



Ruth Karen Griswold

June 11, 1931 - February 21, 2026

Ruth Griswold of Fort Jones passed away on February 21, 2026 in the early morning hours following a short illness.

Ruth Karen Matson was born on June 11, 1931 in Inglewood, California to George and Rosella Matson. She was the third of four siblings: June, Holly, George Jr., and Ruth. Her dad was a train engineer, her mom a telegraph operator. During her childhood, Ruth worked in her dad's nursery, learning early the value of diligence and care.

As a teenager, her family moved to Fallbrook, California where her dad purchased an avocado orchard. While working as a waitress in a little cafe there, Ruth met Harlan Griswold, a sailor serving during the Korean War. During his time overseas, they faithfully corresponded through letters. They were married on September 26, 1954.

Ruth and Harlan were blessed with eight children—two daughters and six sons—whom they raised on 25 acres of avocados in Fallbrook. In 1963, they began a lifelong commitment to serve God faithfully.

In 1971, they moved to Scott Valley, California, purchasing a 400-acre farm where they completed the raising of their family. There, they devoted themselves to farming and to instilling in their children the importance of faith, responsibility, and hard work.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband Harlan Jr., her parents George and Rosella, sisters June and Holly, brother George, her son-in-law Ron, and her granddaughter, Becky.

She is survived by her daughters Karen and Hope; her sons Mark, Kent (Ellen), Harley (Stephanie), Calvin (Vy), Noble (Monica) and Forest (Mary). She also leaves behind seven grandsons, seven granddaughters, and five great-grandchildren, along with many friends and extended family members who loved her dearly.

Ruth received excellent and compassionate end-of-life care. She passed away at home surrounded by loving caregivers and family, as she had wished.

Ruth's funeral service will be held in the Fort Jones Community Hall on February 28, 2026 at 11:00 am followed by interment at the Fort Jones Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

LR

“ Ruth was a kind and loving friend, whom I enjoyed spending time with. She was also a wise teacher of many things. Rest now, Ruth and know how much you were loved.

Liz Ricks - March 02 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Dear Griswold Family
My early recollections of your family go back to the late 50's or early 60's. Our family lived in Perris CA and we met your family. I remember visiting your home on the avocado farm. Thankful for our memories of convention at Santee CA. And then many years later while I was partnered with Uncle Leo in Northern California we would visit Harlan & Ruth on their farm there in Scott Valley. Thankful for the fellowship in Christ that has helped to keep us and guide us along lives' pathway. Many thoughts to each of you.
Scott Rauscher

Scott Rauscher - February 27 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Condolences to all the family. Ruth was a wealth of information for me when my young son started his cancer journey. I will be forever grateful to God for putting her into my life at just the right time. She will be missed. Blessings to you all.
Carol Downey Miettinen

Carol Miettinen - February 26 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ So sorry to hear. My condolences to the family.

Paula Gutleben Daubin - February 24 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ To all those years you n your husband kept tons of your hay ready for us horse ladies here in Happy Camp. We were always so grateful to you for taking care of our needs.
Greeted with welcoming smiles you guys were the best 👍
My condolences to your family.
Warmly Toni Ann Luisi

Toni Ann Luisi - February 24 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Too sad!

Jan Corrigan - February 23 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ RIP Mrs. Griswold. Condolences to Hope, Forrest and the rest of the Family.

KimLen Perreira - February 23 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

A Memorial Tree was planted for Ruth Karen Griswold - February 23 at 12:00 AM

DM

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Debbie March - February 23 at 12:00 AM