



## Sara M. Ruffin

February 2, 1920 - November 4, 2014

Sara Foster Maddox Ruffin, 94, devoted wife and mother, was resting in the finished work of Christ and died peacefully on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 in Laurel, Mississippi at Northview Care Center. Born in Memphis, Tennessee on February 2, 1920 to Eva Harwood Maddox and John Edward Maddox, Sr., Sara and her family moved soon after to Starkville, Mississippi where she later met Joseph Ellis (Red) Ruffin of Soso, while he was attending Mississippi State University; they married in 1939. The honeymoon that followed was unusual. Sara's new brother-in-law, Glenn B. Ruffin (age ten) begged to go with them. In her typical spirit of generosity, Sara replied, "Yes, honey, you can go." Not only did Glenn accompany them but so did sister-in-law Vema and husband Carl Ball. Together, they drove to the Gulf Coast for their celebration. To the continuing amusement of her family, the local newspaper's headline had read, "Starkville Girl is Soso Bride." Sara and Red Ruffin had four children, Elizabeth Harwood, Joseph Michael, Russell Ellis, and Sara Lydia. Sara was active in the First Baptist Church of Laurel, as well as numerous civic clubs. Her passions were her family and friends and creating a warm, hospitable home. Preceding her in death were husband J. E. "Red" Ruffin in 1990, daughter Elizabeth in 1947, sister Alliene Everest, and brothers Bill and Jack Maddox. She is survived by her three children and their spouses, seven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many friends whom she loved and who loved her. Sara was beautifully cared for during the past two years by our friend, Pat Sloan. The family also wishes to thank her

numerous other caregivers and Deaconess Hospice. Visitation will be at 12:30 PM, followed by the service at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 7, 2014, at Memory Chapel in Laurel. Interment will be at Crestview Cemetery. Instead of flowers, please send donations to the American Heart Association. Memory Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. To view and sign the family guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ Glenn and family our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Joan Flynt and Jodee Flynt-Davies - November 13, 2014 at 11:20 AM

SW

“ Russell, I am out of town & was unable to attend the funeral for your mom. You know how much I loved her. I'm so glad we had such a good visit a few weeks ago. I will be in touch when I get home. Give my love to your family.

Sue Walker - November 08, 2014 at 10:40 PM

RT

“ I pray that our Merciful Heavenly Father comforts you all, as only He can.

Riley and Marline Townsend - November 08, 2014 at 11:25 AM

CV

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you following the death of Sara. I loved her so much. She was always so sweet and kind to me as was the entire Ruffin family, especially Mamaw Pinkie. May the Lord bless you all!

Charlene Holder Varner - November 07, 2014 at 10:19 PM

SS

“ Aloha to Lydia and her family -- and a big bravo to Sara M.!

Suzy Switzer - November 07, 2014 at 03:37 PM

CH

“ Lydia & Bonnie, Thinking of you and reading our BCP Pages 491-505 while you are in the Services at Laurel, Mississippi. We have shared those pages many times over the years, haven't we. Especially thinking of Bonnie's Mother, Kathryn Nelson and the Allens among other we all loved. Love, Carole Holtwick

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**Carole Holtwick** - November 07, 2014 at 03:03 PM

CR

“ Sara M. Ruffin

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**Charles Ruffin** - November 07, 2014 at 01:16 PM

BF

“ Lovely obit. Thank you for sharing it with me. Will be thinking of you this afternoon as you say goodbye. All my best, Betsy

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**Betsy fordyce** - November 07, 2014 at 11:54 AM

AB

“ Lydia, ....and family....my heart goes out to you, having not so long ago been in your shoes...sorry I cannot be with you today....know that my prayers and thoughts are with you today her in STL..and in the coming days ahead...love to you, Anita

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**Anita Barni** - November 07, 2014 at 10:29 AM

ED

“ Thank you Sara for giving us your daughter Lydia and her brothers. You were beloved mother. Today you are in the arms of Jesus, enfolded in love.  
with love,  
Elizabeth DeRuff

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**Elizabeth DeRuff** - November 07, 2014 at 10:29 AM

PG

“ So sorry to hear of Mrs. Sara's passing. Praying for God's comfort in the days ahead. She was a very kind and sweet person to all who knew her.

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**Peggy Ruffin Gusa** - November 06, 2014 at 11:03 PM

JA

“ I'm very sorry for your loss. I know your mother was a great lady and will be missed.

