



Ann L. Luna

July 11, 1923 - July 7, 2021

Our mother passed peacefully in her sleep, on July 7, 2021. I am struggling to even know how to put that into words. To put something of HER into words. How do you describe a little bitty woman who seemed to be the largest presence in ANY room?

Our mother lived for all she was worth. And she did a lot of things. We think she was proudest of her children and grandchildren and, now, great-grandchildren. WE were her life work--and I get it. I feel that way about my children and grandchildren as well. These are the ones you pour your whole self into--unabashedly, unapologetically, fiercely when necessary. She is the central figure in who we all turned out to be. She taught us that Faith comes first. She taught us that even when you are disappointed and hurt and angry, you never ever abandon those you love. I am sad to say a couple of us may have fallen short at times, but she loved us through whatever we got ourselves into.

She loved to cook and would stand all of us up on a kitchen chair at the cabinet and let us crack eggs, put together the spaghetti sauce or whatever we were able to do. Each of us took turns fussing over who got to bake the cake for Sunday dinner. Times we cherish. Even in her 80s, when Janie was working at the East Health Department, Mom would make her a hot lunch every day during the week. And we both cherished every single day we spent together.

She taught us to match our daddy's socks and how to iron his handkerchiefs. She made sure we girls could sew (she sewed almost every garment we ever had till we were nearly grown) and saw to it that we got piano lessons (David played flute). She didn't teach us many really girly things, which is a puzzle in a way because while she was a pretty woman, it just flowed rather than being something she worked at, OR maybe she believed there were many more important things you could be doing?

We were a traditional 1950s family, yes, but our mother, from the time we were all in school, became involved with what was then the Women's Society of Christian Service, now UMW, the lay women's mission oriented ministry of the Methodist church. She

studied and learned so much about urban environments and about other places and the struggles inherent to life there. She threw herself into committees (Status and Role of Women, Committee on Religion and Race...we don't know them all). She was around when East Nashville Cooperative Ministries was born, and she worked in the thrift store on Main Street till we made her stop when she was in her 80s.

She taught Sunday School and sponsored our UMYF groups at Hobson Church. SHE did NOT plan the meetings FOR us as is done now, but made sure WE knew how to select the material and topics, plan the lessons and get activities going and hold the discussions. She chauffeured countless of our friends to church or wherever we needed to go. Second MAMA to so many. Even in our adulthood, our brother's friends and co-workers started calling her Mamalu.

Our mom, the activist, the choir-lady, church lady extraordinaire, second mom to legions...Methodist, and boy, has she loved the Methodist Church and John Wesley! She could just not understand why anyone would ever want to be anything else. She participated at every level from local church up to Annual Conference. She was Lay Member of conference 14 times and for two different churches. She became the first and only woman president of the Nashville District Layman's Club—and she said, "...and then I shut it down. It needed to be. They weren't doing anything.

She answered the Upper Room call-in Prayer line for 30 YEARS and was a decades long member of the Eastland Music Club.

She loved history and genealogy and spent long hours searching for ancestors and was so proud of our Jamestown heritage. (And Lady Godiva, as it turns out. Talk about strong, opinionated women! We had them.)

Her life was not without struggles. She fought her way through surgeries and divorce and the loss of my precious brother 10 years ago, beloved parents, brother, sister-in-law Sara...and SO many friends.

After Daddy left, she mourned, of course, but then she squared her shoulders and got on with life. She went back to work for the State of TN. She traveled extensively, with multiple trips to the Holy Land and Europe.

It was the same with the cancer diagnosis. We were all convinced she really might outlive us, honestly. So the word that something could end this life lived so ferociously is something we are still processing, just being honest.

We can't call her death a defeat. We call it a victory. During her last weeks, ALL the children and grandchildren and great grandchildren paraded through her living room and she cherished them all. She was proud of us all. Friends too. She was loved on and cared for in the best way we knew how.

When Suzie an accident and broke her hip, Janie, who's been so close to her for these last few years, especially, picked up and stuck by her side all by herself in lone vigil, really, for the past couple of weeks. Janie's a rock star.

Mom triumphed over this life, and now, she has won the life abundant and eternal that we all are promised. We picture her taking the tour of David's garden, talking with Uncle Dan and Mommaw and Poppaw and Nonnie, and, with that wonderful voice back again, singing praises to her God.

One of the last things mom said to us was, "I've had a good run." Indeed you did. Rest in peace, Mama. We love you.

Those that survive to cherish her memory include, two daughters, Janie Smotherman (Mike), Suzanne Clement (Paul); five grandchildren, Joseph Ura (Sarah), Emily Werner (Randall), Noah Ura (Allison), Chris Smotherman (Leanna), Laura Smotherman (Lindsey); seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation for mom will be held on Friday, July 16, 2021 at Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville, TN, 37216 from 9 AM until 11 AM at which time a Celebration of Life Funeral Service will be conducted from the funeral home chapel. Burial will follow in Historic Spring Hill Cemetery.

