



## Ruth Wright Boyea

September 22, 1918 - December 7, 2007

Ruthe Wright Boyea, 89 of Plainville, wife of Douglas Boyea, passed away Friday December 7, 2007 at Brittany Farms Health Care Center. Ruthe graduated from Boston University, and received master's degrees from both CCSU and Trinity College. She began her professional career at the West Springfield YMCA and enlisted in the Navy during WWII as a 2nd Lt. Welfare and Training Officer in the WAVES. Following her service to our country, she taught at Lincoln School, and then at Vance and Stanley Schools as part of the School of Education of CCSU. She then became an Assistant Professor of English. In 1977, Ruthe became the administrator of the new Woman's Center, which was then named after her upon her retirement from the college in 1989. Following her retirement, she continued teaching part time at Tunxis Community College.

Ruthe was a 50-year member of South Church, where she served as Moderator, Chair of Christian Education, and on the Board of Stewardship. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Ruthe was always actively involved in the community. She was the President of the local branch of the American Association of University Women, where she also served as Vice President, and chair of the Committee on Women. She was also the Vice President of the state AAUW and was the New England Regional Director for the national AAUW. She was a Past President of the New Britain Chapter of the American Red Cross. She served as

President of the League of Women Voters, was on the Board of Directors of Burritt Bank, and appointed to the Advisory Board for Cable TV. She was appointed to the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities as well as being the first woman appointed to the Veteran's Commission in New Britain. She has received numerous awards and recognitions including most recently, the Outstanding Alumni Award, Boston University School of Theology, and the NAACP Community Service Award. She was selected to attend the International United Nations Conference on Women in 1975, 1980, and 1985.

Besides her husband Doug, she leaves a son, Douglas Boyea, Jr. and his wife Gail of Pittsburgh, PA; a daughter, Ruthe Boiczuk and her husband Edward of Plainville; a sister, Carol Harrington of South Weymouth, MA; five grandchildren, Ericka Fangiullo and her husband Mark of Windsor; Mary Westkott and her husband Mark of Quaker Hill, CT; Katherine Boiczuk of Winsted; Keith Boyea of Arlington, VA; and Luke Boyea of Dallas, TX; two great grandsons, Eli Fangiullo and Noah Westkott; several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother, George Wright, and a sister, Laura Jordan.

A memorial service will be held Saturday December 15, 2007 10 AM at South Church, 90 Main Street, New Britain. Calling hours are Friday 4 to 8 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Memorial donations may be made to the Ruthe Boyea Fellowship Fund, c/o The American Association of University Women, 1111 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 or to the Ruthe Boyea Scholarship Fund at CCSU, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06053. Please share a memory or note of sympathy by "clicking" GUESTBOOK at the bottom of the page.

# Tribute Wall

JH

“*Ruthe was such an exceptional person that I can't let her passing go without a comment. For those of us at Central, Ruthe was more than the first director of the Women's Center and a professor; she was the energetic pusher who always had new ideas and kept us all going when it seemed that things wouldn't work out. I still remember her determination not to give up when she was assigned a storage closet on the third floor of Marcus White Hall for the Women's Center location. She decorated it with balloons and streamers and then invited the President to an opening reception! Needless to say, the Women's Center prospered under her capable direction, and it is an important part of her legacy at CCSU.*

*I personally was always amazed at all of Ruthe's activities and accomplishments outside of her academic career. From service in the Navy to AAUW, from the League of Women Voters to representing the U.S. at the U.N. Conferences on Women, she gave freely of her time and devoted herself to so many important causes. Always a lady, Ruthe sparkled and was an inspiration to us all. My sincere condolences to Doug and the Boyea family on losing this remarkable woman.*

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**June B. Higgins** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RP

“*I have a fond memory of meeting Ruthe Boyea the night of graduation from NBHS '64. She was gracious and courteous to a group of semi-sober revelers invading her home. My prayers are with the family and especially my classmate Ruth.*

*Regards,  
Bob Palin*

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**Robert B. Palin** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ To Doug Sr, Ruthe and Edward, Doug Jr. and Gail and all the family:

*It was with great sadness that I received the news from my brother, Mr. Kenneth Archer and his wife Christine that Ruthe had passed on.*

*I had known Ruthe from my early teen years at South Church and a conversation with her was always an affirming experience. The relationship continued even when I moved with my Australian husband to Sydney in 1975.*

