



Roma Ruby Heaven

October 18, 1927 - March 8, 2025

Roma Ruby Lawson was born to Henry Lawson and Ruby Turner Lawson in Nowra, NSW, Australia. She grew up in Newcastle with her parents and older sister, Faith. She met her future husband, William S. “Tommy” Thompson, a US Army officer stationed in Newcastle during WWII. They married in 1944, and welcomed a daughter, Dianne Faith in 1945. After the war, Tommy was sent back to The States.

The following year Roma and Dianne left Australia by ship and began the two-week voyage to San Francisco. They then travelled another week by train to Baltimore, MD, where they were met by Tommy and his mother, Susie. The last leg of the journey was a ferry ride across the Chesapeake Bay and, finally, arrival in Hillsboro, a small town of less than 200. Roma thrived there, making life-long friends.

In 1949 the family grew when baby William Loag Thompson was born in Newport News, VA, where Tommy was stationed. Three years later, the Army moved the family to Mannheim, Germany, where the US military played a major role in the reconstruction of West Germany. Again, lifelong friends were made.

In 1963 Roma and Tommy separated and she returned to her homeland. She worked hard to support her family as a single mother, rising from bookkeeper

to Office Manager of a minerals and mining conglomerate. Her office had a view overlooking Sydney Harbour. She loved all her jobs over the years. In 1978 Roma married Bruce Heaven, a retired Australian Navy Chief Petty Officer, and became Roma Heaven, a much complimented name.

At the age of 80, after Bruce and her parents had passed away, she took a very courageous step and moved back to The States near family in St. Augustine, FL. Roma lived independently for nine years, moved to assisted living and then into long-term care at River Garden in Jacksonville, again making new friends and touching lives.

Roma went into the arms of the LORD at Community Hospice on March 8, 2025. She is survived by her sister, Faith; children Dianne (Ron) and Bill (Barbara); nephew Terry (Toni); grandchildren Michael (Megan), Elisabeth (Patrick), Chris A. (Rhea) and Chris L. (Roopam) and great-grandchildren Kylie, Kate, Veera, Leni, Claire, Noori, Lou, Ruby and Lottie.

Donations may be made to the River Garden Foundation, <https://www.rivergarden.org/river-garden-foundation/>, or Community Hospice, <https://www.communityhospice.com/>.

Tribute Wall

KC

“ So sorry for your loss! She was a lovely lady! So dignified and full of love and life! I consider myself lucky to have met her. May she rest in peace! Kiran Chandra

Kiran Chandra - March 19, 2025 at 07:59 PM

AL

Grandma Roma was the kind of person who filled every room with warmth. She had a way of making everyone feel special, as if they were the most important person in the world. With her kind heart and gentle soul, she made love feel easy and natural.

One of the most beautiful things about Grandma was how she spoke to everyone around her. No matter who you were, whether you were family or a friend or distanced relative, she had a way of calling you Darling that made you feel cherished. It wasn't just a word—it was her way of wrapping you in love. When she said it, you could hear the kindness in her voice and the warmth in her heart.

We love you forever, you will always stay in our hearts, Grandma Roma!!

Aanam Lam - March 27, 2025 at 06:26 PM