Arrangements by Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, a Nashville landmark since 1785 "Where Nashville Comes to Remember"

In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be sent to UMCOR <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/> or Upper Room Ministries upperroom.org

Cemetery

Events

Spring Hill Cemetery JUL

5110 Gallatin Pike S **16**

Nashville, TN, 37216

Visitation

09:00AM - 11:00PM

Spring Hill Funeral Home

5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville, TN, US, 37216

JUL

16

Celebration Of Life Funeral Ceremony 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Spring Hill Funeral Home

5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville, TN, US, 37216

JUL

16

Burial

12:15PM

Historic Spring Hill Cemetery

5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville, TN, US, 37216

Comments



“ Mrs Luna was the spunkiest neighbor I have ever had! I loved spending time with her listening to her wonderful stories about many, many things; things such as the history of the area or her adventures. I will always cherish those stories especially her stories of visiting the Holy Land. Because of those stories I have planned a trip to the Holy Land this upcoming year! She will be on my mind as I visit Israel. Even though I have moved back to Texas she has been in my thoughts and prayers. I was saddened to find out that she had passed but joyous that she is in the presence of our Lord.

Pamela Faulk - July 15, 2021 at 10:36 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ann L. Luna.



July 15, 2021 at 09:53 AM



“ Shared from Mom's Australian friend, Pat Little:

"When I first arrived, Ann decided that David would be a better person to show me "downtown Nashville", but his purple "Chevvie" not quite the car to take me in. "Take my sedan" says Ann so off we went. After seeing many "would be" singers we came onto a area where David told me I had to join the "line dancers". I can still see him sitting on glossy timber horses waiting and taking photos for me to bring home. In the evening we would be in Ann's yard waving David home as he came round the corner to the home. I will also remember all the family's around Ann's with their displays of pumpkins for Halloween. In Ann's sun room, she would have woken early to have cooked hot blueberry muffins which we ate and watched the squirrels run in and out of the bushes.

My sister's husband passed away with cancer and Ann said a prayer for Allan at the prayer room. I bought a glass Christmas bouble there which I put out each christmas. We did a tour of the grand ole opry, the president Andrew Jackson "heritage" plantation. Country music hall of fame. Went shopping at wal-mart, visited the parlour, for Ann's hair set, we call it hair salon. Went to Ann's brother at Hendersonville. I was lucky to be there when johnny cash passed away and your uncle took me to see all the flags, wreaths, etc. On his gate. The creek running down the back yard.

Ann was very proud of her father's building achievements along with your uncle. As we passed by she would always comment " daddy made that house". She commented how they were the first to have a hot water system in their home. I just loved the period furniture both Ann and her brother had in their homes and my having to climb the steps to get into the bed.

Yes I have many wonderful memories of my time in Nashville and as you all can feel, I have lost a wonderful friend. I can even remember when she told me Noah had passed his studies, getting married and having family. Also she loved her (80)th birthday I think it was, David was alive then and a surprise party was arranged. I hope this shows a little insight to the regard I feel and also the sorrow that it all has now become. Ann will be in my heart and I hope I am half as good as Ann was."

Janie Smotherman - July 13, 2021 at 08:49 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ann L. Luna.



July 13, 2021 at 12:30 PM



“ Tim and Debbie O’Leary purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ann L. Luna.



Tim and Debbie O’Leary - July 12, 2021 at 09:05 PM



“ I was able to sing with Ann in our church hour
She taught me a lot. I admired her greatly?

Glenda raggett - July 12, 2021 at 12:09 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ann L. Luna.



July 10, 2021 at 11:20 PM



“ Aunt Ann was a good friend to my Mom and always kept in touch with her. She was the sister my Mom never had. I always recognized strong faith and a kind spirit in Ann, along with a remarkable memory! I was blessed to be able to talk with her before she went to her eternal home. She will be missed by many.....until we see her again

Mary Carroll - July 09, 2021 at 02:43 PM



“ Mary Carroll and Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ann L. Luna.



Mary Carroll and Family - July 09, 2021 at 02:35 PM



“ I met Ann Leech Luna when I was 9 years old when my Dad became Pastor of Hobson Methodist Church in 1942. I was 9 and Ann was 19. I always told her that despite our age difference I wanted to date her. When she came to live at McKendree Village in Hermitage, my wife and I were thrilled to be together again. We already miss her.
Our prayers go out to her two lovely daughters and family. She loved her Lord and loved the Church. She served the Church faithfully in so many ways. To Ann I was always just Bub (my family name).

WOODY ADAMS

Woodward Adams (Woody) - July 08, 2021 at 08:28 PM



“ I wanted to add one more thing. During WW II there were many soldier boys who would visit Hobson Church. Ann had one special one she dated. My brothers and I, on a Sunday afternoon, would go to Ann's house on Greenwood Avenue and knock at the door. Just like Ann, she would never refuse to let us in and disturb she and her date. We were jealous. We would sit for a little while and then leave. We all attended her wedding in 1946 and knew then that we could never have that date. Peace be with you dear Ann.

Woodward Adams - July 12, 2021 at 09:20 AM



“ May She Rest in Peace.

Janell Anderson

Janell Anderson - July 12, 2021 at 11:47 AM



“ I always admired Mrs. Luna's dedication to the Methodist church. She was an inspiration to me and so many others. It's not trite to say they don't make 'em like that any more. For several years in the '60's she frequently woke up to trees full of purple toilet paper. The only comments I ever heard her make were that she had told David to clean it up and that was a real waste of perfectly good toilet paper. I'll miss Mrs. Luna and her many internet posts about the past. She was so lovely.

Carol Williamson - July 12, 2021 at 11:02 PM