickman County Quilt Guild, establishing the annual quilt show, celebrating quilts made in Hickman County and honoring those who made them. With Gene's help, they crafted a way to hang and display the handmade textiles for an annual community event, showcasing more than 200 quilts each year. Every quilt was photographed and included in a historical archive of five book volumes documenting the 1,041 quilts complete with a biography of each quilter.

Ruth Ann was preceded in death by her loving husband Gene Carathers. She's survived by daughters Tina Martin DeVore (Russell), Tracey Martin Outman (Matthew), and son Christopher Martin; stepsons Jim Carathers (Debbie), John Carathers (Kathy), Robert Carathers (Sarah), and stepdaughter Mary Ann Carathers Monday (Jerry Skeen).

She was known as "Ninni" to her 16 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one greatgreat grandchild.

Ruth Ann is also survived by her sister, Barbara Rochelle Bishop of Columbia, and her brother, Marion (Linda) Rochelle of Goodlettsville. She also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends whom she adored and loved dearly.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the Hickman County chapter of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, c/o Hickman County Imagination Library, 120 W. Swan St., Centerville, TN 37033 or to the Fairfield Church of Christ for the Quilters & Crafter groups.

"You don't have to be successful. You just have to be faithful."

There will be a facebook live stream of the service on the McDonald Funeral Home Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/McDonaldFH/>

Cemetery Details

Lowes Bend Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Visitation

MAY 31. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Funeral Service

MAY 31. 2:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Tribute Wall

CS

“ *Charlotte M Staggs lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Charlotte M Staggs - June 06 at 02:50 AM

KC

“ *We were saddened to hear of Ruth Ann's passing. We will miss her smiles and great personality that she had. She was probably the most happy and joyous person that I have known. It was always a pleasure to visit her and the rest of our relatives in the holler- a great group of people. Every time we visited Eugene and Ruth Ann, she always had us a pecan pie to enjoy, she made the best! I think Eugene liked us coming so he could share in the pie. Her passing is a loss to us, but she is in the place that we all hope to be in someday. Thanks Ruth Ann.*

Kevin and Lori Carathers - June 01 at 12:35 PM

LG

“ *Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruth Ann Carathers*



Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam - May 31 at 06:38 PM

TH

“ *I hate to hear this. I rented a house from her and her husband in 2010 and they were so sweet you will forever be missed*

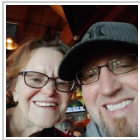
Tiffany Halbrooks - May 30 at 10:47 PM

DP

“ *Deborah Peery lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Deborah Peery - May 30 at 10:48 AM



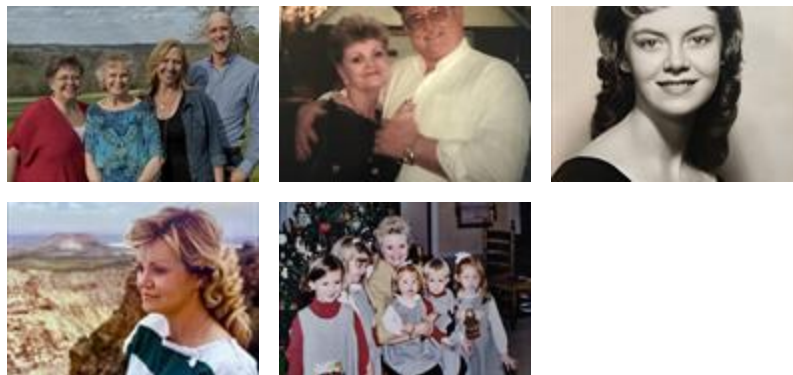
“ *Loveless Carole lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Loveless Carole - May 29 at 07:42 PM

TO

“ *24 files added to the tribute wall*



Tracey Outman - May 29 at 05:41 PM

SG

“ Stanley & Judy Gordon lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers



Stanley & Judy Gordon - May 29 at 04:59 PM



“ Ruth Ann was the sweetest, most encouraging person I have ever known. She treated her step children and step grandchildren as her very own. She always had a smile and a hug for everyone. She will live in my memories forever. She was a treasure!

Debby Carathers - May 28 at 12:30 PM

WP

“ Condolences and prayers for Ruth Ann's entire family; fond memories of her will live on forever!!



Wayne & Jewell Prince - May 27 at 06:26 PM



“ Sandi Westover lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers



Sandi Westover - May 27 at 02:14 PM

CT

“ *Charlene Talley lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Charlene Talley - May 27 at 12:03 PM

ST

“ *In autumn 2011, I participated in a quilting class taught by Ruth Ann. We made a 12 block "sampler" ea. week working on a new block. One gave me fits! I told Ruth Ann I'd become frustrated with it before finishing it. She was very encouraging, assuring me it wasn't a big deal & if I had any other problems bring it to class & we'd figure it out together! I also told her of a fun memory of her as a Teacher's Aid at East when I was in 5th grade. At Halloween she'd dressed like a witch & came into our classroom. We kids loved it! Then she let go this blood curdling cackle. When I shared this with her she laughed & said, "I can still do that!"*

Tina, Tracy & Chris & families, sincere sympathy. Such a dear lady!

