



Ruth Ann Kelley

June 26, 1948 - October 4, 2022

Murphysboro, IL - Ruth Ann Kelley, 74, passed away suddenly on October 4th, 2022 at the Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, IL.

Ruth Ann was born in Princeton, IL to Frank and Madge (Wallace) Kelley on June 26, 1948. As a young child, she attended the First Baptist Church, but later the family joined Princeton Bible Church. Ruth was a graduate of Princeton High School, Class of 1966. For 19 years she worked in food service at Perry Memorial Hospital. Always interested in antiques, Ruth and her mother enjoyed shopping sales for bargains in Depression Glass, then selling to collectors from their home business "Best of Yesterday," shipping to 48 states! She eventually decided to resume her education at the University of Illinois, Circle Campus, Chicago, and graduated with a degree in accounting.

Ruth bought a home in Chicago, where for 22 years she worked as an auditor, thoroughly adapting to life in the Windy City. She invited family to come for holidays and weekends, treating them to visits to the zoo, the aquarium, art museums, carriage rides, and riding the EL. Upon her retirement in 2008, she moved to her dream home near Murphysboro, IL in the Mark Twain National Forest. There she volunteered at the Giant City State Park and audited many classes at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. She studied and delighted in all things in nature, particularly plants and animals native to southern Illinois. She continued to shop sales and auctions, collecting

antiques, quilts, books, and music CDs. Ruth loved nature, reading, listening to classical music, and cherished her cats!

Besides visits to family in Illinois and Oklahoma, and a trip to Mexico, Ruth took a southern route road trip to California, driving home by a northern route and visiting many national parks. However, her grandest adventure was boating down the Black River in the Amazon River Basin of Brazil, immensely thrilled with the experience of the culture and wildlife. She was the family historian, and kept a file of every family member's address, birthday, and anniversary. Family members and friends were sure to receive cards for holidays as well, even her great-grand nieces and nephews!

She is survived by her brother, Jim (Faith) Kelley, of Broken Arrow, OK; Nephews: Nathan Kelley, Tulsa, OK; Joel (Hannah) Kelley, Broken Arrow, OK; Nieces: Christina (Mark) Lenington, Portsmouth, VA; Julianne (David) MacLachlan, Olathe, KS; eleven grand-nieces/nephews, and numerous cousins. Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Madge Kelley.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2023, 10:00 a.m. at the Princeton Bible Church, followed by a Memorial Service at 11:00 a.m., officiated by family member, Rev. Curt Zachary, of Springfield, MO.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Friends of Sallie Logan Library, Murphysboro, IL.

Final arrangements entrusted to Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments, Princeton, IL

Online condolences may be directed to www.norbergfh.com

Cemetery Details

Meredith Funeral home and Crematory

300 S University Ave
Carbondale, IL 62901

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Princeton Bible Church
21890 Walter Payton Memorial Highway
Princeton, IL 61356

Memorial Service

JAN 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Princeton Bible Church
21890 Walter Payton Memorial Highway
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

HE

“ I was in close contact with Ruth about 20 years ago. We often exchanged animal postcards, and she told me about her travels. Unfortunately, contact has been lost. I've tried several times to find information about Ruth and reestablish contact – unfortunately, without success. Today I searched again and found the sad news of Ruth's death. Many greetings from Germany to the family – Ruth was such a kind person, I'm so sad I couldn't find contact again... Rest in peace! Holger Ermel

Holger Ermel - August 24, 2025 at 06:04 AM

FK

“ although we were family by marriage I only met ruth one time a few years ago in carbondale. we hit it off we had breakfast and discussed family.traded some correspondence over the next few months. it was truly an honor to have known her. I thought we had more time together but God did not have it planned that way. always cherrish what you have when you have it. fran and joliene kelley

fran kelley - January 07, 2023 at 10:23 AM

LW

“ Ruth was the lead volunteer who designed and planted the beautiful native plant garden at the entryway to the Giant City State Park visitors center. I remember her from the Friends of Giant City board and her becoming a certified Master Gardener and Master Naturalist with all of the class work and volunteer work those entailed. She especially loved Siamese cats and took in strays. She truly appreciated the natural diversity of Southern Illinois and was happy to be able to live here. My condolences to her family. — Laraine Wright

Laraine Wright - December 23, 2022 at 01:09 PM

FK

Laraine ~ Thank you for sharing these insights with us! We appreciate your kind words. The Jim Kelley family.

Faith Kelley - January 04, 2023 at 11:05 AM