

Half Staff – Ruth S. Rapp

July 7, 2012



Rockport, MA — Ruth S. (Anderson) Rapp, 91, of Rockport, MA and Bonita Springs, FL died on Saturday, June 30th, 2012, at Emeritus Assisted Living in Oceanside, CA. Ruth was born on November 22, 1921 to Gloucester highline halibut fisherman Augustus Anderson and his wife Emma. The ninth of ten Anderson siblings, Ruth attended Gloucester High School and graduated in 1939 as a Sawyer Medal recipient.

In those years she met her husband, John “Jack” Rapp Jr., at the Rockport Art Association’s Saturday Night Dances. United by their love of dancing, the two wed in 1945 upon Jack’s return from service in World War II.

Ruth worked for the Electric Light Company, Gloucester National Bank in Gloucester, MA, and Granite Savings Bank in Rockport, MA, while

making a home for her three children on Prospect Street in Rockport.

Later, she and Jack danced between Spring Creek Village in Bonita Springs and summers in Rockport, becoming active members of the Rockport Golf Club and San Carlos Golf Club in Fort Myers, FL. Ruth faithfully crewed on Jack’s International Class Star boat, “Rhapsody,” out of the Sandy Bay Yacht Club where she was also a member for many years.

Between rounds of golf, Sunday night dinners at Bill & Courtney’s, and endless crossword puzzle victories, she perfected her renowned clam dip, appearing at every family get together with her blue bowl and “Wise” chips. She managed her family’s finances and traveled the country visiting family in California and Colorado. Of course, her tradition of making “snow pudding and wind sauce”, which she said would make you “smack your pappy”, also ensured her family always remembered to come home as well.

When her husband Jack passed in 2009 after 64 years of marriage, Ruth moved to Oceanside, CA close to her daughter Nancy Rapp, where she spent the rest of her days making new friends at Emeritus Assisted Living.

Ruth was oft to say, “If you hear that I’ve died, don’t cry for me. Remember that I’ve done more and had more than I ever thought I would. I’ve traveled, I’ve had two houses, and I’ve lived to be an old lady. So, I’m not kidding: Don’t cry for me.” We will all miss her dearly.

Ruth is survived by her sister Shirley Dennen, her children William R. Rapp, husband of Courtney, of Rockport, MA; Steve Rapp, husband of Paula, of Steamboat Springs, CO; and

Nancy Rapp of Encinitas, CA. Ruth also had six grandchildren, Rechele Jordow, wife of Niklas, of Melrose, MA; Corey Rapp, husband of Tiffany, of San Diego, CA; Dan Rapp and Kristen, of Rockport, MA; Jesse Rapp of Steamboat Springs, CO; Jed Goldstein of Los Angeles, CA and Olivia, Goldstein of Encinitas, CA, along with six great-grandchildren, Hannah and Nellie Jordow of Melrose, MA; Kaidin and Isabella Rapp of Rockport, MA; and Jack and Evan Rapp of San Diego, CA.

She was predeceased by her husband Jack Rapp Jr., her brothers Eugene, Harold, Ivan, Andy, and Carroll "Buster" Anderson and sisters Ingrid Souza, Hester Sheedy, and Una Tucker.

She will also be dearly remembered by many nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends.

ARRANGEMENTS: A Graveside Memorial Service to celebrate her life will be held on Friday, August 31, 2012 at 11:00 am in Beech Grove Cemetery, Rockport, MA 01966 and a gathering of family and friends at the family home located at 23 Prospect St., Rockport, MA 01966. There will be no visiting hours.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Sandy Bay Yacht Club Sailing Program and Scholarship Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 37, Rockport, MA 01966.