



# Ruth Cardillo Robinson

DEC 20, 1940 - JAN 20, 2025



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# Ruth Cardillo Robinson

DEC 20, 1940 - JAN 20, 2025

**R**uth Cardillo Robinson  
December 20, 1940 - January 20, 2025

Hidden Meadows, California--Ruth Cebuano-Cardillo Robinson died while on a video call with a missionary from her children's nonprofit in the Philippines. After being rest assured that the children's ministry would continue, a tear rolled down her face, she released her daughter's hand and breathed her last breath.

Ruth was the youngest of 13 children and was preceded by her parents Pedro Pajaron Cardillo and Marciana Arevelo Cebuano Cardillo. Ruth is survived by her husband, Nathaniel "Nate" Robinson, her eldest daughter Grace Joy Reid (Carlton); her youngest daughter Esther Ruth Robinson Venema (Erik); and her five grandchildren Carlton, William, Elizabeth "Lizzie", Yvette, and Leslie.

Ruth was born on December 20, 1940, in Palompon, Leyte, Philippines. Ruth's Christian Faith had been a big part of her life since the beginning, as her family was the first converts when Reformed missionaries from America had evangelized in her hometown. Ruth grew up serving others at a young age in her brother's church and as a child, she would get up at 6 o'clock in the morning to sell her handmade crafts at the market. A traumatic event that spearheaded her service to others was during the Second World War--Ruth's life and her entire family's life were spared from a Japanese firing squad in Leyte. Standing in front of the firing squad while riding on her mother's shoulders, their rifles froze. Her mother—a prayerful, godly woman-- was smiling and at peace, and had just reassured Ruth that God's hand was going to block the bullets. Ruth was an innovative person who created her own boundaries through a loving, caring, kind, and compassionate way. She started a children's ministry in a garbage slum in Tondo, Manila and gave that thriving ministry to her mentor Pastor Manong Catan for it to continue. Ruth received a full scholarship to Silliman University in Dumaguete (Negros Oriental); but turned it down because she was challenged by the President of the Far Eastern Bible Institute of Asia Bible College "FEBIAS" who spoke at her chapel at Silliman, to live a life of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and being a light and minister. She was given the name "Pastora" and "Bible



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Woman” because she was reaching out to others like Christ, praying for them, and spreading the gospel in prisons, among fellow young people and the elderly, and among tribal groups in remote villages in the mountains.

Ruth had a beautiful singing voice and had won several vocal competitions. She was asked to sing on the radio and was chosen to sing at a big festival featuring Pat Boone. A young airman had noticed her beauty and her beautiful solo voice at church. On April 11, 1967, Ruth married Air Force tech sergeant Nathaniel Robinson in Manila and had her honeymoon in Camp John Hay in Bagio.

Ruth encouraged Nate to complete his college degree and go into the ministry. He became a chaplain, and his military career took Ruth to across four states and to Germany. As a social worker in the Army, she ministered to many families and especially to foreign wives of military from Europe and Asia. Ruth provided parenting classes to young mothers, counseled women, taught cooking classes to General’s wives, directed three choirs, taught English classes to foreign wives of army soldiers and provided them with transportation to healthcare and the grocery store; and lastly, Ruth was advocate for abused women and was integral in preventing several suicide attempts. She received several awards for her community service and creating international festivals with music, food, and dance.

Ruth spent her retired years in Colorado, Arizona, and California, founding Children’s Concern International, “CCI Philippines,” a children’s development organization that works with impoverished communities of fatherless children and provides them with education (she sent hundreds to school), food (provided food programs to hungry kids), clothing (including shoes and gently used and new clothes) and medical missions’ outreaches (using known medical professionals in the PHL and from the US). In September-October 2024, Ruth returned to the Philippines to meet with AMG International missionaries and leaders to hand over the baton to AMG Philippines (CCI Philippines) to continue her work with CCI Philippines for the Lord. Nate and Ruth retired on a lovely property with citrus trees in Mesa, Arizona where they were members of First Presbyterian Church of Mesa. In 2021, they moved back to California where they had started their journey 58 years ago. They resided at Meadowbrook Village Christian Retirement Community. Ruth attended Maranatha Chapel in Rancho Bernardo where former choir members from her church in Manila from the 1960s attend. In 2024, Ruth moved to Hidden Meadows for health reasons, where she was cared for 24/7 by her daughter and son-in-law until the end.

