



Ruth A.(Porter) Cole, of Ayer

March 30, 1931 - December 26, 2025

Ayer-Ruth A. (Porter) Cole, 94, a lifelong resident of Ayer, passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025 in the Ayer Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Ayer.

Ruth was born in Ayer, on March 30, 1931, a daughter of the late, George and Stella (Taylor) Porter.

Prior to her retirement, Ruth worked as a switchboard operator at Nashoba Hospital in Ayer for 20 years, several years before that she was a switchboard operator for the New England Telephone Company.

She was a member of the Federated Church of Ayer and the American Legion Post 139 Ladies Auxiliary in Ayer. Ruth enjoyed painting with oil colors, making chocolate candies, reading mystery novels, collecting historical postcards of New England and salt and pepper shakers. Ruth enjoyed traveling to England and going on cruises with her husband.

Her husband, Alva V. Cole passed away in 2010. She leaves two sons Dale E. Cole and Larry A. Cole and his wife Deb, both of Ayer, a daughter Joyce A. Hopkins of Ashby; her sister, Pauline Hall in Maryland; seven grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren and several nephews and nieces.

She is predeceased by her three brothers, Roger Porter, Carl Porter and Robert Porter and a son-in-law Michael Hopkins.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., Ayer, is assisting the family with the funeral arrangements which will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to...Combination Company #1 Ayer Fire Dept. 1 West Main St. Ayer, Ma 01432

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

Harvard Road
Ayer, MA 01432
info@andersonfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

BO

“ Dale, Larry and Joyce, your mom was a sweetheart and many of my very early memories included her, your dad and you all. Thinking off you all.

bill oelfke - January 05 at 06:44 AM

JP

“ Thoughts and prayers to the Cole family. Joyce, I remember sitting with you and our moms at Apply Valley. and having some good conversations with them. Rest in peace, Ruth.

Jo-Anne Poirier - January 01 at 06:42 PM

CB

“ I did Ruth's hair for somewhere around 25/30 years.. she always told me..(your the boss, do what you want!) Ruth was surely a firecracker of a woman that's for sure! Strong..passionate..and did what she wanted..things I admired greatly. I hadn't seen her for a while.. but I know she loved her family deeply.. especially her daughter Joyce..❤️ Her caretaker..a hard but very rewarding job.Rest now Ruth.... back with her beloved husband Al
My condolences to the whole family...Cindy Bryce

Cindy Bryce - January 01 at 12:19 AM

AW

“ Anthony c u g l i e t t a and Wendy purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ruth A. (Porter) Cole, of Ayer.



Anthony c u g l i e t t a and Wendy - December 30, 2025 at 02:17 PM

AW

“ Anthony c u g l i e t t a and Wendy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth A.(Porter) Cole, of Ayer.

Anthony c u g l i e t t a and Wendy - December 30, 2025 at 02:17 PM

TH

“ Dale, Larry, Joyce:
Sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. My sympathy and prayers go out to you.i have great memories of working with your mom at Nashoba.
Terry Hurley

Terry Hurley - December 30, 2025 at 09:19 AM

ML

“ Mrs. Cole was one of a kind! Her love of her family was very strong!
She was a kind person. My deepest sympathy to all of her family.

Margaret Little

Margaret Little - December 30, 2025 at 07:02 AM

SM

“ So sorry for your loss.
Sandy Carkin St. Martin, daughter of her cousin, Phyllis Seidl

Sandy St. Martin - December 30, 2025 at 06:44 AM

TE

“ Ruth was the "voice" of The Nashoba Community Hospital when I worked my first part-time after school job there. She operated that busy switchboard like it was second nature. Please accept my condolences.

Tim Elmer - December 29, 2025 at 07:08 PM

KJ

“ Sorry to hear of Ruth’s passing, sending prayers for the family.
Karen

Karen Januskiewicz - December 29, 2025 at 07:01 PM