



Ruth Irene Godley

February 24, 1923 - February 2, 2021

Ruth Irene Godley, of Muskogee, OK passed peacefully on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 just 22 days shy of her 98th birthday. She was born on February 24, 1923 in Omaha, Nebraska to Bruce Lant and Alice (Duxbury) Lant. She graduated from Omaha Technical High School in 1940 at the age of 17 and within months was employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a clerk during the construction of the Alaskan Highway. This took her from Dawson Creek, British Columbia to Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada and to Fairbanks, Alaska.

Upon completion of the Al-Can (Alaskan) Highway, at age 22, she stopped in Pasco, Washington and completed a nurse's aide program. She returned to Omaha before she began her adventure to Europe, where she was employed as a stenographer for the Civilian Civil Service, near the end of WWII. While in Germany, she was chief clerk in the Provost Marshal's office during the Nuremberg Trials. This position provided an opportunity for her to travel throughout Bavaria, Belgium, Switzerland, Holland, Scandinavia, Czechoslovakia and France.

It was in Germany that she met her husband, Major James Godley, of Savannah, Georgia. They were married in Paris and celebrated 33 years of marriage until James' death in 1983. The couple had four children while his military career moved them to California, Alaska, and finally, Yokohama,

Japan. In 1943, her husband was stationed at Camp Gruber, and they made their home in Muskogee. This was the reason they chose to return to Muskogee after he retired, where they remained the rest of their lives.

Ruth worked as the bookkeeper for Motter Bookbinding in Muskogee for a number of years. She had a love of baking, and when her best friend and co-worker decided to start a wedding catering service in Muskogee, she asked Ruth to bake wedding cakes for her business. Ruth taught herself to decorate cakes, while still working full time at the bindery. In 1971, she purchased The Cake Shop and began yet another career. Ruth shared in celebrating generations of birthdays and weddings for the people of Muskogee. The 73-year old building still stands today at the corner of East Side Boulevard and Houston.

Upon retiring from the bakery, Ruth enjoyed buying and selling antiques. She had booths in several antique malls around the area. She also loved gardening, which was obvious from the beautiful flowers in her yard.

In 1989, she returned to Alaska one last time, on a three-month vacation, traveling by motor home with her sister and brother-in-law across the same highway she helped to construct a lifetime ago. She was often heard saying that she had led a very full and adventurous life, having the opportunity to see and do many things that others could only dream about. She said if she had it to do all over again, she would not change a thing!

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, James and their son, Bruce; her parents, Bruce and Alice (Duxbury) Lant; her sister and brother-in-law, Velma and Ray Young; brothers, Ken and Keith Lant; son-in-law, Steve Wagner; and grandson, Kirk.

She is survived by her son, Nathan Godley of Ft. Gibson; daughter, Margaret

Wagner of Muskogee; daughter and son-in-law, Roberta and Charles Oeser of Wagoner; grandchildren, Lynne Wallis and husband Ryan of Muskogee, Clayton Lucas and wife Lora of Harrah, Laura Hilton and husband Nick of Muskogee, Jerry Lucas and wife Dwaynna of Catoosa; three step-grandsons, Jason, Jeffrey and Jared Oeser all of Muskogee; 16 great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and many good friends.

Ruth's celebration of life service will be held at 11:30am, Thursday, February 11th, 2021 at Cornerstone Funeral Home in Muskogee, OK with Pastor Steve Morgan officiating.

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 National Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Irene Godley*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ruth Irene Godley.*



February 10, 2021 at 04:54 PM



“ *There are many words that explain love, kindness, giving and many more, but it takes all of them to describe my friend, Ruth. We've known each other since 1963 and during all those years she had stood by me through some very hard times. She was a friend that was the giver. Never wanted you to ever try to repay her. In fact, if offended her if you tried. All my memories of Ruth are good, and loving. If I had a wish, that would be, for everyone to have a true friend, like she was to me. Ruth, I will miss you and I'm so thankful you knew how much my girls and I loved you. I've told you many times how much! God rest your precious sweet soul!
Love, Mamie and Girls.*

Pam Faith - February 10, 2021 at 12:13 PM

JA

“ Jim and Betsy Appleby purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ruth Irene Godley.



Jim and Betsy Appleby - February 10, 2021 at 08:38 AM

JO

“ I had the distinct honor of getting to take care of Mrs. Godley in her last years. Through her daughter Roberta, and Ruth herself, I had the pleasure of hearing several stories from her incredible life. I will never forget the spunk and personality that Ruth had throughout my time taking care of her. There was never a day that she failed to make me laugh with some sharp quip or sarcastic comment. There are a handful of patients that will forever reside in my memory. Ruth is one of them.

To her family, I want you to know that there are many of us who still hold her memory fondly. In these trying times, I have found it of great importance to find those little flickers of light that justify working through the dark days. My memories of Mrs. Godley make up some of those flickers. I hope in your dark days, your memories of her bring some light.

John - February 10, 2021 at 02:29 AM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - February 09, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ 66 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - February 09, 2021 at 11:15 AM