



## Ms. Mary Ruth Austin

December 31, 1955 - February 24, 2012

A memorial service celebrating the life of Mary Ruth Austin will be held Tuesday, February 28th, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Hartsville. The family will receive guests at the church following the service. Brown-Pennington-Atkins is serving the family.

Mary Ruth passed away peacefully on February 24th, 2012 with her sisters at her side. She courageously fought pancreatic cancer in 2008 and lost the battle when she was recently diagnosed with cancer yet again.

Mary Ruth was born December 31, 1955 and grew up outside Utica, New York. She graduated from Colgate University and then pursued careers in communications, marketing and public relations. Mary Ruth started as a News and Public Service director in radio and matured to Vice President roles at both United Way of Greater Tampa and The Omnia Group (Tampa). In 2003, Mary Ruth moved to Hartsville to help provide loving care to her aging parents and began as a writer and editor for Sonoco's Corporate Communications department. She was promoted to Editor and Senior Marketing Communications Specialist. While at Sonoco, she had both a career she loved as well as friendships that enriched her life beyond words.

Mary Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, James A. and Mary Ruth Austin. She leaves behind two sisters, Elizabeth Holden (David) of Clinton, UT and Susan Austin (LJ Jernstadt) of Whitestown, IN and nephews, Sean and Zachary Holden. She loved spending time at the River with family members in Virginia. Mary Ruth also leaves behind her beloved dog, Yogi.

Mary Ruth was a faithful volunteer, participating in Big Brother/Big Sisters, The Humane Society, and acting as a board member of various United Way Agencies. She was passionate about her services for her churches. She loved living on her lake and spending time in her boat. She viewed each morning as an adventure and looks forward to her journey to heaven as a Brand New Day.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Hollings Cancer Center at MUSC, 261 Calhoun St., Suite 306 MSC 182, Charleston, SC 29425 or the Darlington County Humane Society, Box 1655, Hartsville, SC 29551.

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# Previous Events

## Service

FEB **28**. 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Luke Methodist Church  
302 Dunlap Dr.  
Hartsville, SC

## Visitation

FEB **28**. 4:40 PM (ET)

St. Luke Methodist Church  
302 Dunlap Dr.  
Hartsville, SC

# Tribute Wall

GY

“ Dear Susan and Elizabeth, I am so sorry to hear of your loss and a special friend also. I loved meeting Mary Ruth a few years ago, and the times we spent together doing pedicures. I didn't know she had gotten sick again, I haven't talked to her since the summer . Please know my love and prayers are with you and your family at this time. She will be missed greatly. She fought a great fight, but she is the victor now. love always. Gail Young

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**Gail M. Young** - March 06, 2012 at 01:32 PM

MP

“ Hello, I worked with Mary for many years doing translations for her while she worked at Sonoco. What a wonderful woman, always pleasant, always upbeat. I just found out this morning that she passed away last week and I was so saddened to hear that. I will miss our weekly correspondence and the smile she brought to my face every time I read one of her witty emails. I never had the chance to meet her in person but felt like she was an old friend that I had known forever. She will be missed. To her family, you are in my thoughts and deepest sympathies to all of you. - Michele Phillips, Transtek Associates, Wakefield, MA

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**Michele Phillips** - February 29, 2012 at 09:59 AM

ML

“ When I moved to Florida and Y-95 in 1980, Mary Ruth was our morning news anchor and one of the first people I met. Energetic, endearing, always chuckling about something... That's what I remember about her. She made moving into a new place so much easier. We were the same age, which makes this all the more shocking.

*Mark Larsen Tampa Bay*

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**Mark Larsen** - February 29, 2012 at 08:13 AM

ES

“ *Descanse em paz, Mary Ruth.*



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**Eliana Schmidt** - February 28, 2012 at 07:01 PM

SD

“ *In the short time I knew Mary Ruth, it didn't take me long to learn she had an indomitable spirit and faith, and an extraordinary commitment to her community and the legacy of United Way. She will be missed immensely. Her spirit inspired me --and I hope we let her live on through us by caring for each other and the community the way she did.*



*Peace and love to you Mary Ruth!*

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**Sherri Riccio Diaz** - February 28, 2012 at 11:23 AM

TW

*You left your mark on Tampa Bay Radio, you will be missed. Lovely smile, generous heart, always willing to help, 'God bless you.*

