



## Ruth Cox Hedden

May 7, 1931 - January 14, 2020

Ruth Cox Hedden, long-time Cape Girardeau educator, died at the age of 88 January 14, 2020, at Ratliff Care Center.

Mrs. Hedden began her career as a teacher in Georgia and finished it as a sixth-grade teacher at Hawthorn School, now Clippard School, where she worked beginning in 1971 until her retirement in 1998. She was a member of the Missouri Teachers Association and participated in the Cape Retired Teachers association for many years. She loved teaching, helping children learn, and served on the Cape school system's math curriculum selection team. After retirement, Mrs. Hedden served as a volunteer with the Centenary United Methodist Church kitchen and traveled throughout the United States with her husband, visiting children and joining her husband on golf courses far and wide. She was known among family and friends for her Southern cooking, baking and ability to welcome all to her table. The Heddens were season ticket holders to Southeast Missouri State University basketball for more than 50 years.

Born in Macon, Georgia on May 7, 1931, to the late J.T. and Mary Cox. She was the fourth of six children. Mrs. Hedden graduated from Chipley High School, attended Georgia Women's College and graduated with her bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia in 1952. She completed her master's degree in education at Southeast Missouri State University and remained, along with her husband, an avid fan of SEMO women's and men's

basketball.

Mrs. Hedden married Robert E. Hedden, a fellow University of Georgia Dawg, in 1953. They lived in DeFuniak Springs, Florida, and Macon, Georgia, before relocating to Cape Girardeau in 1962.

In addition to her husband of 66 years, Mrs. Hedden is survived by her children: Ralph Coleman (Carole) Hedden of Asheville, North Carolina; Linda Ruth (Bruce) Enright of Kansas City, Missouri; and John Thomas (Cheryl) Hedden of Taos, New Mexico; seven grandchildren: Linda Katelyn (Ron) Henry, Chamblee, Georgia; Whitney Coleman Enright, New York City; Rachel Taylor Enright, Denver, Colorado; Chloe Ann Hedden, West Chester, Pennsylvania; Shelby Ashton Enright, Kansas City, Missouri; Olivia Marie Enright, Washington, DC; and Robert Dylan Enright of Kansas City; two great grandsons Oliver Coleman Henry and Walter Mason Henry, both of Chamblee, Georgia. Also surviving are her sister and brothers: Betty Beegle of Whitesville, Georgia; William (Jane) Cox of Atlanta; J.T. Cox of Fayetteville, Georgia; and Franklin (Mary Jo) Cox of Pine Mountain, Georgia; nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews, as well as her dear cousin, Susan (Jim) Cagle of Lilburn, Georgia.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her younger brother Jimmy Cox, and her oldest son, Robert E. "Gene" Hedden in 2013.

The kind thoughts and prayers from Ruth's many friends and family have been greatly appreciated during this time. The family is also grateful for the care Ruth received at the Arbors Memory Care unit and most especially for the loving care and compassion shown for Ruth and the entire family by all the staff at Ratliff Care Center. The loving attention shown by these individuals was truly heartfelt and made Ruth's passing a much easier journey.

Visitors may call on the family from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, January 18, at Ford & Sons Funeral Home, 1001 N. Mt. Auburn Road. Funeral services will immediately follow with Rev. Dr. Barry Winders officiating. Private interment for the family will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 18. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford - Mt Auburn  
1001 N Mt Auburn Road  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Service

JAN 18. 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford - Mt Auburn  
1001 N Mt Auburn Road  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

LD

“ I first met Ruth during her many devoted visits to Linda at the Mizzou Tridelt house and I always felt blessed by her warmth and friendliness (and great cooking!) at the Enrights' home, swim meets, and graduation celebrations over the years since. Reading her background here, I can for sure say wow—she was a powerhouse for encouraging and building up young people! And, I love watching it borne out in her grandchildren, who are living at the height of their dreams and passions! I celebrate her life and will always remember the special person she was and how that is being carried on in all of you!

Love,  
Linda Dickens  
Overland Park, KS

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**Linda Dickens** - January 18, 2020 at 10:32 AM

KH

“ Mrs. Hedden provided a second home to me and several of Cole's friends during our high school years and beyond. Her warm, gracious hospitality gave us a safe and fun place to spend many hours of our teen years. She had such a genuine, joyful presence and a smile that would light up the room to let us know she truly cared about us and was so glad to have us in her home. I have memories of delicious meals, story telling and laughter when she and Mr. Hedden would have us sit down at their table for a late night snack after a high school football game that we had attended with Cole. We felt valued and accepted as she and Mr. Hedden took an interest in us as equals and friends, not just as teenagers. When we graduated from Cape Central, the Heddens prepared an incredible dinner for Cole, Dennis, Kenny, Brad and me as a celebration. When we walked into their dining room, we found a beautifully set table with a white tablecloth, delicious food, and professional pen and pencil sets for each of us as graduation gifts. I still remember how honored and loved that made me feel...I was overwhelmed with the Heddens' kindness. Mrs. Hedden will always be fondly remembered, and my best regards are extended to the entire family.

Kent Henson  
Overland Park, KS

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Kent Henson - January 17, 2020 at 11:28 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth Cox Hedden.



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January 17, 2020 at 07:19 PM

RW

“ I taught 12 years with Ruth at Hawthorn/Clippard(1986-1998). She retired one year before me. What a wonderful lady and great teacher. Have many great memories and I loved all the conversations with her and her southern accent. She and Ellen Robinson loved to walk the track at school and in the gym(bad weather). Great lady and I will miss her. RIP Ruth. Prayers to all the family. 🙏🙏

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**Roger Williams** - January 17, 2020 at 06:18 PM

DC

“ Babe Ruth was a wonderful aunt and loved her family so much. I so remember all of the great times and those awesome cinnamon rolls... they were no where close to how sweet and loving she was to all of us growing up. I am including a picture of her and dad we came across going through some old slides.

*We love her so much and miss her, but know we have one more angel looking over us. Deepest sympathies to Uncle Bob and the entire family. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers!*

*Doug, Julie and the Cox family*



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**Doug Cox** - January 17, 2020 at 09:53 AM

AC

“ Ruth was my daughter’s 6th grade teacher. What a gem! She was so good at making all of her students feel valued and loved. I’ll never forget her kindness and concern for my daughter during a tough time in her life! My prayers are with the family at this tough time!

Ann Cunningham - January 16, 2020 at 06:47 PM

CM

“ Ruth will forever be in my heart as a dear friend and a wonderful teammate. I will miss her greatly. My prayers for the family.

Carol McManaman Lawson  
Hollywood, Maryland

Carol McManaman - January 16, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ruth Cox Hedden.



January 16, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Ruth Cox Hedden.



January 16, 2020 at 02:58 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Ruth Cox Hedden.*



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January 16, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ruth Cox Hedden.*



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January 15, 2020 at 10:31 PM