

# Ruth Naomi Dunn



Ruth Naomi Dunn age 89, a beloved sister and friend, passed away peacefully on January 30, 2026.

Born on March 24, 1936, in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Ruth graduated from Winchester School of Nursing in Winchester, Virginia, and after a year of nursing in Martinsburg, she was recruited by the United Evangelical Church to serve in areas with a need for medical personnel.

In June of 1961, she ventured out West to Española Hospital in Española, New Mexico, working in pediatrics where she helped deliver babies. Soon she was promoted to a supervisory position. Known for her steady and cheerful presence no matter the job, she worked 37 years at the Española Hospital in various capacities. In 1991 she was recognized as a distinguished nurse manager, an honor that highlighted her high quality standards and excellence in service. She retired in 1998.

Ruth was a devout Christian who felt deep gratitude for the blessings God had given her. As an active member of Valley View Methodist Church, Ruthie was always willing to lend a hand. One of her favorite jobs was teaching vacation Bible school, often sharing her famous chicken noodle soup with the students at lunch. She served on the boards of the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico and Amigos del Valle. She also volunteered at the local soup kitchen.

In addition to loving the people and vast landscapes of the Española Valley, Ruth loved to travel the world (Europe, Israel, Egypt) with her best friend Mary Alire and niece Gwen Frazee.

She was preceded in death by her father, Elwood Robert Dunn, Sr. and mother Mae Heck Dunn, sisters Rosa Lee Meyers (Mark) Anna Mauck (Donald), Freeda Bowers (Walter), and brother Robert Elwood Dunn, Jr. (Marlene).

She is survived by her nieces Sandra Evy, Tina Hall, Gwen Frazee, and nephews Scott Dunn and Donald (Mike) Mauck. A nephew, Frank Bowers, preceded her in death. Two special Goddaughters, Arianna Salazar and Kim Romero as well as her dear friend of 65 years, Kay Sanchez also survive her.

**A Memorial Service in honor of Ruth will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 10:00 am at Valley View United Methodist Church, Española, NM.**

*The family of Ruth Dunn has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the beautiful Espanola Valley. 505-747-7477*