



## Ruth E. Merkel

July 2, 1952 - June 9, 2026

Wantage - Ruth E. Merkel, age 73, passed away on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at Morristown Medical Center surrounded by her loving family. Born in Hackensack to the late Elmer and Ruth (Beck) Pouch, Ruth grew up in Hasbrouck Heights and moved to Wantage in 1972. She leaves behind a lifetime of service, devotion to family, and countless cherished memories. Ruth dedicated many years of her life to caring for others as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Throughout her nursing career, she faithfully served the community through the many changes of the local hospital system, beginning at Alexander Linn Hospital, continuing through Walkkill Valley Hospital and Northwest Covenant Medical Center, and ultimately retiring from St. Clare's Hospital in Sussex. She was known for her kindness, dedication, and the genuine care she showed to her patients and coworkers. A faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Sussex, Ruth was baptized later in life, fulfilling another milestone in her walk of faith. Ruth also devoted her time to her family and community. When her children were young, she served as a Den Mother for Cub Scouts Pack 94 and shared her enthusiasm and encouragement as a cheer coach for the High Point Hawks. Outside of her career and volunteer work, Ruth found happiness in life's special moments. She was an excellent cook who enjoyed bringing people together around the table. She had a lifelong love of animals and enjoyed traveling to antique shops and shows in search of unique treasures. Her collections of teapots and antique dolls reflected both her appreciation for

history and her joyful spirit.

Above all else, Ruth's greatest pride and deepest love was being a grandmother. Her grandchildren were the center of her world, and she treasured every moment spent with them. The memories she created, the traditions she shared, and the love she gave so freely will remain with them always.

Ruth will be remembered for her caring heart, her devotion to family, and the kindness she extended to everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, William and her sister, Marilyn. She is survived by her loving husband of 54 years, Daniel; her sons, Daniel and his wife Lilly of Millstone and Eric and his wife Hope of Wantage; her daughters, Carole Harnett and her husband Tony of Wantage and Cheryl Soldano and her husband Pete of Wantage; eight grandchildren, Jacqueline, PJ, Tori, Danny, Brian, Donna, Sarah, and Natalie; two sisters-in-law, Kathleen Reichert and her husband Wayne of May's Landing and Dorothy Connor of HoHoKus; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends may pay their respects to the family on Friday, June 12, 2026 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Funeral services will immediately follow at 5 p.m. at the funeral home. Private cremation services will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Ruth's memory to the First Baptist Church of Sussex, 2 East Main Street, Sussex, New Jersey 07461. Online condolences may be offered to the family at [www.pinkelfuneralhome.com](http://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

**Private Cremation Services**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**JUN 12.** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.  
31 Bank Street (Route 23)  
Sussex, NJ 07461  
(973) 875-3272  
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

### Service

**JUN 12.** 5:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.  
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# Tribute Wall

AZ

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Ruth's passing in the last few years I connected with her through messenger it was so nice to connect with Ruth after all these years we grew up on the same street

Anita Zoon - June 17 at 05:04 PM

TF

“ The Bork Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Ruth E. Merkel.



The Bork Family - June 12 at 12:01 PM

TL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. I worked with her for several years at Sussex Hospital. She was always so funny and had a great heart. May she rest in peace. Terry Le

Terry. Le - June 12 at 08:20 AM

GR

“ I am so deeply sorry for your loss. She was always so caring even though she was going thru her personal medical issues. She would come in for her cleanings and ask ,how is your husband doing, we will pray for him in church.. Truly a lovely caring soul. She went home to be with her Lord, now she has no pain. Love always, Gloria & Jesse Rivera



Gloria E Rivera - June 12 at 05:53 AM

BB

“ Bobby Mitchell, Liz Lines & Patty Behnke purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Ruth E. Merkel.



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**Bobby Mitchell, Liz Lines & Patty Behnke** - June 11 at 01:27 PM

JK

“ Mr . Merkel, Dan, Carole, Eric, and Cheryl I am so sorry for your loss. Sending you love and prayers in this difficult time. Praying God wraps you in his comforting arms and provides you peace.

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**Jennifer (Myers) Kriebel** - June 10 at 11:22 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth E. Merkel.



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June 10 at 09:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ruth E. Merkel.

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June 10 at 09:30 PM

SK

“ Sara and Wayne Kingston purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ruth E. Merkel.



Sara and Wayne Kingston - June 10 at 07:51 PM

MS

“ Many years of true friendship. We both loved our flowers , and getting together for dinners!  
We had many laughs and tears together. I will miss you Ruth but someday we will all be together.

Molly and George Sosco - June 10 at 07:07 PM

MS

Prayers to the Merkel family.

Molly and George Sosco - June 10 at 07:08 PM

MH

Dan and family I am so sorry for your loss. I have many fond memories of Ruth. I always enjoyed the neighborhood parties at Ginny's when we would all get together. She was along with the whole family were a large part of what made that neighborhood so special. I will miss our chats.

mary hamming - June 11 at 11:01 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ruth E. Merkel.



June 10 at 07:02 PM