



Ruth J. Schunk

April 21, 1923 - January 4, 2018

Ruth Schunk died Friday, January 5, 2018 at the age of 94.

Ruth was born Ruth Janet Strouse on April 21, 1923 to Glenn and Iva Strouse, joining older brother Ed Strouse. Ruth would grow up to follow in Iva's footsteps as a second-generation teacher, treasured, like her mother, by generations of students in Clare County.

Ruth married Mark Schunk on May 23, 1943 and they began their lives together with Mark

growing his family farm into a 560-acre operation known for its quality cattle and hay and Ruth

earning a Master's Degree in Education from Central Michigan University.

In the early days of her teaching career, Ruth worked in one-room schoolhouses, teaching

kindergarten to 8th grade, mastering the challenge of teaching the alphabet to the young ones

at the same time as advanced arithmetic to her oldest students. She later taught at Beaverton

Rural Schools and then Clare Public Schools for 43 years, serving as a primary school teacher

and later curriculum coordinator before retiring in 1986. In her retirement, she often substitute

taught at Clare, teaching the grandchildren of students she had had years before.

Generations of students will remember Mrs. Schunk as an exacting and passionate teacher

whose high expectations for each student changed their lives for the better.

Many of her

students will remember the necklace she dubbed her “magic beads” that she claimed allowed

her to see everything her young pupils were doing, even, she said, if her back was turned. Safe

to say, there was very little misbehaving in Mrs. Schunk’s classrooms!

Ruth and Mark’s son, John Schunk, was born on March 14, 1952, followed by their daughter,

Suann (Schunk) Lloyd, on May 1, 1956. John and Suann, and later Mark and Ruth’s

grandchildren, Travis Schunk, Ashley (Schunk) Nash and Whitney Lloyd, were truly the couple’s

proudest accomplishments of their 74 year marriage.

In their retirement, Ruth and Mark enjoyed traveling to Florida, Aruba and Hawaii, among other

spots and were always on the road going somewhere together around Michigan. After Mark’s

death last year, Ruth enjoyed the company of her caregivers Pat, Vivian, Tracie, Irene and Jane

and visits from her family, especially her nephew Jim Strouse.

Ruth was a deeply engaged, intelligent and curious woman, as equally devoted to following

news and current events, as she was to keeping up with the lives of those closest to her. Ruth

had an innate sense of style, wearing high heels as an elementary school teacher and never

stepping out without the most polished outfit for the occasion.

Ruth is survived by daughter Suann Lloyd, daughter-in-law Robyn Schunk, grandchildren Travis

(Erika) Schunk, Ashley (Kyle) Nash and Whitney Lloyd, great-grandchildren McCoy and Axel

Schunk and Colby and Luchesse Nash and nephew Jim Strouse. She is preceded in death by

her parents Glenn and Iva Strouse, husband Mark Schunk, son John Schunk, son-in-law David

Lloyd and brother Ed Strouse and sister-in-law Marion Strouse.

A private burial for immediate family will be held in the spring. Arrangements were handled by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line guestbook at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Tribute Wall



“ Although I did not know Ruth personally, I was very saddened to hear of her passing. Suann and Robyn, I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.
~Nate and Sheila Kiefer and family

Sheila Wixson Kiefer - January 27, 2018 at 12:46 PM

A square profile picture with the initials 'JN' in white on a grey background.

“ Suann, my sincerest condolences to you and your family. Your mother was always such a joy to work with. I loved planning her trips when I was in the area. I never saw her when she didn't have a smile of her beautiful face. May your wonderful memories comfort you always.
Julie Cascarelli-Netzley

Julie Netzley - January 21, 2018 at 08:33 AM

A square profile picture with the initials 'BB' in white on a grey background.

“ Bob Bergey lit a candle in memory of Ruth J. Schunk



Bob Bergey - January 19, 2018 at 03:22 PM

PG

“ Mrs. Schunk was my most favorite elementary teacher. She was caring, loving, strict in a very good way, and an excellent teacher. When I was in ninth grade she asked me to help in her classroom instead of study hall/lunch. I helped with special needs students. Because of that, I ended up teaching and consulting in Special Education for 35 years. I saw her at the eye doctor a few years ago and she remembered me....she shared a few stories/memories that we both laughed about. I will always remember her kind, caring ways and her true love for All of her students. I will also remember how she encouraged me to pursue my career dreams.
Hugs to her family.
Pam (Glenn) Gordon

Pam (Glenn) Gordon - January 16, 2018 at 06:06 PM

IR

Ms Ruth, I enjoyed being one of your caregivers! I loved hearing your stories and you hearing mine. You are missed so much!

Irene

irene - January 16, 2018 at 07:07 PM

JB

We always enjoyed our visits with Ruth and Mark when we ran into them at the Doherty for Sunday breakfast. They were a delightful couple, so totally devoted to one another.

Judy and Sam Brankel - January 17, 2018 at 10:42 AM

BB

Truly the end of an era, very sad

Bob Bergey - January 19, 2018 at 03:24 PM