The funeral service and reception will be held at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, February 8, 2025, officiated by Pastor Daniel Bentley at Maranatha Chapel, 10752 Coastwood Road, San Diego (Rancho Bernardo); open casket viewing is on Friday, Feb. 7 from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Alhiser-



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Comer, 225 S Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025. Graveside Burial ceremony will be held Monday, February 10 at 2:15 p.m. (Lane 2), officiated by Ruth's hospice chaplain and Army Chaplain Joseph Paglinawan at Miramar National Cemetery, 5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to continue Ruth's work and legacy in the Philippines:

Gifts can be made to:

AMG International

Attn. AMG PHL/Children's Concern International 6615 Standifer Gap Road

Chattanooga, TN 37421

[put "CCI Philippines" in memo of check or in "additional gift instructions" for online donations]

<https://www.amginternational.org/project/AMG-Ministries-in-Philippines>

Donors can also select the "I am giving in memory of Ruth Robinson"






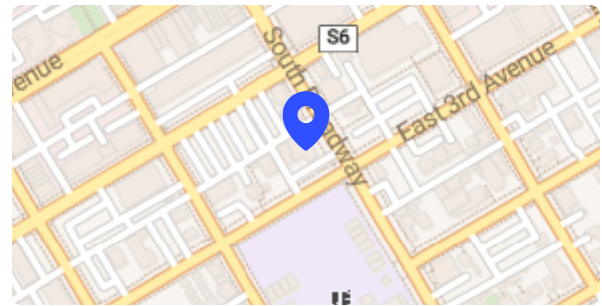
# Events

**Ruth Cardillo Robinson**




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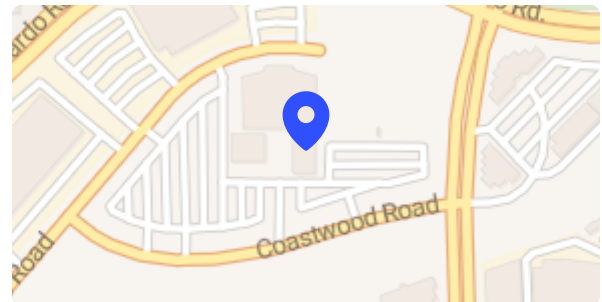
## Viewing

-  **Friday**, February 7, 2025
-  4:00 PM - 8:00 PM PT
-  **Alhiser-Comer Mortuary**  
225 S Broadway, Escondido CA 92025






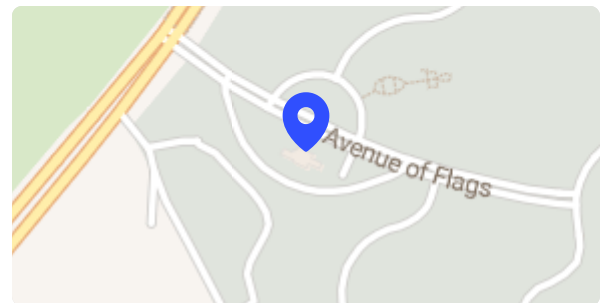
## Funeral Service

-  **Saturday**, February 8, 2025
-  10:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT
-  **Maranatha Chapel**  
10752 Coastwood Rd, San Diego CA 92127




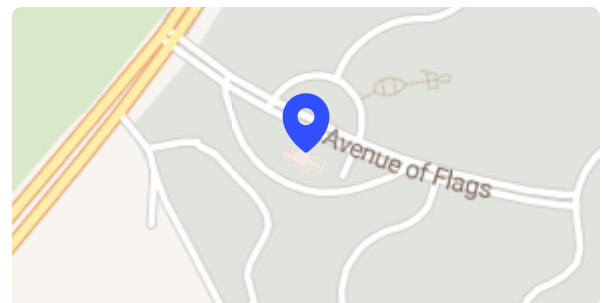
## Graveside Service

-  **Monday**, February 10, 2025
-  2:15 PM - 2:45 PM PT
-  **Miramar National Cemetery**  
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego CA 92122