*In spite of the great distance and time Ruthe was a steadfast friend and an enthusiastic encourager of all I attempted, always wanting to know what I was up to and of course when I would be back in Connecticut for a visit.*

*My prayers and condolences are with you all as you mourn Ruthe's passing and celebrate her life, one who is truly loved by God.*

*With love,*

*Meg Archer Herbert  
Sydney Australia*

*Meg Herbert  
Associate General Secretary Ministry  
Uniting Church in Australia, NSW Synod*

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**Meg Archer Herbert** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PC

“*Ruthe and I had an assignment with American Red Cross to provide management oversight of all 21 CT chapters during the period 1993-1995, I as paid staff and Ruthe as my volunteer counterpart. We did this through visits and personal contacts with chapter leaders across the state. Ruthe's knowledge and background made her the ideal person for this task, especially in promoting volunteer recruitment and in leadership training. She has always been so generous in sharing her leadership abilities with Red Cross and numerous other organizations. I have been greatly blessed to have known and worked with her.*

*Philip Chapman  
Retired Field Service Manager  
American Red Cross*

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**Philip Chapman** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PS

“*Ruth was my teacher in elementary school in New Britain Stanley School. Although my memory of her is vague, I do remember being very fond of her and enjoying the year I spent in her class very much. Clearly, she has lead a very full and active life. Good Bless her and her family. Sincerely, Peter Sheary.*

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**Peter Sheary** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Having been an early childhood educator, Ruthe was an ardent advocate of on-campus day care. We served on each others advisory committees for years. My special memory of Ruthe is more personal than professional. When my children were born I was PROFOUNDLY ambivalent about leaving them in the care of others, but I both needed to work and enjoyed my career. The Women's Center provided me, a public feminist, a place for private tears. I will always remember her gentle support and her tenacity in pursuit of equality and justice.

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**Liz Hicks** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ We will for ever remember Ruth as a true family person and a wonderful aunt she will be missed at Christmas where she was so much fun. She treated people as her equal and never looked down on anyone to us she was a true friend. Love Bob and Takako Jordan

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**Robert and Takako Jordan** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Aunt Ruthe

*What can one say about a life so full? We were so proud of Aunt Ruthe and her enthusiastic love of family, and friends. She was always interested in our pursuits and was quite engaging in dialogue concerning current events and politics.*

*Her service to her country during World War II was historically a huge step for women in the military especially the U.S. Navy.*

*From then on until she retired as a professor at CCSU her work on behalf of women's rights and women's studies made her a sought after motivational speaker and advocate.*

*Her crowning glory was her family. Husband Douglas, son Douglas Jr. and daughter Ruthe were her main focus, and she so loved and was extremely proud of them and their accomplishments.*

*When she and Douglas travelled around the world, as they did so often, she would always bring a souvenir or memento gift of the trip to her brother and sisters and nieces and nephews.*

*What a thrill to receive a beautiful piece of art or souvenir from these foreign visits. Always the gift included a detailed explanation of the land visited and the meaning of the gift.*

*To Uncle Doug, Doug Jr., and family, Ruthe Boiczuk and her family go our memorable thoughts and heartfelt prayers that God will surround them with thousands of fond memories, comforting family and fine friends, and that His grace will be sufficient.*

*Russell and Sally Harrington*

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**Russell and Sally Harrington** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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*Russell and Sally Harrington*

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**Russell and Sally Harrington** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I have known Ruthe Boyea for about 20 plus years. She is so enthusiastic about life and her causes that she inspired me to no end. She has always been an example of a woman with a family who manages her many roles in life with such love and professionalism.

*Ruthe will be missed by everyone who knew her, especially her AAUW friends from around the world. Even though I knew Ruthe's health was challenging at this time, somehow one does not expect this icon to move on to the next phase of her existence and leave us all to wonder how she is balancing and coordinating matters with her new acquaintances and experiences.*

*What a wonderful role model!!!!*

*She loved her family so much. Her pride in her children and grandchildren was evident when she introduced them or spoke about them.*

*Thank you Ruthe for all you have done for us. I am sure you are still watching out and supporting women, especially professional women and their families.*

*Johanna S. Malinowski  
Attorney at Law  
87 Cricket Lane  
Trumbull, CT 06611*

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**Johanna S. Malinowski** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM