



On Saturday, December 28, 2019, Helen Ruth Richmond Manges passed away at the age of 90. Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, Edith (Sally) and James (Slats), her husband, Clinton, and their son, Clint, as well as all her siblings. She is survived by her children, Barbie Cole (Al), Ruthie Herfort (Mark), and Malou Manges.

Ruth was born on January 7, 1929, in Raymondville, Willacy County, Texas, to James Earl (Slats) Richmond and Edith Estelle (Sally) Turner Richmond. She joined big brothers Harry Davis and Bobby Gene and big sister Mildred Louise (Tootsie). They were later joined by baby sister Frances Marie (Lolliemarie). Ruth was affectionately known as "Babe" and was named after her father's sister, Pauline Ruth.

Ruth spent her childhood on the family farm surrounded by numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. She attended school in Raymondville and graduated from Raymondville High School in 1946, a year ahead of schedule. She was accepted to, and planned on attending, SMU in Dallas, but love intervened.

While working at the Rio and Ramon theaters in Raymondville, she met and fell in love with the assistant manager, Clinton Manges. They eloped in Kingsville July 8, July 1946, with Bobbie and Weldon Atchison as witnesses. They didn't tell anyone

for 2 months, but finally had no choice when her family was making plans for her to attend school in Dallas.

During the early years of their marriage she worked at Rapp's Gift Shop and Fullenwider Gift Shop where Clinton also worked repairing watches. They made several moves during their 64 years of marriage. Starting in Raymondville, moving to Harlingen, moving back to Raymondville, moving to San Antonio, and finally settling in Freer, Duval County, for almost 40 years. Their moves were made when Clinton changed jobs and/or occupations.

Ruth longed to be a mother, but due to a childhood illness, she was unable to conceive. They turned to adoption and were blessed with a baby girl, Barbara Kay (Barbie), on 25 September 1950. Barbie was later joined by John Clinton (Clint) in 1958, Helen Ruth (Ruthie) in 1959, and Constance **Marie Louise** (Malou) in 1964.

During the early 60's, when they were in Raymondville for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, they built and operated the Mongoose Lanes, which started a lifelong love of bowling for Ruth. She organized leagues and tournaments and was a very skilled participant. When they built their home in Freer, Clinton built her a 2-lane alley behind their home where she hosted parties and tournaments. She continued to bowl in leagues in San Antonio, Laredo, Corpus Christi, the RGV, and Alice. She founded the South Texas Ladies Travelers League which met to bowl each month throughout South Texas. In addition, she competed in local, state, and national bowling tournaments. Ruth continued to bowl until her knees would no longer allow her to enjoy her passion.

Throughout their marriage, Ruth worked alongside, and supported, Clinton in his many endeavors. Whether managing the Gunslinger's cheerleaders or doing the books for his business ventures, they were a team and she was his biggest fan. Her love for her husband was second only to her love for her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and now her great-great grandchild. Many a baby was weaned on Diet Pepsi and Oreos with "Meme" and only age and illness had kept her from traveling and visiting them more.

Ruth and Clinton were the proud grandparents of 10 : Jenny, Jimmy, Justin, Kasey, Courtney, Austynn, Harrison, Denys, Madelyn, and Vaughn; and great grandparents of 11: Patrick, Elisabeth, Nevaeh, Clayton, Sydney, Milo, Emily, Hailey, Hanah, Adam, & Jeffrey (JJ); and great-great grandparents of 1: Jaxon.

Shortly after Ruth and Clinton moved to the DCRC in Freer, they were blessed to be joined by Ruth's parents, Slats and Sally Richmond. They lived across the driveway from Ruth and provided their daughter, grandkids and great grandkids with countless memories. Slats a/k/a Dado and Sally a/k/a Momo would both live on the ranch until their deaths. Their family cherished that time they shared. Ruth's parents are buried in the Hahl Memorial Cemetery in Freer.

Ruth was a life-long member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She followed her parents lead into this fraternal organization, serving as Worthy Matron several times while living in Raymondville.

Ruth will be laid to rest at a private graveside service on January 6, 2020, at 11 am at Hahl Memorial Cemetery in Freer, Texas. A memorial service for her will be held immediately after her burial at the First Baptist Church of Freer. A reception/lunch will follow at the church's fellowship hall. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Gladney Center for Adoption located Ft. Worth, Texas.