



## Ruth Mobley

January 29, 2007

Ruth Ann Mobley Ruth Ann Mobley, 61, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on January 26, 2007. She was born in Altus, Oklahoma and died at her home in Willis, Texas. Ruth is survived by her husband of 34 years, Grady; son, Jeffrey Elbel and wife Melinda; granddaughters, Megan and Melody; daughter, Ginger Gonzalez and husband Chris; granddaughter, Olivia; son, Rusty Mobley and daughter April Mobley; father, Troy L. Young; brothers, James Lee Young and Gerald Young; sisters, Ruby Brannon and Rhonda Walker. Ruth was preceded in death by her mother, Ruth Alice Young. A Memorial Service will be held at 3PM on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home – Willis with the Rev. John Walker officiating. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. You are invited to leave a written tribute to the family on our website at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Mobley*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dear Grady - I, as you know, went to school with Ruthie and was a drama geek with her and in choir with her. We were the "blabbermouths" in drama and had such fun. She always had a ready smile, a hug, a way of cheering you up, of lighting a room and always I could see the goodness of our Lord in her eyes. We had wonderful times together and I am so saddened that you have lost your dear Ruth Ann. To all her family - know that I, along with the class of '63 dearly loved your mom. She had not one enemy in the class or, for that matter, the school. Grady - thank you for sharing and continuing to share her life after ECVHS with me.*

*God's peace  
Darlene*

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**Darlene Reed Duffield** - August 13, 2007 at 12:16 AM

AM

“ Mom - What can I say about her? She was the best mom a daughter could ever ask for. She was there when I needed her and she was there when I didn't think I needed her - when I really did. I was her round headed baby girl. On every birthday card that she ever gave me, it always was addressed 'To my round headed baby girl'. She said it was because when I was born I had the perfect little round head. Anyways, when I last saw her before she passed at the beginning of January, we were saying our goodbyes and she told me "Bye round headed baby girl. I will see you in Heaven." Those are the last words that she really spoke to me and those are the words that I will keep with me for the rest of my life until I do see her again in Heaven. To my Mom, I love you and miss you more then words can describe. - Your Baby Girl, April

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**April Mobley** - April 14, 2007 at 06:07 PM

ME

“ She was a great woman, beautiful and courageous, kind and loving, she was famous from Texas to California because of her beautiful singing. My cousin Olivia that's two called her "Meema" and called Grandy "Peepa." Grammy played piano pretty well too. When the church was in need of a singer and piano player she volunteered. I miss her very much.

Sincerely,

Megan Elble (Ruth Ann Mobley's first granddaughter, age 8)

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**Megan Elbel** - February 21, 2007 at 05:03 PM

GY

“ Ruth Ann and I met when we were in elementary school together in El Cajon, CA. We grew up in the same church, attending the same high school, and even having crushes on the same guy once in awhile. I ended up marrying her brother, so we've been family for 37 years. I always liked hanging out at her house because there was lots of activity, music and people -- never dull.

Thinking back, I can see how I looked up to her for the way she jumped into life boldly and with purpose. When she was in the high school plays, I had the privilege of helping her change costumes back stage. She would encourage me to try out for the next play, and you could always count on her to be involved. She stood up for what she believed was right and good. She seldom let anyone persuade her in another direction. We had constant competition with who could grow their hair the longest. Seems like she was always winning that one. She would tie it up somehow at night, so that in the morning it came out in beautiful ringlets. Even at the end of her life her hair had less gray in it than anyone else I know her age.

Soon after we got the call that she had passed, I sat and listened to her CD and cried at the loss of what I once had in a best friend, a Christian sister, and a sister-in-law for all these years. She will be missed by so many; especially her devoted, loving husband, Grady, her four children and her grandchildren. She was always so proud of her family. You know, she and I never got to take that ride across country in our red convertible just out of high school; but now she's taking the ride that we all believe for in that life to come with Jesus. I miss you, Ruth Ann.