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**Jerone Albritton** - November 06, 2014 at 10:47 PM

EB

“ I am so sorry for your loss, Mike. Russell and Lydia. I knew your Mother from my early days in Laurel but I got to know her better when Mother was at the Villa. She was a sweet and precious lady. It is never easy to give up our parents but I am so glad you all had your Mom as long as you did. Let me assure you that she will always be with each of you and you will know her presence. Praying for you. Ellen Wilson Brown.

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**Ellen Wilson Briwn** - November 06, 2014 at 09:16 PM

JP

“ Praying for all of the Ruffin Family in the loss of their precious Mom, I have memories dating back to early childhood of her at FBC. I lost my parents early and the quote that carried me through was...  
"Those we love are with the Lord, and the Lord has promised to be with us. If they are with Him, and He is with us, they can't be far away."--Peter Marshall

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**Jackie Lynch Perkinsin** - November 06, 2014 at 09:11 PM

PD

“ To Russell, Lydia, Deborah ... all of the Ruffin family. I am so very sorry for the loss of your wonderful mother. I will see you next week as cannot make it on Friday. Know my prayers are with you.

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**Pam Rayner Davis** - November 06, 2014 at 07:30 PM

MH

“ Dearest Lydia, So sorry to hear about your mother's death, but she has gone to be with our Lord.. She was a wonderful person and I'm so glad I knew her a bit. I still have one of her recipes for peach cobbler and will make it soon in her honor. See you later this month, dear friend. Love, Marte

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**Marte Harrell** - November 06, 2014 at 06:13 PM

DH

“ Lydia, So sorry for your loss. Your dedication to your mother has been an inspiration and I know you must feel deeply about both her gifts to you and your loss. -Deb

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**Deb Holmes** - November 06, 2014 at 01:16 PM

SR

“ My deepest sympathy. So sorry for your loss.

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**Sandy Vincent Read** - November 06, 2014 at 10:41 AM

SW

“ We were saddened to learn of Sara's passing. She was always so sweet to me when I was a child and then later when we moved to St'ville after Estel retired from the Air Force. He grew up just a couple of doors down from Sara and always thought she was so beautiful. His mother and your grandmother were dear friends. I have told that "Soso bride" story many times. I would love to get down for the service but Estel is not able to travel and can't be left alone. We send our love and deepest sympathies, Sara (Lessie's daughter)

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**Sara and Estel Wilson** - November 06, 2014 at 09:48 AM

JP

“ Sara was one of a kind, pretty, smart, and everyone close to her felt her deep love and joyful life. I will miss her beautiful spirit.

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**Joan Philpot** - November 05, 2014 at 10:59 PM

DS

“ Lydia, knowing you will find peace and joy in when remembering your mother, may you always be comforted by the love you shared. Thinking of you and your family.  
Deb Southworth

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**Debbie Southworth** - November 05, 2014 at 10:15 PM

JB

“ Praying for your family.

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**Jean Blakeney** - November 05, 2014 at 10:04 PM

NL

“ Lydia.... May the warm and loving memories of your mother sustain you and your family throughout this period of loss. Her legacy lies within the warmth and love you express and give to others. What better inheritance to have received and to pass along in this world. Deepest sympathies, Noel

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**Noel Leicht** - November 05, 2014 at 09:06 PM

CR

“ Russell and Deborah, I was so sorry to hear about your Mom's passing but I know she is in a much better place. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Love, Carol

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**Carol Rowell** - November 05, 2014 at 07:55 PM

LS

“ My thoughts go to the entire Ruffin family in your time of sorrow. I am so sorry for your loss.

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**Lucy Shinkkle** - November 05, 2014 at 04:47 PM

RW

“ So sorry Ruffin family!!

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**Rachel West** - November 05, 2014 at 02:29 PM

DM

“ Donna and Dick Murray has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

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**Donna and Dick Murray** - November 05, 2014 at 01:55 PM

MH

“ Sara was my favorite guest at the luncheons I did for her club at my bed and breakfast. A delight to know and a True Belle of the South. With her passing we have lost a Treasure. I will Never forget her! My condolences to the family and God Bless. Marcelle Harwell

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**Marcelle Harwell** - November 04, 2014 at 10:50 PM

SB

“ Sharing your grief and wonderful memories of a fine lady and mentor. I was so blessed to have known her. Love and prayers  
Sharon Barham

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**Sharon Barham** - November 04, 2014 at 08:37 PM

RH

“ Joey, please accept my condolences. I only met her a couple times, but know that she was a special woman.

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**Richard Hollingsworth** - November 04, 2014 at 05:38 PM

BS

“ So very sorry for this loss. Sending love and prayers.

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**Becky and Jake Spencer** - November 04, 2014 at 05:36 PM