

Ruth Fackler Rutledge 93, went to be with her Lord on March 31, 2009. She was born to Carl and Susan Fackler in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 8, 1915. She was the second child in a family of 3 girls and 1 boy, and her older sister, Lucile, moved with her to El Paso in the late 1930's. Growing up in Minneapolis, Ruth stayed involved with sports, musical activities, and community volunteerism. Ruth especially developed a love for music at an early age, having her first piano recital by age 7. Not only did she entertain regularly, playing her accordion and harmonica and tap dancing at the neighborhood theaters, but also she frequently played the piano in the Kiddie Reviews. Later, she had invitations to be one of the pianists for her neighbors, the Andrews Sisters - Patty, Maxene, and Laverne - who later became "Americas Wartime Sweethearts". Since that time, Ruth has consistently shared her musical talents with organizations and people of all ages especially playing at retirement centers for senior citizens. Later in life, she went back to Texas Western College, studying the pipe organ which she occasionally played at her church. Ruth arrived in El Paso in 1939 where an interesting series of events unfolded. She worked for Standard Oil Company, played short stop and first base on their softball team, and joined their touring quartet of musicians, known as The Rancheritas, mainly as the group's pianist. In 1941, she married Charles Victor Rutledge at St. Paul's Lutheran Church where she went on to be an active member throughout her life. Shortly thereafter, she joined her husband in his Navy travels, living in Fort Worth, Texas; Monterrey, California; New York City; New Orleans, Louisiana, culminating in an overseas tour of duty shortly after the war. Her husband, as a Commander in the US Navy, was appointed acting military governor of the Eastern Caroline Islands and Ruth and their daughter, Susan, joined him in this tour of duty. Upon returning to El Paso, Ruth enjoyed the rest of her years serving as a community volunteer as a Brownie and Girl Scout Leader; PTA President at Lamar Elementary and an active PTA committee member for Mesita Elementary, Coronado High, and El Paso High School and a frequent volunteer at Bowie High and Radford School. Consequently, she was hon-



ored with a life-time PTA membership. She was a Sunday school teacher and pianist, and Luther League sponsor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Ruth was president of the Delta Gamma Sorority Alumni Group and the Desert Hills Garden Club. She actively volunteered with the Light House for the Blind, Sun Carnival Association, UTEP Women's Auxiliary as their scholarship chairman, and Sigma Alpha Iota, an honorary music fraternity. She worked closely with her husband in developing the Rutledge Insurance and Real Estate Agency. After a lifetime of community service, she was honored in 2000 by the Volunteer Bureau of El Paso, and in 2005 she was named to the El Paso Senior Citizens Hall of Fame for her decades of community service. She instilled in her family a love for people, life and community.

Most importantly, Ruth Rutledge was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Victor Rutledge; her brother, Carl Fackler; and her grandson, W. Jonathan Crews, III. She is survived by her daughters, Susan Rutledge Crews and Sally Rutledge Souers; she was "NaNa" to her granddaughter, Lauren Rutledge Souers, and to her grandson, Dr. Charles Rutledge Crews (Camille Frost Crews); and to her great-granddaughter, Daley Rutledge Crews. She was a very special mother-in-law to Larry Souers and a "grandmother" to Le Nguyen (Ana Elena and daughter, Madison). Other survivors include her sisters Lucile Andrew of El Paso and Dorothy Jensen of Mankato, Minnesota. She has many nieces and nephews throughout the US. Memorial Service will be held Friday, April 3, 2009 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1000 Montana Ave. at 5:30 pm, followed by a reception dinner at 6:30 pm. Pallbearers are Clarence Albrecht, Tom Atherton, Ken Borgh, Rev. Lisle Davis, Kevin Kinne, Dr. Michael Pinon, Larry Souers, Dave Speelman, and Russell Waterhouse. Honorary pallbearers are Leland Billstone, Carl DeKoatz, Erv Gregoire, Dr. Ron Gum, Jim Richardson, Wayne Sather, Len Sipiora, Jerry Smith, and Bruce Wierson. A special thanks to VNA Hospice and to all of her loving caretakers who sustained her life over the years and were with her at the very end. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church or VNA Hospice. Services entrusted to Martin Funeral Home West, 128 N. Resler Dr. El Paso, TX 79912