Your sister for eternity, Glenda

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**Glenda Young** - February 12, 2007 at 05:03 PM

“I hold it true, whate’er befall;  
I feel it when I sorrow most;  
‘Tis better to have loved and lost  
Than never to have loved at all.”

from "In Memoriam A.H.H" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

*Tennyson wrote those words in memory of his best friend whom he had lost. They are often misquoted and put into a romantic context. Here I use them in the spirit of Tennyson’s original intent.*

*There is a perception that mothers-in-law are not supposed to get along with their sons-in law. Fortunately, I can say this is bogus from my own experience. Ruth was more “mother” than “mother-in-law” to me for many reasons. I met her over thirteen years ago (when I was 18!), and in all of that time she was absolutely wonderful, and loving, and nurturing to me. I cannot thank her or Grady enough for being such wonderful people, for taking me into their family, for loving me unconditionally, for giving me a concrete example of what it is to be a Christian, and for being there whenever I needed it. She did not treat me like a son-in-law but rather like a son. There was praise perhaps even when I didn’t deserve it and a stern answer when I absolutely needed it. She was of the opinion that a person wasn’t healthy if they weren’t eating. The first question out of her mouth whenever I’d visit was "Are you hungry?" and then proceed to tell me all of the dishes I had to choose from. Who was I to say no? It is just one of the little things I will miss—not the food (okay the food, too) but the lady who was always thoughtful enough to make certain I was well cared for. I will miss her wit and her wonderful turns of phrases. I will miss her opinions and discussions on religion, politics, and pop culture. I will miss her voice—both singing and speaking. I will miss Ruth.*

*It is hard for me to believe that I will see her no more in this life. Yet, as Tennyson’s words imply, I am glad to have known Ruth and have lost her, no matter how painful, than to never have known her at all.*

*I am made the better from having had the pleasure of calling her mother-in-law and friend. I am forever grateful.*

*All my love,*

*Christopher*

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**Chris Gonzalez** - February 01, 2007 at 09:23 PM

“ ‘I hold it true, whate’er befall;  
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*All my love,*

*Christopher*

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**Chris Gonzalez** - February 01, 2007 at 09:23 PM

JG

“*Mr. Mobley, Ginger, Rusty, and April, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Mrs. Mobley. I know that her beautiful singing voice will be missed by all. We had many good times growing up together and your home was always open to the rowdy members of the youth group like myself. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*”

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**Julie (Reed) Griffith** - February 01, 2007 at 11:18 AM

MA

“ Deep inside each one of us is the knowledge that we shall forever return to the arms of those we love. The tears we shed are both tears of sorrow and tears of love. It is so important to let those tears flow that you may be healed from the inside out. Grady, Jeff, Rusty, Ginger, and April, even with the precious knowledge that Ruth is with Jesus, you will be flooded with a deluge of conflicting emotions. Please know that every emotion you feel is normal...pain, confusion, anger, craziness, relief, unspeakable sorrow, hope, deep love, abandonment, and "the peace that passes all understanding." All of these emotions are part of being human. God understands. Your faith will help you through this time of heart rending grief. Ruth is not gone, she is simply beyond your sight. Her love enfolds you both night and day. When you send her love, she receives it instantaneously. Be still and you will feel her love and comfort. She is a guardian angel to each of you. I mingle my tears with yours and send my deepest love, Mary Arnow

*Grady, you are my hero. Oh, that every wife could have such a devoted, tender, loving, faithful husband. God bless you always.*

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**Mary Arnow** - February 01, 2007 at 10:14 AM

AS

“ Dear Grady, Rusty, Ginger, April and Jeff,  
There's an old saying "Time heals all wounds". What those trite, wornout, cliché and unwelcome words don't bother adding is just how very hard the journey is to get to the healed part. There's no warning label on such a thing, but there should be. A warning about the unanswered questions you'll continue to ask, the endless tears you'll involuntarily shed, and the blisters you'll wear on your thoughts and emotions as you work your way through your grief and are able to come out on the other side. But come out on the other side, you will. One day, just when you think it's hopeless, you will wake up with a smile and a sweet memory of your wife, your mom, your friend. You will finally know peace in the dawning realization that she is there standing right next to you, but even more so, that she has been there the whole time. Remember her with joy as she would have wanted you to.  
My best regards, condolences, and love, Andrea

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**Andrea Spoehrer** - January 31, 2007 at 10:00 PM

JB

“ As a new christian, I was fortunate to have met Ruth - along with her great voice - she had a sternness in her beliefs that I found very reassuring. She was a wonderful example of a wife and mother. I am comforted by the fact that she is now with Jesus. My prayers are with Grady, Jeff, Ginger, Rusty and April. May our Heavenly Father bless you all.  
Love, Jalana Bart

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**Jalana Bart** - January 31, 2007 at 09:45 PM

