

Speelman, Ruth

Ruth Audrey Speelman, 87, of Hendersonville, North Carolina, died Thursday, December 4, 2003, at Pardee Subacute Care Facility in Hendersonville. Ruth was born in London, Ontario, Canada on August 7, 1916, the youngest daughter of the late Ruth Perry Hills and John Taylor Hills and wife of the late Harry Speelman. She was also preceded in death by three sisters, Ida Mary Blanchard, Blanche Courville and Marjorie Johnstone. Her mother died when Ruth was an infant, and she was raised by her eldest sister, May Blanchard and her husband, T.A. Ruth worked in advertising in the Fischer Building in Detroit for many years, and her husband, Harry Speelman, was a captain of the Michigan State football team. He played a few years for the Detroit Lions and taught school in Detroit where he retired as Director of Attendance for the Detroit Public Schools. They lived in Gross Pointe Farms and retired to Pigeon. Ruth moved to Hendersonville almost 20 years ago. Her sister, Margie, lived with her until she passed away in February 1998. She loved to play bridge and shop and she has many friends in Hendersonville who will surely miss her. She leaves her loving family of nieces and nephews, Mary Amanti and her husband, John, of Sarasota, Florida and Salem, Massachusetts, Betty Adams, of Royal Oak, John Johnstone, of Patterson, North Carolina, Donald Johnstone, of Otisfield, Maine, and Susan Briggs, of Williamstown, Massachusetts; and many grand and great-grand nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be conducted at St. James Episcopal Church. Father Robert Salamone and Deacon Jerry Beschta will officiate. Her niece Mary, wishes to express her heartfelt appreciation to Four Seasons Hospice and the wonderful dedicated staff of the Subacute Care Center at Pardee for their loving care. Memorials may be made to St. James Episcopal Church, 766 N. Main St., Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792 or to Four Seasons Hospice, PO Box 2395, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28793. Shuler Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.