



Ruth Ardella Sasse

November 20, 1937 - October 1, 2022

“Del” Sasse was born Ruth Ardella Ashmun on November 20, 1937, in Salt Lake City, Utah and passed away suddenly but peacefully on October 1, 2022. The eldest of 5, she was a tomboy who loved playing sports and being outdoors. Her family moved to Minnesota when she was in elementary school. She loved the seasons and the snow and had fond memories of her northern roots. When she was a teenager, her family moved to Texas. While she always claimed that she wasn’t a good student, she was intelligent and determined, and was accepted to Rice University where she graduated after studying architecture and primary education. It was there that she met the love of her life, Bruce Sasse, also an architecture major, and they were married on December 23, 1960. They then moved to Princeton, New Jersey, where Bruce completed his Master of Architecture and Del taught elementary school in Trenton until the birth of their first daughter in 1962. Teaching others would turn out to be one of Del’s lifelong passions.

The newly married couple moved to Texas with their newborn, and their second daughter was born the following year. Del was a devoted mother who believed strongly in family values and a strong work ethic. She carried this into the classroom, where she went above and beyond to help provide students with a strong foundation, including underprivileged students in San Antonio. She was determined to positively impact each student, customizing her curriculum accordingly. Years later, she would receive notes of appreciation

from her former pupils, thanking her for changing their lives.

She and Bruce loved the outdoors and moved to their Raven Bluffs ranch in Lampasas County, Texas in 2003 where they worked together ridding the land of invasive plant species to create an environment for native grasses and other native plant life. By day, you would find Del either with a chainsaw in hand or on her Bobcat; at dusk, she would ride with their dog, Migs, in her utility vehicle to feed her cows and survey the land. She was a true steward of nature.

If you met Del, you would remember her. She may have been pint-sized, but she was full of character and determination, superseded only by her generous heart. If you gave her a present, she would give you a present back; not because she wanted to outdo you, but because her nature was to give rather than receive. If you came to visit, you were doted upon. She was entertaining, not because she was a “showman,” but because she was naturally fun, unpretentious, and had a zest for life. She would start dancing as soon as music came on, race you to get something, or, even in her later years, climb the play structure and go down a slide while at the park with her great-granddaughter.

Del cherished her “two girls,” her 5 grandchildren, and her great-granddaughter, Ellie Jane. Always the teacher, she would Zoom with Ellie Jane every Tuesday, preparing hand-made “books” to help “EJ” learn to read. Del is survived by her husband, Bruce Sasse, 4 siblings (Jean Dunham, Cliff Ashmun, Renita Havey, and Dori Lown), her 2 daughters and their husbands (Selina and Bill Dwight of Palo Alto, CA, and Shawn and Jon Cooksey of Charlevoix, Michigan), 5 grandchildren (Haley Dwight O’Connor, Taylor Dwight, Will Dwight, Payton Dwight, and Quintin Dwight), and 1 great grand-daughter (Ellie Jane Dwight) who all remember her for her love of family, strong character, spunk, endearing personality, and natural beauty.

Cemetery Details

Heritage Crematory

401 North Key
Lampasas, TX 76550