Sherry Tidwell - May 27 at 12:30 AM

SW

Ruth Ann was one of a kind. She was always the same no matter how she felt or what was troubling her. We shared lots of tales when I was cutting her hair. She was a multitalented true "Southern Mom" who adored her children.

Sheryl Waugh - May 30 at 02:26 PM

LR

Prayers and Sympathy to Ruth Ann's families. Such an original, talented and wonderful lady. Heaven gained a bright, beautiful spirit!

Lucy Buchanan Redden - May 31 at 02:41 PM

ST

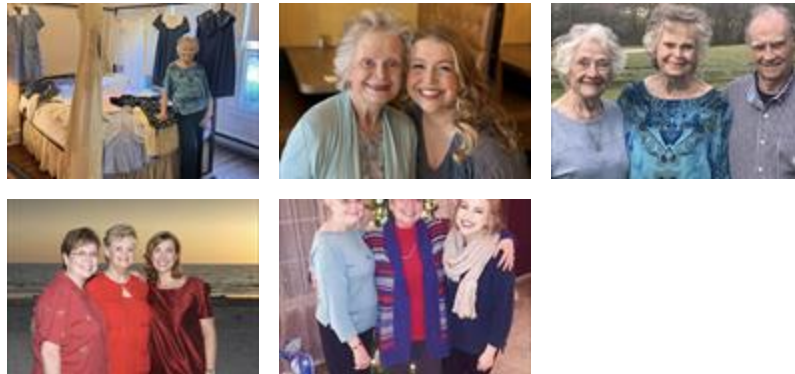
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Sherry Tidwell - May 27 at 12:15 AM

TO

“ 32 files added to the tribute wall



Tracey Outman - May 26 at 11:53 PM

MM

“ So so sorry to lose this friend, she had the best personality anyone would love her. My thoughts & Prayers to Tina, Chris, Tracy.



Margaret Martin - May 26 at 11:51 PM

MS

“ *Melissa Shelton sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Melissa Shelton - May 26 at 08:42 PM

HF

“ *Harvey Frye lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Harvey Frye - May 26 at 06:27 PM

HF

“ *Rest in peace, Ruth Ann. Glad to have had her as a cousin and friend.*

Harvey Frye - May 26 at 06:26 PM

GG

“ *Ruth Ann instructed a class at Bernard where I made my first quilt. She always had a welcoming smile for everyone. We would always laugh that we had the same last name.*

Gwendolyn Ghant-Carothers - May 26 at 05:58 PM

RG

“ Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers



Ronald Gammons - May 26 at 05:56 PM

CM

“ Cheeva McClearen lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers



Cheeva McClearen - May 26 at 05:35 PM

SH

“ Sarah Hinson lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers



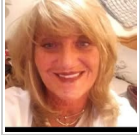
Sarah Hinson - May 26 at 03:57 PM

RI

“ Ruth Ann was a beautiful soul and glad to say she was my cousin. She will be missed by the entire family. We love you.



Rita Weatherspoon Ivey - May 26 at 12:53 PM



“ *Paula Crowder lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Paula Crowder - May 25 at 04:25 PM



“ *Terrie Utley lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Terrie Utley - May 25 at 03:09 PM



“ *Roy & Sharon McCoy lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Roy & Sharon McCoy - May 25 at 10:08 AM



“ *Michael Bates sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Michael Bates - May 25 at 01:39 AM

CB

“ *Connie Bowen lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Connie Bowen - May 24 at 11:39 PM

CL

“ *Carole Loveless lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Carole Loveless - May 24 at 10:51 PM

KG

“ *She was a special friend! I loved her very much! Praying for her family and friends!*

Kay Gilbert - May 24 at 07:57 PM

KG

“ *Kay Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers*



Kay Gilbert - May 24 at 07:54 PM

RS

“ *We both are so sorry of the loss.*

Regina & Martha Shelton - May 24 at 02:56 PM

RH

“ We are thinking of u.

Ruby & Rex Horner - May 24 at 02:55 PM

DG

“ Diane/Lonnie Garrett lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers



Diane/Lonnie Garrett - May 24 at 02:52 PM

ES

“ Ed and Melinda Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Ruth Carathers



Ed and Melinda Sullivan - May 24 at 02:50 PM

BB

I first knew Ruth Ann as a child when we rode the school bus together. She was kind and beautiful. And those qualities never changed.

Brenda Cude Brooks - May 26 at 10:57 PM