



Ruth Ann Gatz

December 6, 1940 - March 12, 2024

Ruth Ann Maxwell Gatz, "Ruthie", 83, peacefully graduated to Heaven on March 12th, 2024, in Richmond, Texas. She was born on December 6th, 1940, in Alva, Oklahoma to Marshall Rhodes Maxwell and Evelyn Florence (Baum) Maxwell.

Ruth Ann was the middle sister to Alycen and Lucille Maxwell. They were all 3 very accomplished musicians and pianists. In addition to being a talented pianist, Ruth Ann also loved to sing, dance, play the flute and perform in theatre. She was very busy as a high school student and was a member of the National Honor Society, Y-teens, Year book, choir, band, theatre, Rainbow girls, and the "Bukettes".

While she was in high school she started dating her high school sweetheart, who later became her fiance and husband, Jimmie Gatz. She attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University for two years and married Jimmie Ray Gatz on May 28, 1961. From Alva, the newlyweds moved shortly after to pursue their degrees at Oklahoma State University, in Stillwater, Ok. She graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Education with a minor in French and Spanish.

Ruth Ann taught elementary school briefly in Altamont, Kansas, they later moved to Tucson, Arizona, where their oldest son, Greg was born. They

moved to Hooker, Oklahoma next and Brad was born in Liberal, Kansas. Later, they returned to Alva to raise their children and so that Jim could pursue farming and raising animals with his father and brother. Gina was the youngest child and was born a couple of years after returning to Alva. Ruth Ann spent the rest of her days being a devoted and caring wife, Mother, Grandmother, teacher, piano teacher, Sunday school teacher, volunteer, choir member, square dancer, "Walkie Talkie" member, a PEO sister, United Methodist Women member, and Kingsland Baptist member. She moved to Katy, Tx in 2000 to be near her grandchildren and attended nearly every event they participated in.

She always looked for the best in others and tried to help others to never feel left out. She had such a sweet ministry of sending cards to others. She taught her children how to pray, to forgive, to be thankful, and about how much Jesus loved everyone. She taught that it was ok to not be perfect. She demonstrated love and compassion in her home and in her community. She loved babies! She always loved to greet others with her friendly smile and make them feel welcome, included, encouraged and special. She wanted to make the world a better place for all.

She was a tiny lady who often reminded others that dynamite comes in small packages. The most important thing in her life was prayer, reading the Bible and to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ so that others would also have eternal salvation and forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ!

Her favorite Bible verse was John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life". She fought the good fight; she kept the faith...through all of the tragedies and struggles in her life. May her legacy of faith, kindness, integrity, and mercy continue for 1000 generations!

Nearly 41 years after her husband passed away on March 16th of 1983 she has finally been reunited with him! She is enjoying meeting Jesus and celebrating with her family and friends who have passed before her.... She must be dancing the "Jitter bug" with Jimmie!

Ruth Ann is survived by her three children, Gregory Jim Gatz and wife Angela of Coweta, Oklahoma, Bradley Ray Gatz, and wife Andrea of Katy, Tx, and Gina Lou Gatz Cornelius, of Richmond, Tx; Six grandchildren, Andrew, Rebekah and husband Patton, Bailey and husband Ben, Cole, Jonathan, Anna; Her two sisters Alycen Yoder and Lucille Rhodes, her brother-in-law Joe Gatz; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

She is preceded in death by her parents; and her husband Jimmie Ray Gatz.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations in her name be made to the Alva Cory Washburn Swimming Pool fund in Alva, Oklahoma or the Go Beyond Missions program at Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Tx.

The family would like to especially thank the caregivers who took care of our precious mother in the final months and to all of our friends and family who have been so supportive and helpful in multiple ways.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 23rd, 2024 in the worship center of Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas. Visitation will be from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and the funeral will begin at 10:00 a.m. The service will be livestreamed at Kingsland.org/memorialservice. A graveside service and burial will be in Alva, Oklahoma at the Alva Municipal Cemetery on March 30th at 10:00 a.m. with a reception to follow at the United Methodist Church in Alva.

Cemetery Details

Alva Municipal Cemetery

Flynn Street
Alva, OK 73717

Previous Events

Graveside service

MAR 30. 10:00 AM (CT)

Alva Municipal Cemetery
Flynn Street
Alva, OK 73717

Reception to follow at the First United Methodist Church, Alva.