

Ruth Victoria KIRKMAN (nee Rogers)

Ruth Victoria Kirkman passed away on Dec. 9, 2008 from age-related causes. She was born November 22, 1925 in Victoria, BC to William and Katherine (Neidlinger) Rogers.

After graduating from Victoria High School she joined the Royal Canadian Air Force serving as a first airwoman in the weather department during and after WWII. After her service Ruth attended Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing and became an RN in 1951. She worked in Honolulu, HI, where she met her future husband, Millard Elon Kirkman. They married in 1952 and settled in Olympia, WA, and later moved to Mercer Island, WA to raise their three children.

Ruth was widowed in 1961 when her husband suffered a sudden heart attack. She worked as a nurse in Seattle and raised her three children on her own at their home on Mercer Island. In 1982 Ruth was forced to retire early due to becoming extremely ill from formaldehyde poisoning, which resulted from installing new insulation in her home. After battling the illness for several years, Ruth changed her lifestyle and became very health-conscious. She moved to an apartment in the Green Lake area of Seattle, where she lived happily for 20 years. She became an avid hiker, joining the Mountaineers, and led hikes all over Western Washington. She loved identifying wildflowers, birds and other wildlife. She walked around Green Lake daily and was active with the Greenwood Senior Center where she loved to play pickleball and baseball.

In 2003 Ruth moved to Port Angeles, WA to be near her son and his family, as her health began to fail. She maintained her sense of humor and good spirits even as she struggled to maintain her independence. Ruth is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Robin and Campbell Kirkman of Port Angeles, her daughter and son-in-law Polly and Mike Burson of Marietta, GA, son Phillip of Anchorage, Alaska, her sisters Louise Whitehead of Nelson, BC and Ethel Bradley of Barrie, ONT, and four grandchildren. She will be cremated and interred with her husband at Washelli-Evergreen Cemetery in Seattle.

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