## Cemetery Details

-  **Miramar National Cemetery**  
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego CA 92122





## Tribute Wall

**Ruth Cardillo Robinson**

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GR

**Grace Joy Reid** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Reflections on Mom (Nanay) I am reading from Nanay's testimony called, "My Life in Christ" "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5 This verse is very special because of my miraculous deliverance from a Japanese firing squad during the Second World War. My mother and I were fleeing the Japanese slaughter of men, women, and children from my hometown, Palompon, Leyte in the Philippines. Riding on my mother's shoulders we fled across an ocean inlet only to find ourselves face to face with a squad of Japanese soldiers aiming long rifles with bayonets fix menacingly waiting for us on the other side. I was only six years old and extremely terrified when we were made to stand in front of a 24-men firing squad. My mother, a woman of unusual faith, quietly whispered while smiling (said) "They cannot kill us because God has sent his angels to stop them." The squad commander then shouted out the order, ready, aim, fire, but nothing happened. The soldiers looked as if they had seen something really petrifying, dropped their rifles without firing a shot. I ran into the woods and the commander asked my mother for direction to our town. The soldiers let us escape into the woods where we were able to join the rest (of) our family members who were hiding from the Japanese. After the war was over, I got very much involved in our church. Rev. and Mrs. David Smith, Presbyterian missionaries led Mom and Dad to Christ and they opened our home as the meeting place for church. I was the youngest in the family born having siblings who had already reached adulthood. I was one of 10 youth at my church who responded to a call to serve God in the gospel ministry. I have kept my pledge to serve God all of these years. During my teenage years I served as soloist during evangelistic outreach ministries in towns and barrios in Leyte. Later I served as Christian Education Director for the entire Leyte Conference as teacher-trainer traveling, choir director and preacher all over the island of Leyte for 7 years. I was given free board and lodging and occasionally a free-will offering as a salary. Those were Mom's words. Now for my words. She continually told me about the great things that God had done in her life and in mine. "You should've died as a baby, when you got sick, but God saved you for His purposes." Mom would say. Before I was born, Mom bought piano books for me. She had a gorgeous singing voice and would sing to me, while I was in her womb, and Esther, too. She would play Children's Christian songs on the record player for me to learn. She would sing along to her favorite Sacred Christian artists while she cooked in the kitchen. In the third grade, I would tell my Mom of my desire to play the piano for a Billy Graham Crusade. Growing up, Mom spoke of God's mighty hand moving in the Philippines. For example, it was monsoon season, and the road had become a river. The bus driver was afraid to cross it and wanted to turn back. But mom called out, "No, keep going! I will pray and see the hand of God move! Have faith! We will make it! " And they did! She also spoke of the time when they first got married and living in Norwalk, CA. Dad was a full-time college student at Biola University and working full-time at night at the U.S. Post Office. Mom was alone with me. When they didn't have enough food to eat, Mom would pray, and a bag of groceries appeared on their front doorstep. Mom had an usual faith, like her mom, Marciana Cabillo Cardillo. I miss your laughter & love for people & God. I love you, Nanay. Ini ibig kita.

February 19 at 2:59 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Joe** lit a candle in honor of Ruth.

She was choir director at my brother's church in Cubao, Philippines. Sawbl her in Germany as well. Sorry Nate.We'll join were g lher soon She and Ardith were good f friends. Maybe they are makin



February 5 at 10:53 PM

**GR** **Grace Joy Reid** February 19 at 2:24 AM  
Thank you, Joe for sharing.

**JO** **Joe** February 6 at 12:19 AM  
... making music together.



**Barbara Wright** posted:

Mr. Robinson, Grace, Ester, and the Robinson Family,I want to express my sincere sympathies for your loss with the passing of Ruth. She was an amazing lady—kind, thoughtful, and caring. I cherish the fond memories of the wonderful food and fun I experienced at the Robinson household in Fort Riley, Kansas. She always kept everyone fed with her delicious meals. She never skimped on the food, it was always four courses followed by singing around the piano.I recall one summer when Ruth led the vacation Bible school on Custer Hill and entrusted me with the crafts, even though I had just graduated high school. That summer was truly special and inspired my 35-year journey of teaching in low-income schools.Grace, my dear friend from high school, and I continue to nurture our friendship, and we will always remember Ruth. She will be deeply missed.Warm regards,Barbara Wright

February 3 at 3:47 AM

**GR** **Grace Joy Reid** February 19 at 2:26 AM  
I remember those good times, too. Thanks for sharing, Barb.



**Chaplain Joyce Agiobenebo** sent a Fairest of All to the Robinson family.



February 1 at 4:57 AM



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**Chaplain Joyce Agiobenebo** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ruth.