JE

“ Here's what I read this afternoon at my mother's memorial service. You'll note that the text is free of stutters, gaps of silence and choking noises. I improvised those on site. Hopefully, Mom thought they were cute. - Jeff

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*After I've finished, you might have a hard time believing it, but for the most part, I'm simply at a loss for words. The easiest, most natural thing (and often, the best thing) is to be quiet. ... which is my default setting in most gatherings - unless I happen to have a microphone and guitar, at which point I become a clown. So, I find it easiest to talk about my mother if I talk about music.*

*I only really ever got into music, I think, out of a desire to be like my mother. Her voice and her talent were otherworldly. She was blindingly powerful when she wanted to use her voice that way, but had such a natural command and control. Her signature piece was "His Eye is on the Sparrow." I found out that Civilla Martin wrote the words in 1905, and Charles Gabriel composed the tune, but Mom owned it for the better part of 61 years. Other favorites you probably remember her singing were big gospel numbers like "How Great Thou Art," "Jerusalem," and "The Lord's Prayer." It was fairly common to see people reduced to tears (the good kind) as she sang.*

*I shuttled between two homes as a kid, and it was those times that I sat in places like this (church auditoriums) watching my mother sing that made me feel comforted, calm, accepted, and that the world was okay. Later in life, hearing her voice still made me feel that way, like a small boy. I'll miss that feeling very much, though I'm fortunate to have a few audio recordings of Mom to help remember what it was like. The last song I heard my mother sing was "happy birthday," in October. It's still on the answering machine.*

*Some people who know I've pursued music (to the point that I have) have asked whether I got my mother's voice. I usually want to reply,*

*"Either you haven't heard me sing and you owe her an apology, or you haven't heard her, and you're pushing me way out of my league." I typically just say, "No. That's one of the only things she kept that all for herself." I stop short of proving it with a Kermit the Frog or Weird Al Yankovic impersonation. I had planned to attempt "His Eye is on the Sparrow" while accompanying myself on ukulele (the easiest "traveling instrument" these days) at the memorial service, but Grady wisely chose to include a recording of Mom's version. Disaster averted.*

*Mom graduated high school in 1963 with an offer for a full-ride scholarship to the prestigious Juilliard School of Music, which would likely have given her the opportunity to "turn pro" in some manner. She turned it down for the sake of my father, and after they got married, I turned up. Ultimately, I don't think touring or other aspects of professional or the academic music community would have suited her sensibilities, so I try not to feel too guilty for being here. ;-P Regardless, she required no credentials beyond those she gained naturally. Mom made music which brought joy to more people than I could count.*

*My mother was fiercely smart, and had a sharp sense of humor that could veer dangerously into sarcasm. She could certainly be stubborn and opinionated. THAT stuff, and her dreaded hay-fever allergies, I got from the woman I dryly referred to as "my sainted mother."*

*I'd like to thank my stepfather, Grady, who devoted himself to my mother's care throughout her illness. They were married over 34 years, and were an example to all of us. Together, they demonstrated precious qualities including unity, devotion, friendship, commitment, and above all, love. I realize that this is probably a more difficult time for him than for any of us, and wish to remind him of our appreciation, affection and respect.*

GH

“ Ruth Ann sang "O Perfect Love" at our wedding 43 years ago. Her mother and dad , Ruth and Troy ,were good friends of my mother and dad, Lewin and Irene Peevey. I use to love hearing stories of the fun times they had going to school together. Ruth Ann was a sweet person with a lovely singing voice. I wish I had had the opportunity to get to know her better. My deepest sympathies to the family and all those who were close to her. God bless you all. Gayla Henderson

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**Gayla Henderson** - January 31, 2007 at 07:20 PM

ME

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Ruth Ann for just ver 16 years. I first met her when I was dating my husband. My first impressions of her were that she was a sweet and kind lady who had a lot of musical talent, some of which she passed onto her son. Not many people are blessed to have a such wonderful mother in-law, like I was. I treasured the times I had with her and wish that they could have been more. She was a great comfort to me when I needed her. Every year she showed her love for Megan by knitting her a pair of slippers and she was able to make Melody a few pairs too. I continue to be blessed by her through her son, Jeff, whom she passed on her love of music too. My heart goes out to all of her family. She will be deeply missed. Love Melinda

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**Melinda Elbel** - January 31, 2007 at 03:41 PM

ME

“ I feel I must add one more note to Grady. You have been wonderful example of Ephesians 5: 25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." I know you truly gave of your self to her until the very end. I also know that this has been a very difficult time for you and pray that God will be a comfort to you as only He can.  
Love Melinda

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**Melinda Elbel** - January 31, 2007 at 12:27 PM

AS

“ Grady and all the family - our deepest condolences. Your Ruth Ann was a tremendous inspiration to my family for the gracious life she lead and the beautiful example she set for evreyone. She is now at peace and we know that God will grant you and the family the same.  
Anne, Ray, Tom & Janice Sumrow, La Mesa, CA.

