

Ruth Anna Arbuckle (born Annie Ruth Cole)

Jun 13, 2024

Arbuckle, Ruth Anna (born Annie Ruth Cole), was born in Kenton, Tennessee, on Aug. 17, 1918. She was the youngest child of Charlie and Connie Camilla Jones Cole. The family owned a farm where Annie Ruth grew up. Annie Ruth had one brother, Lafayette Clay Cole; one sister, Velma Connie Cole (Wynn); and one stepbrother, William Richie. Annie Ruth's parents and siblings have preceded her in death. Later in life, Annie Ruth decided to change her name to Ruth Anna permanently. Ruth attended grade school in Dyer, Tennessee, and high school at Trenton Rosenwald School in Gibson County.

Ruth met and married Elmodist Ivie, Sr., in Dyer, Tennessee, and moved to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1935. A child was born to this union: Elmodist Ivie, Jr., on Aug. 12, 1936. The couple moved to Chicago; however, the marriage ended in divorce. Both Elmodist senior and junior have preceded her in death. Ruth then moved to Webster Groves, Missouri, with her mother, Connie, and stepfather, Pearl Richie. Ruth enrolled in Poro Beauty School and graduated in 1945.

Ruth met and began courting Clarence Arbuckle soon after World War II. Clarence was a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army. In 1947, they married and lived in Kirkwood, Missouri. Clarence worked as a U.S. Postal Service postman, and Ruth was a beautician. Together, they owned and operated Arbuckle's Beauty and Barber Salon in Meacham Park. Once Ruth became pregnant, they bought land and built a house on Reedway Lane in Kirkwood.

On Aug. 12, 1956, their daughter Cynthia Ruth Arbuckle (Gooch) was born. Both of her children were born on the same day, 20 years apart! Ruth and Clarence raised their daughter and shared their home with family and friends. Ruth's husband, Clarence, died unexpectedly in 1974. Ruth remained in their Kirkwood home, eventually selling the salon business and retiring.



Mrs. Arbuckle

During her retirement years, Ruth enjoyed many activities such as fishing, ceramic making, sewing, crocheting, solving jigsaw puzzles and painting. She became a self-taught artist and painted over 100 landscapes and still-life oil paintings. In 2017, Ruth decided to relocate from Kirkwood and moved to Marietta, Georgia, to live with her daughter, Cynthia, and son-in-law, R. Kenneth Gooch. She officially celebrated her 100th birthday, becoming a centenarian in 2018.

Ruth was a longtime member of Unity United Methodist Church, which is located in Webster Groves, Missouri. She served on the Usher Board for 53 years, was president of the United Methodist Women's group, and sat on the church board of trustees. She remained a faithful servant of The Lord and was steadfast in her Christianity. After relocating to Georgia, she attended church every Sunday via Zoom video conference during the last years of her life, courtesy of Valley Park United Methodist Church.

Ruth celebrated her 105th birthday on Aug. 17, 2023. She is survived by her daughter, Cynthia Ruth Gooch (R. Kenneth); as well as her grandchildren Robin Hill (Tony), Carla Ivie, Philip Ivie (Lucretia), Stephanie Jordan (Raymond), Juan Ivie, Bajita Ivie, Angela Gist-Mackey (Charlie), and Tiffany Gist. Ruth is also survived by her nephews, Charles Wynn, Randy Wynn, John Wynn, Larry Richie and Tony Richie. Ruth adored, and is survived by, many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. At 105 years and 291 days old, Ruth earned her wings and went to be with the Lord due to natural causes. Ruth Arbuckle was a constant source of love and light, we are honored to celebrate her life and ongoing legacy.

Please join us in celebrating the loving memory of Ruth Arbuckle on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. The viewing will begin at 10 a.m. CT and celebration of life service will be at 11 a.m. CT at Valley Park United Methodist Church, 436 Valley School Drive, Valley Park, MO 63088. The burial will begin at 1:15 p.m. at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, 2900 Sheridan Road, St. Louis, MO 63125. Our loved one is entrusted to Wade Funeral Home, 4828 Natural Bridge Ave., St. Louis, MO 63115. There will be a repast at Valley Park United Methodist Church following the burial.