



## Ruth Carolyn (Johnson) Ashworth

January 24, 1940 - January 31, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Ruth Carolyn (Johnson) Ashworth

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – CAIRO  
4815 Sycamore Street, Cairo, Illinois

Ruth Carolyn (Johnson) Ashworth, age 85, of Cairo, passed away on Friday, January 31, 2025 at her residence surrounded by her family.

She was born on January 24, 1940 at St. Mary's Hospital to the late Walter and Ruth (Goins) Johnson of Cairo, Illinois.

Her education was from Elmwood School, Junior High School, and Cairo High School. After graduation, Ruth married Billy Shelton Ashworth on February 27, 1960 at the First Memorial Methodist Church in Cairo. They were married for 56 years until his passing on August 23, 2016.

After graduation, Ruth worked for The Brokerage, becoming manager in 1962.

She retired in 1964 to raise a family. Then in 1991, she began working at the County Clerk's Office for Sue Harrington. In 1993, she went to work for the City of Cairo under Mayor James Wilson and Brenda Miller as Clerk. Ruth worked under Mayors James Wilson, Paul Farris, Judson Childs, and Tyrone Coleman. Ruth enjoyed meeting people. After retirement, she worked part-time.

Ruth enjoyed sewing, quilting, knitting, scrapbooking, not to mention working on the all Cairo High school class reunions. She kept in touch with many special class.

She leaves behind her daughter, Amy Ann Ashworth Conaway of Charleston, MO; one granddaughter, Claire Elise Conaway; one brother-in-law, Ronnie (Marilyn) Ashworth of Jackson, MO; one cousin, Aleshia Cron of Paducah, KY; Spencer Newton, who called her Granny Ruth; and son-in-law, Deron Conaway; special caregivers, Ryan and Samantha Mills, David Brown, Jody Pruett, and Joyce Cassey all of whom became family members to her as well.

Along with her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by her infant son, Derrin Ashworth.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM at Crain Funeral Home in Cairo.

A private graveside burial will be held at Green Lawn Memorial Gardens in Villa Ridge, Illinois with Mary Helen Wissinger officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to the Cairo Public Library.

Crain Funeral Home in Cairo is in charge of arrangements.



# Cemetery Details

## Green Lawn Memorial Gardens

Old US 51  
Villa Ridge, IL 62996

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Cairo  
4815 Sycamore  
Cairo, IL 62914  
(618) 734-4291  
[crain@crainsonline.com](mailto:crain@crainsonline.com)

# Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Mary and Lance Pruitt family purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Ruth Carolyn (Johnson) Ashworth.*



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**The Mary and Lance Pruitt family** - February 10, 2025 at 07:19 PM

DF

“ *Ruth, Bill, and Amy were my family growing up. Amy was one of my best friends growing up at St Joe's school in Cairo, and Ruth was a second mother to a lot of us that were friends with Amy also. Sooo many trips to Sonic for lunch in the big green Lincoln, or that is how I remember it. Ruth took care of so many of us Cairo kids in so many ways. I have not seen her in so many years but if I could talk to her today I would tell her that I appreciated her so much and that I thought of her as family!! Amy, I have always loved you and you also are my family!!! God Bless this family and all of us for this loss!!!*

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**David Farris** - February 05, 2025 at 09:40 PM

JW

“ *Ruth was such a great pleasure to work with and have as a friend. What a surprise when she presented me with a scrapbook of our 10 years together at city hall. A very special person and she passed those attributes to daughter Amy*

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**james Wilson** - February 04, 2025 at 04:24 PM

DN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dana Newton - February 03, 2025 at 11:02 AM

TF

“ The Mason Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ruth Carolyn (Johnson) Ashworth.



The Mason Family - February 03, 2025 at 10:42 AM

TF

“ The Conaway and Wolf Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Ruth Carolyn (Johnson) Ashworth.



The Conaway and Wolf Family - February 02, 2025 at 10:31 AM

M(

“ When Ruthie worked at Brokerage, I would travel with my father who was the district manager for their 25 stores. I would stay with her and Billy while my father traveled to other stores. I would help in the store and then we would have dinner at the diner and then play cards with her grandpa and dad. I did that from the age of 9 til 13. She liked the company since Billy was working on the barge. My brother, Jay and sister, Kim would do the same thing. We each had our turn of visiting her and her family. ( Of course this was before she had Amy). We all thought of her as our second mom. She was so sweet to be around and fun to be with her and Billy. We thank her and sometimes Billy for such wonderful childhood memories. We all send our thoughts and prayers to Amy and Claire. Love you, Ruthie and am so glad you'll be with Billy.

Monica Bruening (Cutter) - February 01, 2025 at 08:57 PM

DC

“ D BROWN, S REMBIESA, & M CLIFTON purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ruth Carolyn (Johnson) Ashworth.



D BROWN, S REMBIESA, & M CLIFTON - February 01, 2025 at 08:26 PM

LH

“ Lynn & Lorrie Hesselrode purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ruth Carolyn (Johnson) Ashworth.



Lynn & Lorrie Hesselrode - February 01, 2025 at 06:59 PM