*Tedd Webb  
Newsradio 970 WFLA  
Tampa, FL*

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**Tedd Webb** - February 28, 2012 at 03:53 PM

BJ

*My very deepest condolences to the family of Mary Ruth. A very highly thought of, loved and respected lady. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this very sad time. Bill Jacobs St. Petersburg, Florida*

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**Bill Jacobs** - February 28, 2012 at 04:56 PM

GJ

*Mary Ruth was as full of life as anyone I ever met. We were both in radio at the same time in Florida, and though we only got in touch occasionally after that period her memory will be with me always.*

*Greg Jarrett*

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**greg jarrett** - February 28, 2012 at 05:18 PM

ML

*When I moved to Florida and Y-95 in 1980, Mary Ruth was our morning news anchor and one of the first people I met. Energetic, endearing, always chuckling about something... That's what I remember about her. She made moving into a new place so much easier. We were the same age, which makes this all the more shocking.*

*Mark Larsen Tampa Bay*

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**Mark Larsen** - February 29, 2012 at 08:11 AM

BB

“ *Brenda Warren Beasley sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



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**Brenda Warren Beasley** - February 28, 2012 at 10:21 AM

BB

*I knew Mary Ruth thru her parents Mary and James Austin. They were dear friends of mine..I miss them so much..Mrs Austin often spoke of her daughter Mary Ruth..She was a wonderful person ,as they were..Condolences to her family and friends..*

**Brenda Warren Beasley** - February 28, 2012 at 10:25 AM

SA

“*The brave who focus on all things good and all things beautiful and all things true, even in the small, who give thanks for it and discover joy even in the here and now, they are the change agents who bring fullest light to the world.*” - I'll miss you.

**Sarah Anderson** - February 28, 2012 at 08:53 AM

MC

“*When you part from your friend, you grieve not; for that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, as the mountains to the climber are clearer from the plain.*” *The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran*  
*I will miss you my friend Marie Carbrey*



**Marie Carbrey** - February 28, 2012 at 06:07 AM

MR

“*How fortunate we have all been to know this selfless, wise, and pure heart. Mary Ruth was a humanitarian, a counselor, a courageous and clear-thinking individual. Her friends in Florida send thanks to her family/friends in South Carolina for taking such good care of her and Yogi. Godspeed.*

**Marti Ryan** - February 27, 2012 at 09:05 PM

MD

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Marti, Connor, Bobby & the Dogs - February 27, 2012 at 08:52 PM

CA

“ *Mary Ruth -- one of my heroes. When I was recovering from cancer surgery she spent time with me, offering encouragement and advice. Her smile was contagious. Her upbeat survival attitude gave me hope, and her faith boosted my own. She will be missed but remembered with gratitude.*



Clara Atkinson - February 27, 2012 at 08:16 PM

BB

“ *Betty Bodine lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



Betty Bodine - February 27, 2012 at 02:47 PM



“ *Brenda Piscitelli lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



Brenda Piscitelli - February 27, 2012 at 02:45 PM



*Susan and Family; My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time; May you find comfort in your memories of times spent together, and knowing that Mary Ruth is at peace.*

**Brenda Piscitelli** - February 27, 2012 at 02:52 PM

MS

“ *MaryLathan Steele lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



**MaryLathan Steele** - February 27, 2012 at 02:32 PM

MS

*I am privileged to have known Mary Ruth and to have called her my friend. What an inspiration she was to me and her smile and love for others was a gift to us all.*

**MaryLathan Steele** - February 27, 2012 at 02:34 PM

HC

“ *A very special person with a very special spirit, who brought a lot of joy and fun to many. You will be remembered.*

*Heather L. Caswell*

**Heather Livingstone Caswell** - February 27, 2012 at 10:43 AM

JC

“ *Julie Cervilla lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



**Julie Cervilla** - February 27, 2012 at 10:25 AM

DH

“ *Debby Hemby sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



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**Debby Hemby** - February 27, 2012 at 09:48 AM

CW

“ *I am just so glad that I got a chance to meet and interact with Mary Ruth over the past year. What a great attitude and example to others!*

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**Cathy Williams** - February 27, 2012 at 09:21 AM

MC

“ *Martha Cleveland lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



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**Martha Cleveland** - February 27, 2012 at 09:16 AM