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**Anne Sumrow** - January 31, 2007 at 08:49 AM

TY

“ My daughter, Ruth Ann Young Mobley, was always an obedient & respectful child. She always excepted the guidance that I and her mother offered and never caused us even the slightest concern. When she was elementary school age she was a member of the Girls Auxiliary of the Southern Baptist church and won many ribbons and awards for her efforts. She could always be counted on to provide leadership in any tasks she was assigned.

In her teen aged years Ruth Ann was a big help with her younger sisters. She was always busy with church or school activities. I was very proud of her as she had such a beautiful, God given voice. Her talents didn't end merely with singing. She was an accomplished actress and had starring rolls in many different school musical and dramatic productions. She was also an accomplished pianist.

She was a fresh, freckled faced kid in the early years and she grew into a beautiful women who gave us fine grand-children and brought to us a fine man in Grady Mobley.

I love my daughter and can only say that I know she is in heaven with my beloved Ruth, her Mother. I miss them both terribly and can only convey the heartache that I feel having survived my daughter who passed so young.

I love you all!

Your Dad, Grand-father and Father in Law,

Troy L. Young

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Troy L. Young - January 30, 2007 at 08:21 PM

GY

“ I will miss my big sister, Ruth Ann Young Mobley. Although I wasn't able to visit her often I always knew I could count on her love and loyalty. I tried always to spend some time with her when ever my deliveries took me near her home. One time, early in my driving career, some time after she married Grady, I experienced a serious truck breakdown, and to compound the problem there was no freight leaving the Houston area. Or, anywhere else for that matter. I'm sure Grady thought I was staying forever but, after my truck was finally repaired and I drove back to San Diego. They were so good to me and I've always appreciated them for that.

My sister Ruth Ann possessed a beautiful instrument in her voice. She and I had the same high school choir director. Everyday, Mr. Lutz, had the shining example of Ruth Young for us to live up to. She served as a paid soloist in the large downtown San Diego church where Mr. Lutz was also the choir director. Even though I was first chair and Bass soloists for four years I was never able to overcome her example.

I don't suppose you could say we were extremely close growing up but, she was down with me in a pinch. On a visit to our Grand-parents in Altus, OK, 9I was about 8 and she 12 or so0, we were involved in a scuffle in the barn with our twin cousins Marilyn and Carolyn and maybe Bobby and Travis. I don't remember exactly how but, I had apparently been the focal point of the altercation and had some retribution coming. Ruth Ann wasn't having any part in allowing that to happen. After her and I exchanged some empty oil cans at warp speed with our cousins, somebody got hit in the head and we all made up and parted friends. Do any of you remember? Ruth Ann was always a class act and if ever I needed to look to an example of how to act I could find it in her, and also in my brother and parents.

Funny, I remember when we lived in Lakeside how I could torment her no end just by going in her room. She was the only girl at the time so it was just a given she had her own room. Poor James Lee and I had to rack out on bunk beds on the back porch. Everybody tracked through there.

I remember on the day Ruby was born,(after I tried to shoot James

*Lee with my BB gun shooting out the picture window instead), we had crazy fun coming up with prospective names for the new baby. We were in such rare form that Dad started getting mad at us. Ruth Ann lived through some interesting experiences as well. I was too young to remember much when we lived in Arizona because I was too knew. I'm sure that Ruth, like my Brother Jim could remember early Atom Bomb tests. They were carried out less than 90 miles from our home in what would become Bullhead City, AZ on the Colorado River. James Lee says the night sky would light up brighter than day and the beds would shuttle across the floor with the shockwave.*

*I remember how Ruth Ann cared for her baby sisters helping Mom when ever she needed or was asked to.*

*She existed magnificently and was not unlike a city upon a hill, a shining beacon too us all and we will miss her.*