February 1 at 4:57 AM



**Pamela Brodie** posted:

Dearest Grace, Ester and all Robinson family members & extended family members, I am the elder daughter of Jerri/Richard & Courtney's sister and you must understand I knew your EXCEPTIONAL MOTHER as just that.... a SAINT. My parents adored the Robinsons'. Although my time in Fort Riley, Kansas was extremely limited, one thing I knew very well; my sister's best friend Ester, her sister Grace, Pastor Robinson and Mrs. Robinson..... Courtney's second family. I would leave in the morning attending my summer job, not seeing my sister all day and I would come home and still not see lil' sis and my mother told me.....she would be at the Robinsons'..... spending the night! I knew what it was to have a best friend on a military base because I also had a best friend like Ester was to my sister in Seoul, Korea so I did not mind. Most can attest, it is difficult cultivating any type of friendship with another person, so when it happened.....Courtney and Ester just revealed in it! I am sure of it now.....Mrs. Robinson was single handedly responsible for developing my sister's AMAZING harmony/vocals by first exposing Courtney to the beauty of harmony in Christian music that she in turn passed onto her two daughters, CHLOE & HALLE while they were growing up. Mrs. Robinson..... thank you so very much for your family time, attention, fun, and loving spirit you poured into my sister. Ester and Grace thank you for sharing your precious mother; SAINT RUTH CARDILLO ROBINSON 🌸 Pamela Brodie

January 31 at 3:43 PM



**Grace Joy Reid** February 19 at 2:29 AM

Thank you for sharing, Pamela. I remember my sister and Courtney singing and playing the piano for one another in our living room.



**Dick + Jerri Singleton** posted:

The Singleton Family (Dick and Jerri) Want to convey our deepest condolences to each of you in the family experiencing the loss of your Queen Ruthie. We pray GOD provides both peace and comfort that will sustain you. Cherish all the memories and hold onto GOD'S unchanging hands.

January 31 at 6:18 AM



**Grace Joy Reid** February 19 at 2:31 AM

Thank you, Col. and Mrs. Singleton, for sharing your kind words and sage advice.



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CB

**Courtney Bailey** posted:

Ms. Ruthie Robinson was an angel on this earth — not just to me, but to everyone blessed to know her. I first met Ms. Ruthie through my best childhood friend, Esther, in 1984 when our parents were stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. Esther and I quickly became inseparable, like sisters, and Ms. Ruthie welcomed me into her family with open arms and a loving heart. It all began when she invited me to church, gently asking if I'd like to join the children's choir. Not only did she direct the choir, but she also came faithfully to pick me up every Sunday, ensuring I was part of that beautiful experience. Those weekends often turned into sleepovers at their home, filled with warmth, laughter, and love. I still remember Mr. Robinson teasingly asking when I was going home because I stayed over so often! Ms. Ruthie always made me feel welcome, never a guest but part of the family. I'll never forget the amazing Filipino food — her noodles and egg rolls were unmatched. Then there were the sing-alongs in the family room as she played the piano, her infectious laughter filling the air. Ms. Ruthie had a joyful spirit, always giving, loving, and embracing those around her. Her presence made a lasting impact on my life, one I will carry forever. Rest peacefully, Ms. Ruthie. You've earned your wings!!!

January 31 at 6:05 AM

GR

**Grace Joy Reid** February 19 at 2:34 AM

Thank you for being a faithful friend to Esther for all of these years. I am so glad that I got to see you in person at Mom's funeral service (celebration of life service). Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus to our family during this difficult time.



# Media

**Ruth Cardillo Robinson**

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Grace Joy Reid shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 19 at 2:59 AM



Joyfully serving others for Christ



Mom and Dad in 2020



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Ruth by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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