



Ruby Jackson

September 9, 1927 - August 30, 2020

Ruby Jackson

Ruby Hawkins was born to Aubrey and Ebby Hawkins September 9, 1927 in Everett, WV. She was welcomed by her siblings Drucilla, Alphonzia (AL), Sarah, Mary, and Alice. Aubrey Jr. and Evelyn followed a few years later. Their father was a coal miner at Coal Mine Number Nine in Monongah, WV. After a disastrous mine cave-in, Ebby convinced her husband to find another line of work, and the family moved to Wilmerding, PA in 1936. Her father worked for Westinghouse Airbrake, but was pushed out for being a union activist. He started his own successful business as a hauler and recycler.

Ruby spent most of her school years in Wilmerding, with occasional visits to family in Sylvester County, Georgia where she learned of her family history. One of her favorite stories was about how her father fooled the landowner and escaped the bonds of being a sharecropper.

Ruby made life-long friends growing up in Wilmerding. She attended Westinghouse Memorial High School where she played trombone in the band, was active in sports (softball and basketball), and graduated in June 1946. She was very proud of being a leader in "Tri-Hi Wy". She also excelled in the classroom. Ruby was the top student of her class but was denied the opportunity to give the valedictory address because the administration felt it was "unfair to recognize only one high achieving student" (if that student was not white).

Ruby also had friends that insisted Ruby be included on the majorette squad despite her color. She learned to cook spaghetti sauce from her Italian friends.

Ruby did not talk much about WWII. However, she was very impressed with a handsome twenty-three year old, returning staff sergeant, William Jackson.

William and Ruby were married August 3, 1946, not long after her high school graduation. Their three sons followed during the subsequent years. Meanwhile William, with help from his brothers, built the house on Crestas Avenue where the family lived for the next fifty years.

Ruby was a dedicated wife and mother. She helped with the business side of Jackson Brothers Construction (later William A. Jackson Construction) while raising the three boys. She was PTA president, a den mother for the Cub Scouts, a Girl Scout leader for her

niece's troop and a long-term election judge.

When her sons were in Junior high school, Ruby decided to continue her education at the Irwin School of Nursing in Pittsburgh. Her sons remember "helping" her with her homework in classes such as Anatomy. She was proud of earning one of the top scores on the state Licensed Practical Nurse exam. Her first job after nursing school was at Magee Women's Hospital in the nursery. She was often entrusted with the babies born before the mothers could get to the hospital. She formed a strong bond with these babies kept in isolation, but eventually decided she'd rather work with a less high-risk population. So, she began working in the private practice of Dr. Primas, and as a visiting nurse, until she retired. After retiring from nursing, she worked (for the fun of it) at Gimbels Department Store. She would joke that her savings from her employee discount exceeded her wages. About this time, Ruby became involved in helping her son Larry parent his son Larry Jr. In their free time, William and Ruby traveled around the country for his Water Authority conferences, visiting family and following the Steelers.

Ruby became a caregiver after William's stroke and decline. Fortunately, she had the support of family and friends during that difficult time. Family and friends continued to support her after she moved into her Rosedale apartment. Sisters Evelyn and Sarah helped Ruby through the transition. Her goddaughter Diane Banks provided much needed care for several years. In recent years, Larry Jr and his fiancée Angel Harris, became the primary caregivers. As Grandma's health continued to decline, Larry Jr and Angel took her into their own home, where they lovingly took care of her, during her last year.

Ruby was preceded in death by her parents, siblings Drucilla, Mary, Sarah, Al, and Aubrey, son Larry Sr. and grandchild Joanne. She is survived by her sons William (Corrie) Jackson Jr., and Ronald (Susan) Jackson; her sisters Alice and Evelyn; her grandchildren Larry (Angel) Jackson Jr., Anna (Caelyn) Nagle, Benjamin Jackson (Sarah McNeill), William "Tony" (Chris) Jackson III, Scott (Rebecca) Council Jackson, Loretta Jackson, David Jones, Jason Metcalf, Russel and Michael Tyler, Bernard Furby Jr., and Denita Furby Hawkins, and many great-grand-children and great-great-grand-children. "Aunt Ruby" leaves behind others she considered her children: Jim Tunie Jr., Steve Hardin, Carl Jackson, and her niece Pam Jackson Smyth. She also leaves behind many other nieces and nephews, and her long-time siblings-in-law Charles and Marjorie Jackson, Irma Jackson, Grace English, Vernice Jackson and Loretta Hawkins.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 9. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Tunie Funeral Home, Inc.
218 E. 11th Avenue
Homestead, PA 15120
(412) 462-6466
lisajohnson@tuniefuneralhome.com
<http://www.tuniefuneralhome.com/Default.aspx>

live Steaming of the Funeral

SEP 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Www.grievefromhome.com
PA 15219

Service

SEP 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Homestead, PA 15120
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Interment

SEP 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Grandview Cemetery & Mausoleum
1301 Lincoln Highway
North Versailles, PA 15137

Tribute Wall



“ *Ruby Jackson*

January 29, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *Ruby Jackson*

January 29, 2023 at 10:10 AM

SH

“ *Aunt Ruby, I have so many heartfelt memories of you and Uncle Bill! Going to visit that pink house at the top of the hill that we could see from the bridge. You always would greet us with your big, pretty smile and a big hug!! I miss those days with you! I will always keep you in my heart with me! I love you always!! Your niece, Sharon.*

Sharon - September 10, 2020 at 02:05 PM

JJ

“ *aunt ruby, I will miss you but I know you are where you want to be, home with Jesus and uncle william and Larry. love you bunches!!!! Love jan*

Janice jackson - September 10, 2020 at 01:25 PM

MG

“ *To Aunt Ruby, you will be in my heart. I can remember watching TV, when you lived next door to me in Heritage Square.. You will always live in my heart.*

Melonie Ann Grant - September 10, 2020 at 05:13 AM

YT

“ *I remember going to Pittsburg every year when I was younger. Things I'll never forget & always grateful for are the trip to the Allegheny fair, Kennywood, & Aunt Ruby's great scrabbled eggs! I LOVE YOU. RIH!*

Yvette Walker Tolbert - September 09, 2020 at 07:33 PM

SC

“ *I always remember grandma trying to slow me down to eat before I would go and try to play in PapPap's trucks.*

Scott - September 09, 2020 at 05:18 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ruby Jackson.*



September 09, 2020 at 09:12 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Ruby Jackson.*



September 07, 2020 at 01:16 PM

RW

“ *My Pittsburgh home. I remember running in the door and Aunt Ruby would greet me with a Big Old Hug and then we would play with Uncle William's stomach. Rest eternally Aunt Ruby. Love you!
Robert A. Walker*

Robert A Walker - September 06, 2020 at 08:02 PM

BW

“ *With love and sympathy to Bill and Ronny and family., Barbara and family*

Barbara Jackson walker - September 05, 2020 at 11:47 AM

MJ

“ *A home away from home, and another set of parents, she will be greatly missed.*

Michael Jackson - September 04, 2020 at 03:43 PM