CJ

“ From a Max Lucado daily prayer book--the entry for February 24:

*Assurance of Victory*

*This is the victory that conquers the world--our faith. (1 John 5:4)*

*What is unique about the kingdom of God is that you are assured of victory. You have won! You are assured that you will someday stand before the face of God and see the King of kings. You are assured that someday you will enter a world where there will be no more pain, no more tears, no more sorrow.*

*If you have no faith in the future, then you have no power in the present. If you have no faith in the life beyond this life, then your present life is going to be powerless. But if you believe in the future and are assured of victory, then there should be a dance in your step and a smile on your face.*

*(from The Inspirational Study Bible)*

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**Carolyn Johnson** - February 27, 2012 at 08:25 AM

CH

*Amen.*

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**Catherine Romaine Henderson** - February 27, 2012 at 12:41 PM

RN

“*Mary Ruth, My heart is at a loss for words. We have lost such a special lady, but I feel honored to have known you. You were always happy, smiling, courageous, and a pleasure to talk to and work with. You are my "Hero". You have fought a good fight and God has chosen a "Very Special Angel". I will miss your smiling face. RIP my friend*

*To Mary Ruth's Family: My heart breaks for each of you. Mary Ruth was a true inspiration and no matter what happened through her battles she always kept that virturous and courageous spirit. She will be greatly missed . Cherish all the memories and share as she will live on through each of you. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers through the difficult days ahead. God has chosen a "VERY SPECIAL ANGEL".*

*She was one of a kind.*

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**Rhonda J. Norton** - February 27, 2012 at 08:08 AM

MW

“*Mary Whitehead lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



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**Mary Whitehead** - February 27, 2012 at 08:07 AM

ME

“*Marie Euten lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



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**Marie Euten** - February 27, 2012 at 07:55 AM

RN

“ Rhonda J. Norton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Rhonda J. Norton - February 27, 2012 at 07:44 AM

DG

“ Debbie Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Debbie Gilbert - February 27, 2012 at 07:09 AM

KH

“ Ken Hughes lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Ken Hughes - February 27, 2012 at 06:11 AM

KH

*We have lost a courageous and vibrant spirit, but she is in a better place. I will miss you, Mary Ruth.*

Ken Hughes - February 27, 2012 at 06:13 AM

HJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Heather Jennings - February 26, 2012 at 09:14 PM

HJ

*I will miss her spirit, her knowledge, her kindness and love for everything,,,she was one of a kind. Loved her so much.*

Heather Jennings - February 26, 2012 at 09:15 PM

AO

“ Angela O'Neal lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Angela O'Neal - February 26, 2012 at 09:05 PM

RS

“ MRA thank you for always wanting to go the extra mile. You were one of a kind.

Roger Schrum - February 26, 2012 at 08:34 PM

RS

“ MRA thank you for always wanting to go the extra mile. You were one of a kind.

Roger Schrum - February 26, 2012 at 08:34 PM

MB

“ Will miss her smiling face and sweet spirit. Our loss but heaven's gain. RIP Mary Ruth.  
Melinda

Melinda Byrd - February 26, 2012 at 04:39 PM

RP

“ Regina Parker lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Regina Parker - February 26, 2012 at 03:38 PM



“ Mitzi And Barry R. Reese lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Mitzi and Barry R. Reese - February 26, 2012 at 03:34 PM



*Your amazing positive attitude and the caring for others can never be forgotten. You can rejoice now for you are with God. No more pain... just endless joy and harmony! You will be missed. God Bless you!*

Mitzi and Barry R. Reese - February 27, 2012 at 12:51 PM

KB

“ Karen & Adam Bonsignori lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Karen & Adam Bonsignori - February 26, 2012 at 03:10 PM

PG

“ Paddie Giordan lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Paddie Giordan - February 26, 2012 at 08:18 AM

CG

“ Connee Grantham lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Connee Grantham - February 25, 2012 at 08:58 PM

RG

“ Rebecca Gray lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin



Rebecca Gray - February 25, 2012 at 04:49 PM

MM

“ *Maureen Murphy lit a candle in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



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**Maureen Murphy** - February 25, 2012 at 03:50 PM

MM

“ *Maureen Murphy sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Mary Ruth Austin*



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**Maureen Murphy** - February 25, 2012 at 03:49 PM