



Mrs. Ruth A. Austin

June 22, 1937 - September 11, 2021

Ruth Ann (Salme) Austin of Pittsfield, MA passed peacefully on Saturday, September 11, 2021. She was born in Worcester, MA on June 22, 1937 to the late Stanley A. and the late Esther C. (Aho) Salme.

Ruth graduated North High School and Worcester Memorial Hospital Nursing School as a Registered Nurse. While a student nurse, she met the love of her life, a medical student, and married on June 13, 1959 in Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester.

She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Dr. Frederick Lowell Austin, Jr. and devoted daughters, Rebecca L. Thacker (Jeffrey) of Cary, NC, Laurel J. of Pittsfield, Melissa Haddick (David) of Berkeley, CA, Susan B. Kirk (Jeffrey) of Melbourne, FL, and "adopted" daughter, Katya Merrill (James) of Niskayuna, NY; grandchildren, Lindsey, Zachary, Seth, William, Benjamin, Gabrielle, Jackson, Brandon, Natalie, Austin, and Julian; three great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many dear friends. She was pre-deceased by her sister, Susan D. (Salme) Keith, and a grandson, Austin Thacker.

She raised her children as a dedicated Navy Officer's wife on Naval bases across the country meeting many lifelong friends along the way before returning to her beloved New England and settling down in Pittsfield to be closer to family.

Ruth had a natural sense of service to others and was a pillar of the community, volunteering and serving as president of the Hillcrest Hospital

Women's Medical Auxiliary, and as an active member of South Congregational Church, Pittsfield, for 47 years, serving on numerous boards including May H. Mattoon Women's Group. Her proudest contributions were serving for many years as Lay Leader Deacon, singing alto in the choir, as a bell ringer with Chancel Bell Group, and serving faithfully the community meals in St. Joseph's Kitchen.

She enjoyed participating in activities with the Springside Garden Club, Girl Scout and Brownie troops, but her greatest pleasure was to play piano at the church, Berkshire Place, and for Celia Conuel's dance studio in Dalton. Music lifted her soul and family was always at the center of her life. She is known for keeping a home filled with laughter and for always sharing photos of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the American Heart Association or South Congregational Church. Calling hours for friends and family will be held on Friday, September 17, 2021 at Dwyer Wellington Funeral Home, East Street, Pittsfield, from 2:00-4:00pm followed by a Christian service led by the Reverend Joel Huntington at 4:00pm. To best ensure everybody's health, due to the recent rise in Covid cases, all who attend this service are required to wear face masks. A private burial will be held at Rural Cemetery in Worcester.

Cemetery Details

Rural Cemetery

Worcester, MA

Previous Events

Service

SEP 17. 4:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer -Wellington Family Funeral Home - Pittsfield

220 East St.

Pittsfield, MA 01201

(413) 445-4064

info@dwyerfuneral.com

<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Ruth A. Austin*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - September 16, 2021 at 11:43 AM

AT

“ *I met Ruth thru my dear friend, Judie Grady. I remember Ruth as the nicest, friendliest lady. She was always upbeat. The May Mattoon events, the Kitchen Angels and so many other activities at her church, will never be the same, without her. I feel privileged to have known her.*
Ann Tyler

Ann Tyler - September 18, 2021 at 10:29 AM



“ *My favorite memory was when Mum would pick Sue and I up from Pomeroy and take us to our dance class. There was a sticker or sign in her car that said "You don't like the driving, you get out and walk". Still to this day, I use that expression to my family. From age 5-12, Ruth Austin was my 2nd mom and one of my mother's best friends. Know that she and Bobbee (my mom) and hanging again in heaven.*

Erica Lindholm-Andersen - September 17, 2021 at 04:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ruth A. Austin.*



September 17, 2021 at 10:10 AM



“ *52 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - September 17, 2021 at 09:08 AM



“ *Dr. Austin an family,*

We remember Ruth as a strong, kind and wonderful person. May the memories you hold in your hearts, bring you comfort.

Ed and Patricia Perlak

Ed and Patricia Perlak - September 17, 2021 at 07:36 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ruth A. Austin.*



September 17, 2021 at 06:39 AM



“ *Im so sorry for the loss of your mother Laurel.Prayers to you and may she RIP.Big hugs to you.*

Kathy McCarthy - September 16, 2021 at 10:41 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ruth A. Austin.*



September 16, 2021 at 10:19 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ruth A. Austin.*



September 16, 2021 at 09:35 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ruth A. Austin.



September 16, 2021 at 07:40 PM