



Ruth T. Penfield

December 23, 1919 - June 11, 2018

STEWARTSTOWN, NH – Ruth Till Penfield, of Stewartstown, NH, died peacefully at the Coos County Nursing Hospital on Monday, June 11, 2018, where she received excellent care and an immeasurable amount of love. She was 98 years of age. Being the oldest resident in town, she was honored to have received the Boston Post Cane.

Ruth was born on Dec. 23, 1919, to Frank and Elizabeth Till in East Orange, NJ. She married Robert Walsh Penfield on September 21, 1940, and they spent the first few years of their marriage as a Navy military family. After the war, they lived in the Hartford, CT area and parented 2 daughters and 1 son.

In the summer of 1954, Ruth and Bob settled in North Stonington, CT where they raised their family. Her passion became her private school, Little Red Horse Montessori Nursery School. She developed a program incorporating Maria Montessori's philosophy of education which stressed cultivating the child's natural curiosity to learn, as compared to classrooms and pre-determined curriculums. An important part of the school day was being greeted by Ruth's beloved German shepherd, Duchess. Ruth earned Montessori certification through correspondence courses from the St. Nicholas Training Centre in London working directly with Maria Montessori's trained scholars. She also completed an intensive work study at Marymount College in New York City. Little Red Horse Montessori Nursery School was the

first Montessori School in southeastern Connecticut.

Ruth was actively involved in the North Stonington Congregational Church. She served as Superintendent of the church school, organized the original Kinderkirk program and was director of Christian Education. She served on the local school board and nursing board and was a Girl Scout Leader. She also involved herself with the Westerly YMCA Junior Leaders Program, the local Garden Club and taught craft/flower arranging classes for adults. During her “free time,” she painted memorable pictures with oil paints and worked with copper sheeting to design impressive pictures that she framed.

Each year, when school finished in June, Ruth and her husband packed up their family and spent summers on Martha’s Vineyard where they owned/operated a guest house and snack bar at the yacht club.

For several years after retiring, she split her time residing on Martha’s Vineyard, MA, in Mystic, CT and in Stewartstown NH. During her final years, she lived year-round in Stewartstown with Allen and Joan Coats on their dairy farm. There she took pleasure in going to church, watching the cows and their comical behaviors, feeding/observing the birds and gardening. She enjoyed the four seasons in a home surrounded by mountains on Bishop Brook Road and delighted in watching the local wildlife of northern New Hampshire.

Ruth was predeceased by her husband (Robert), her parents (Frank and Elizabeth Till), a twin sister (Gladys), a son-in-law (Kai), and a grandson (Michael). She is survived by her three children: Gail Dawley-Knight of Okeechobee, FL; Joan Coats and her husband Allen of Stewartstown, NH, and Robert Penfield and his partner Jen of Preston, CT.

Ruth also leaves behind 6 grandchildren (Lisa, Jason (Melissa), Robert (Jillian), Nellie (Anthony), Joshua (Kimmie), Alysia (Jeremy)) and 12 great-grandchildren (Della, Grace, Alexander, Gabriel, Hope, Nora, Adelaide,

Anthony, Jameson, Cooper, Remy, Streeter). In addition, she leaves behind numerous nephews and nieces.

There will be a graveside service at the Elm Grove Cemetery in Mystic, CT on Saturday June 16, at 2:00 P.M.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in Ruth's memory may be made to the Coos County Nursing Home, Activities Fund, P.O. Box 10, West Stewartstown, NH 03597.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Local funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook.

Tribute Wall

GP

“ We are so sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you!

Gilles & Priscilla - June 20, 2018 at 06:04 PM

EJ

“ It was a pleasure and a gift caring for Ruth when she was with us at CCNH. We will miss her and you, her wonderful caring family who always made all of us feel so special and appreciated. Please accept our condolences.

Elaina Johnson - June 18, 2018 at 09:11 AM

SC

“ Our condolences to Joan and Allen, Gayle, and Robert and your families. We have many nice memories of Ruth...lovely lady.

Sal and Linda (Congdon) Costanza - June 17, 2018 at 09:57 PM

TM

“ My deepest sympathy to Allen & "Joanie". Thank you for trusting us at CCNH to care for Ruth. She was a delightful lady. Always given a lesson.
Terry McKinnon



Terry McKinnon - June 16, 2018 at 12:27 PM

RW

“ Sorry for you loss Joan but I was pleased to learn your mother lived to 98. My best to all of your family. I remember your Mother as being very kind.

Ronald Whitcomb - June 16, 2018 at 06:53 AM

SF

“ So sorry for your loss,our thoughts and prayers are with you all
Frank and Sheila

Sheila Fissette - June 14, 2018 at 10:46 PM

JA

“ Such a gracious lady! We will miss her! She was always so well
dressed and elegant. Always a smile when we visited her. Our
thoughts, prayers, and love are with you!

Jolen Aubin - June 14, 2018 at 10:01 PM



“ Sue Fuller lit a candle in memory of Ruth T.
Penfield



Sue Fuller - June 14, 2018 at 06:36 PM

JB

“ Josh And lola Boire lit a candle in memory of
Ruth T. Penfield



Josh and lola Boire - June 14, 2018 at 05:37 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear this Joan and Allen and family. Our deepest
sympathy to you and your family. Josh and lola Boire.

Josh and lola Boire - June 14, 2018 at 05:36 PM

SD

“ Dear Joan and Allen,
Sending you our love as you bid farewell to your mom. We pray that waves of memories will fill your hearts and minds as you gather to share stories and celebrate her life. Much love, The Dobbs Family

Shelley Dobbs - June 14, 2018 at 02:55 PM

Valerie Mahnke

“ Valerie Mahnke lit a candle in memory of Ruth T. Penfield



Valerie Mahnke - June 14, 2018 at 07:02 AM

HH

“ Our deepest condolences go out to the family on your loss.

Haven & Peggy Haynes - June 13, 2018 at 10:57 PM

DL

“ Donna Lapierre lit a candle in memory of Ruth T. Penfield

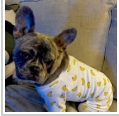


Donna Lapierre - June 13, 2018 at 07:59 PM

DL

So sorry for your loss. What a wonderful lady, I'm so glad I had the pleasure of meeting her. Sending many hugs to you all.

Donna Lapierre - June 13, 2018 at 08:00 PM



Dear Joan, I will miss Ruth in so many ways. Her quick wit, wonderful stories and especially her asking "where is Joanie?" Hugs ... Sue Fuller

Sue Fuller - June 14, 2018 at 06:35 PM

FR

*“ Mrs. Coats and Family,
So sorry to hear about your mom. Our prayer
and thoughts are with you and your family
during this difficult time. "Francine & Andre
Champagne"*



Francine - June 13, 2018 at 05:49 PM

LB

*“ Mrs. Coats and Family,
So sorry to hear about your Mom. What an impressive lady! Our
prayer and thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult
time.
Lisa, Michael, Katelyn & Nicholas Bouchard*

Lisa Bouchard - June 13, 2018 at 03:03 PM

JC

“ Thinking of you at this tough time, Joan and Allen.

Jan Corliss - June 13, 2018 at 01:22 PM