

September 11, 1942 ~ August 30, 2014

It is with great sadness that I have to write that my “Ruth” passed away Saturday, August 30 after a couple months of declining health.

She gave me the best six years of my life. Although we weren’t together for a great number of years, the joy we had and what we had was immeasurable, and I was oh so lucky to have her and the experiences and love we shared.

She supported me in everything that was important to me and hopefully I’ll take all the good virtues she had and use them to make myself a better person in her honor.

She was almost 72 and I’m 70. We had planned on growing old together, but that is not to be.

I’m sure she would want to remind all of you that you need to decide what the really important things are that you want to experience in this life and do them if at all possible and love those around you with a caring heart.

Ruth was a modest person, but had done great things in her life and helped many, many people. She helped family, friends and even strangers through difficult times.

She married after graduating from high school and had three children, Kera Dawson, Tommy Howze and Jane Deal, all of whom survive her along with six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She raised her children mostly as a single parent.

She went to work for Douglas Aircraft who was then bought by McDonnell and eventually by Boeing, all the time living and working in the Long Beach, CA area.

In those 35 years, she rose from a file clerk to a purchasing agent, traveling both here and in Europe and the Far East. She said that if “you sat on it in a plane, I bought it”.

She was a well read person, and during her years of employment, she went on to earn a number of BA degrees and a couple Masters degrees and was working on a Doctorate when she moved to Blanding, marrying me and making this her home.

She loved it here. We enjoyed learning how to sail together and took trips throughout the West, Canada and Florida with our sailboat. With the tiller in her hand, she guided us through our journeys on the water as well as guiding us through some wonderful years together.

Besides being my wife, Ruth was my constant companion and best friend. Months went by like weeks, weeks like days and days like hours all in an unbelievable, loving and supportive atmosphere between us, something I never thought I would find. We, and I, lost a great person and oh how I will miss her.

– Sumner Patterson

