



Helen Ruth Fredrickson

November 24, 1931 - June 16, 2023

Helen Ruth Fredrickson, 91, of Paxton, passed away on Friday, June 16, 2023, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, after a short illness. She was surrounded by all her children and several other family members as she peacefully left this life to go to her heavenly forever home.

Ruth was born November 24, 1931, in Loda, IL, the daughter of Ray and Margaret Cleary. She married John Mikalik Sr., on October 23, 1949, and he preceded her in death on March 1, 2020; they had seven children. She married Clarence Stanton (Stan) Fredrickson, her high school boyfriend, in 1986; he preceded her in death on January 14, 2017.

Ruth is survived by her loving family; John (Linda) Mikalik, Gloria (Gene) Pittman, Phillip (Teresa) Mikalik, Dianna Mikalik, Martha (Rick) Gentes, Frederic (Sherri) Mikalik, Todd Mikalik, David (Sherri) Fredrickson; 17 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, four sisters, and just recently by her stepdaughter, Teri Hancock of Paxton.

Ruth graduated from Rankin High School in 1949 and has held many jobs during her career while also raising seven children who were very active in sports and school activities. She was the best waitress at her parent's Main

Café Restaurant along with some of her sisters. She was a co-owner and operator of J & R Food Market in Rankin, she worked as a secretary, read water meters for the city and was a school bus driver for the Rantoul Air Force Base. She got her children involved in delivering the local newspaper, even delivering them herself when needed. She was a pillar of the community and served on many organizations. Returning to her passion for waitressing and serving others, she worked at Ott's in Rantoul, where she was a valued employee for over 23 years, finally retiring at age 85 on June 24, 2016.

She was a member of St. Malachy Catholic Church in Rantoul and a faithful servant of God. Her family is her legacy and was the center of her life. She "loved big" and made a personal connection with everyone she knew. She was the best daughter, wife, mother, aunt, sister, friend, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother one could ask for, and she was cherished by all who knew her. She took time for her friends, strangers, and anyone who wanted to visit or needed encouragement; she was there to help and was like a "second mother" to many.

Per Ruth's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded. A visitation will be held on Thursday, June 29, 2023, from 10:00 am until the 1:00 pm memorial service at Cox-Knapp Funeral Home in Paxton. A burial will follow at Glen Cemetery in Paxton. Services will be officiated by Pastor Randy Downing. Memorials may be made to the Rankin Lions Club or Rantoul Knights of Columbus.

Cemetery Details

Glen Cemetery

602 E. Summer St.
Paxton, IL 60957

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **29**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Cox-Knapp Funeral Home
142 W. Patton St.
Paxton, IL 60957
(217) 379-2353
coxknappfh@gmail.com
<http://coxknapp.com>

Memorial Service

JUN **29**. 1:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Helen Ruth Fredrickson.*



June 28, 2023 at 06:04 PM



“ *Mikalik Family,*

So sorry for the loss of your beautiful and caring and loving Mother, Ruth. Her obituary was so well written and so captured your Mother's spirit and grace. Your Mother had a gift with people. Not only did she raise such a wonderful family but she always had time for people. She was always very kind and very generous with her words. HIS light was in her eyes. You could see it and you felt it. I know that I am a better person to have known her. Although we have lost her here, there is so doubt that Heaven gained another Angel. Knowing Ruth, I am sure she is a great cheerleader in heaven encouraging all Angels to continue to do their spiritual work. Again, I am so sorry for your loss. May your memories provide you comfort and your faith strength and thanksgiving to have had such a wonderful Mom. Blessings - Sandy Bushue

Sandy Bushue - June 28, 2023 at 08:20 AM



“ *Ruthie was so good to our three children, Paul, Joe, and Betty Graham, when they each worked at Ott's during high school. I would enjoy greeting her at the back door of St. Malachy when ushering 7:30 Mass - so genuinely friendly. A truly wonderful lady.*

John Graham - June 23, 2023 at 03:37 PM

RH

“ Will always remember our family reunions at the parks! Ruth always ask about or talked to our kids! So sorry for your loss! The Randall Hofer family

Randall Hofer - June 21, 2023 at 05:50 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen Ruth Fredrickson.



June 20, 2023 at 11:09 PM

BL

“ Very sorry for your loss

Bill Lee - June 20, 2023 at 06:55 PM

PP

Sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. She was one of the sweetest woman!
💔

Patty Polson - June 20, 2023 at 07:55 PM

M(

Thank you, Patty

Martha Gentes (daughter) - June 21, 2023 at 03:39 PM

TH

“ So sorry for your loss. I met Ruthie at McDonald's in the Sunday morning coffee group. She always made me feel so welcome. Then when we moved to Idaho she always enjoyed hearing about our adventures and the wildlife we have seen. Can still hear her laugh n asking weren't you scared getting that close. thoughts n prayers are with you.

trudy hubbard - June 20, 2023 at 04:17 PM

GP

Thank you for the kind words, mom never met a stranger, then the stranger becomes friends 🙏❤️😊

Gloria Pittman - June 20, 2023 at 05:19 PM

VH

“ I am so sorry for your loss.

Vicki (Stifle) Howie - June 20, 2023 at 04:02 PM

M(

Thank you, Vicki

Martha Gentes (daughter) - June 21, 2023 at 03:40 PM

VE

“ So very sorry for your loss. She was the best neighbor.



Vickie Ellis - June 20, 2023 at 03:56 PM

GP

Thank you Vickie 🙏❤️😊

Gloria Pittman - June 20, 2023 at 05:21 PM

M(

Thank you, Vickie

Martha Gentes (daughter) - June 21, 2023 at 03:40 PM

JW

“ *Ruth has been a lifelong friend to me. We grew up together as kids in Rankin, and have so many good times to reflect on. We maintained our friendship for 83 years. We (Don and Jean) would go out to eat with Stan and Ruth so often and those are just some of the memories that mean so much to me. We have much love for her family and many thoughts and prayers for them. She will be greatly missed.*

Jean Wheeler

Jean Wheeler - June 20, 2023 at 03:24 PM

GP

*Thank you Jean , mom loved you, I had been with you and mom had so many stories and laughter
Love you Jean*

Gloria Pittman - June 20, 2023 at 03:30 PM

M(

*Thank you, Jean for being a dear friend. Her friends become our friends and ours hers.
You and mom always had some good stories.
Love you!*

Martha Gentes (daughter) - June 21, 2023 at 03:38 PM