



Alberta A. Ross

April 12, 1929 - August 7, 2011

Alberta Ahler Ross of Harriman, born April 12, 1929, in LaFollette, TN left this life August 7, 2011.

To all who knew her, she was a gentle nurturing woman who had a special passion for her church, her family, her community, and all her children who came through her school or classroom doors.

She graduated from Harriman High School in 1947. She earned her B.S. degree in home economics with a minor in science and elementary education from Maryville College in 1950. After teaching for many years at Central Elementary School in Harriman, she attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and earned an MS degree in administration and education supervision in 1975. For twelve years she was principal of Central Elementary School.

She was passionately involved in many civic organizations in Harriman: Women's Club, Drama Club, Music Club, Garden Club, Jaycettes, Band-Aides, Parent Teacher Organization, Delta Kappa Gamma, educational sorority, and Harriman Education Association. She was an active member of the Harriman United Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School and worked with the vacation Bible school for many years. Music was also a passion and she used her vocal talents in the church choir.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Albert P. and Mattie Brown Ahler of Harriman.

She is survived by: her husband (and high school sweetheart) of sixty years,

William Davidson Ross; her daughters, Martha Ross Raisanen (Wally), and Betsy Ross Schwepfinger (Dr. Brook); granddaughters, Julia, Rebecca, and Rachel Schwepfinger, all of Harriman; Brother, Dr. Julian Ahler, (Margo), Kingston; sister, Mary Ellen Ahler Bodman, Lincoln, Nebraska; brother-in-law, Robert Ross, Kingston; Sisters-in-law, Helen Livingston Ross, Knoxville, formerly of Harriman, Joan McCartt Ross, Clearwater, FL; nieces and nephews, Cindy Lundy, Carol Irwin (Howard), Chuck Ross (Ellen), Donna Bell, (Mike), Jay Ross (Jennifer), Rusty Ross (Angelia), Patti Ledford (Jeff), Rick Ross (Jennifer), Lee Chambers (Brenda), Melanie Lechner (Brad), Julian Chambers (Kristina), Rob Ahler (Dr. Kristen Lay), Chris Ahler, and a host of great nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Harriman United Methodist Church building fund.

Funeral will be Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at six pm at Harriman United Methodist Church. Receiving of friends will follow the service until nine pm. Kyker's of Harriman is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

WC

“ I will always have fond memories of Mrs. Ross. I am so sorry that each of you are having to navigate through this difficult time. Praying for strength and peace for everyone that is missing her now, but know that the reunion one day will be more glorious than we can ever imagine!
Walter Cunningham

Walter Cunningham - August 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ I am so saddened to hear of Mrs. Ross' passing. I'll always remember her being so sweet and comforting to me when I was the new scared little kid transferring into the 4th grade class with Betsy at Central, and Mrs. Ross telling me she couldn't wait to have me in her 5th grade class the following year, that she was saving me a spot now ...that meant the world to me, it made me feel welcomed and I loved her from that moment. What a wonderful lady!! A true class act !! Throughout the years when we'd run into one another she was always the same wonderful spirit. She will be sorely missed by all who crossed paths with her. My condolences to you Betsy, and to all of your family, May God Comfort You, Bless You, and Keep You.
Angela Luffman Butler- Class of '73

Angela Luffman Butler - August 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ My heart goes out to the entire family. My prayers and thoughts are with you all. May God Bless.
Sincerely,
Betty Bensey

Elizabeth Bensey - August 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ We want to let you know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Please let us know if you need anything at all.

God Bless, The Griffis Family

Gina,Charity, And Isaiah Griffis - August 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Martha And Betsy, your mother was my 5th grade teacher. I dearly loved her. She not only taught me from the books, but her heart also. As I got older I realized how valuable those lessons were, even though they didn't seem that important in the 5th grade. I am so sorry for your loss. They say it gets easier with time , but I haven't found that to be so, I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

Dana Clark Seiber - August 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Betsy,
I am so sorry to hear about your mom's passing. She was one of my favorite teachers. It is so hard when our parents pass on but I hope that you will remember that your mom touched so many people in such a positive way. My love to you and your sweet family.

Kathy Sims Alred

Kathy Sims Alred - August 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Bill, Martha, & Betsy
Our hearths goes out to you in your time of sorrow.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Martha & Charles McSween - August 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ To Mr. Ross and all of the family -
I don't have to tell you that Mrs. Ross was a cut above the rest. You know it, and I knew it the first time my 11 year-old eyes saw her so many years ago. She was my princiPAL the one year I attended Central. I transferred from Bowers to Central in the fall after school had started. Mrs. Ross made my scared little heart feel welcome and important right off the bat. What a lady!
Please accept my best condolences at this time of loss.

Lana (Heath) Giannella - August 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Martha and Betsy - your mother was my 5th grade teacher. It did not matter to your mom if you were clean or dirty, rich or poor. All the children were the same to her. The last time I saw her I told her that but I so wanted to give her a song called "Thank You by Ray Boltz." The words say "thank you for giving to the Lord because I am a life that is changed." It is about someone that is in Heaven and different ones come up to that person and thank her for giving to the Lord because their lives have been changed. I can just imagine that happening to your mom right now. She was a great person and she made me love school. I know there is rejoicing in heaven and a welcome home party.

Sherry Dishman Samples - August 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ We feel great loss with the death of this wonderful lady. Alberta was multi-talented and served her God well in many ways. She and Bill and family have almost seemed to be our family because of our close relationship with her brother, Julian. We were able to know Martha and Betsy well ,as neighbors and friends of our children. Her family is one of the : "First Families of Roane County"-and first family we met When we moved to Harriman in 1961!! What a blessing she and her family have been to us! and to this whole community. Julian said when telling us of her death "She was a GOOD sister..and we know,a good person. May God bless each family member during this loss - To know Alberta and Bill was to love them and theirs.

BERT AND LYNN CUNNINGHAM - August 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Our sincere condolences go the Bill, Betsy, Martha and the rest of the family. We will never forget all the kindness Alberta shared with our family. We pray that God will comfort you during this time of loss.

Dick and Donna Hall - August 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ The whole community is saddened by the loss of this vital member of the community. I always had the utmost respect and admiration for her, and am grateful to have had her as a friend! She was always so positive and encouraging to all around her, and that is a marvelous legacy that still lives in those whom she touched. God bless and keep you all in this time of loss!

Bill Farnham - August 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ God bless with his sustaining grace during this time of reflection of a life well-lived. Memories will live in our hearts forever as we remember the smiles and thoughtfulness of Alberta.

*With love and appreciation,
Wayne Duggin*

Wayne Duggin - August 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM