

RUTH (KENNEDY) MYERS Founder of Christmas in Newport (95) of Village House 70 Harrison Avenue, Newport, formerly of 40 Division Street, Newport, RI, and Murfreesboro, NC, died peacefully September 23, 2006, at home. She was the wife of the late Jacob Christian Myers.

Born in Raleigh, NC, on March 26, 1911, she was the daughter of the late Oscar Clement and Mary (Dowell) Kennedy.

Mrs. Myers was a graduate of Salem Academy in Winston-Salem, NC and Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. She was a devoted Navy wife, her favorite station being Panama City, FL. From 1946-1966 they lived in Alexandria, VA where she sold real estate and was active in historic preservation.

Ruth and her late husband Captain Jacob C. Myers Ret., moved to Newport in 1968. They were active members of Trinity Church in Newport and she sang in the choir and was a part of the bicentennial commission. They wintered in Newport and summered in Murfreesboro, North Carolina.

In 1971 Ruth founded Christmas in Newport. Her goal was to glorify the season in non-commercial and charitable ways in a month long celebration. The community collaboration to use only clear bulbs in the electric candles in Newport's windows was sparked by her childhood memories of real candles illuminating the windows of Moravian homes in her native North Carolina.

Ruth is survived by a son Christian W. Myers of Barrington, RI, five grandchildren Christian W. Myers III and spouse Janet of Portsmouth, RI, Meredith M. LeBlanc and spouse Michael of Newport, RI, Lisa M. Ring and spouse Robert of Middletown, RI, Christopher M. Myers and spouse Diane of Portsmouth, and Jason P. Myers of Bristol, RI, five great grandchildren Erin E. Myers of Portsmouth, RI, Ian T. Coyne of Middletown, RI, Jonathan C. Myers of Portsmouth, RI, Julia L. Myers of Portsmouth, RI, and Olivia A. Myers of Portsmouth, RI, two nieces Adianna Gabin of Pacifica, CA and Patsy Butler of Clear Lake, CA, and granddogs Abbey, Bailey and Nicki.

Her funeral will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at 1:30 p.m., in Trinity Church, Queen Anne Square, Newport. As a tribute from the Gabin and Butler families in California, Trinity's bell will be rung in her honor.

Burial will be in Trinity Cemetery in Portsmouth.

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