*I am so happy that Jim & Glenda and Rhonda & Bill were able visit her sharing the love of all of us with her.*

*I'm sure I've offered more than enough, so I will quit.*

*Grady, Jeffrey, Ginger, April and Rusty we will always be family and your aunt's & uncles, your Grand-Father Troy and your cousins are here to help in any way we can. Please continue to call and visit us anytime you can.*

*With much love and sorrow,  
Your Brother in Law and Uncle,  
Gerald*

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**Gerald Thomas Young** - January 30, 2007 at 07:45 PM

DY

“ Dear Grady, Jeff, Ginger, Rusty and April:

*All of my life Ruth Ann has been in it. While growing up with Ruby and Rhonda and after we all became adults, I have admired Ruth Ann and thought she was an amazing woman. She touched my life as an example for me to strive to be. She was very happy that her brother, Gerald, and I are getting married and to have her blessings meant the world to me. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. I praise God that we have the unquestionable comfort of knowing that she is in Heaven with Jesus and that we will see her again in eternity. My prayers are with you Grady, Jeff, Ginger, Rusty, April and Mr. Young.*

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**Donna (Lusby) Youngs** - January 30, 2007 at 06:55 PM

JA

“ Grady,

*You don't know me but I feel that I know you and your dear departed wife Ruth. I am a good friend of Glenda and Jim and was sitting with them in their living when you called to tell them of Ruth's passing unto our Lord. They have always spoke so highly of both of you that I feel I know you and I want you to know that I have kept you in my prayers. I believe as Jim and glenda do that your lovely wife is singing up in heaven while her mother is playing piano. Again I send my sincere condolences to you and your family.*

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**Jeanette Aguilar** - January 30, 2007 at 05:13 PM

JY

“ We were able to say goodbye to Ruth Ann a few weeks before she went to be with Jesus. We miss her, even though we lived states away from her for many years. She was a lady, had high standards, was a beautiful woman, sang like an angel, and raised a family of which we're all proud. Grady, you are a hero for loving her to the end. She lives in our hearts; she is with our mom, Ruth Alice Young, in heaven. Mom's playing the piano and they're both singing for the Lord.

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**Jlm & Glenda Young** - January 30, 2007 at 04:58 PM

LB

“ My heart and prayers are with you. Ruth was such a wonderful person and an inspiration to all that knew her.

*Grady, Rusty, Ginger, and April, I know how much you will miss her gentle smile and her kindness. She will be missed by all.*

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**Lila Bohack** - January 30, 2007 at 03:38 PM

RW

“ The life of Ruth Ann Mobley is an inspiration to those who loved her and knew her well. As a sister, sister-in-law, aunt, friend, you would come to know her as a strong woman who possessed an intelligence and wisdom that went beyond the norm. She was one in several million! As a young girl, I was proud of my sister and impressed by her examples of intelligence, strength and faith. One of her "Ruthisms" that stayed with me was, "Jesus died to take away my sins, he didn't die to take away my brain." A gifted but humble musician and singer, she knew Jesus personally. She is now seeing him face to face. We are very sad at our loss, but she would want our hope to be in Christ. Thank you Lord for allowing us to have Ruth Ann in our lives for many beautiful years.

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**Rhonda Walker** - January 30, 2007 at 03:22 PM

TL

“ April, I am truly sorry for your loss. If you need anything, you just ask. I wish I had known your Mom, but if she was anything like you, she was a kind and caring person. My prayers are with your family.

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**Tonya Lewis** - January 30, 2007 at 11:16 AM

JD

“ The first thing I think of when I think of Mrs. Mobley is her beautiful voice. When she sang it was like hearing an angel. I know God has an amazing place prepared for us all in heaven and I hope you find peace in knowing that you will all be reunited with her one day. She was a very kind and loving person. We will all miss her. My prayers and thoughts are with you all.

*In His Love,  
Jennifer (Bart) Dossey*

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**Jennifer Dossey** - January 26, 2007 at 06:25 PM

CB

“ Perhaps they are not the stars, but rather openings in Heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy.

*April, Rusty, Ginger & Grady ~ My hearts and prayers go out to each of you. Ruth was an amazing woman who will be missed greatly by so many. I feel grateful to have known her.*

*Sincerely,  
Cammie Blum*

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**Cammie Blum** - January 26, 2007 at 02:25 PM