

Ella Mae Ramsburg (nee Myers) was born January 27, 1910. Ella Mae was raised in the town of Harmony Grove where she lived on a farm with her family. She had six siblings. Her Mother and sister both lived past the age of 100.

Ella Mae met her future husband of 46 years, Earl Ramsburg, while attending a barn dance in Utica. When she was 16, she would stand near her bus stop and wait for him to drive by in his Model T so she could wave to him. Earl had many girlfriends and one day Ella Mae told him "You can't come see me anymore, you have too many girlfriends". Earl quickly got the message. Ella Mae always spoke her mind; she was and is very feisty.

Ella Mae and Earl lived on East Patrick Street and raised two children, Lana and Richard; both graduates of Frederick High School. Ella Mae and Earl enjoyed gardening (a lot of canning!), family, the Great Frederick Fair (still a family tradition) and trips to Florida. Earl passed away in 1986 and Ella Mae continued to live on East Patrick Street until 2015 at the young age of 105.

Ella Mae worked in the cafeteria at East Frederick Elementary School for 20 years. She loved her job and during her time at East Frederick, all of the meals for the children were prepared from scratch. Ice cream cups called "Dixie Cup Ice Cream" were sold for either .6 cents or a dime (Lana could not remember). Ella Mae would keep extra change in her pocket in case one of the children forgot their ice cream money or could not afford to buy ice cream. She retired in 1970. In retirement, Ella Mae often met her former coworkers Margarita and Helen Krantz; for lunch. They were best friends and got together for many years.

I married Ella Mae's oldest grandson son, Rodney, so I have had the pleasure of calling Ella Mae my good friend for over 30 years. Her nickname is "Fritz" and I have always referred to her with this name. Fritz and I have shared many memories, conversations and snickerdoodle cookies.

Ella Mae has great genes but she has always been active and almost all of her meals were cooked at home. Chicken, vegetables, water and her morning coffee are her favorites. She comes from a generation of people that work hard, live simple and used their faith as a compass.

My top five Ella Mae memories:

1. She washed her broom when it was dirty
2. She walked to W&W to get fresh chickens
3. Snickerdoodle and peanut butter cookies
4. Chicken gravy from scratch; the best!
5. Her sense of humor and lack of filter

At 107, Ella Mae lives closer to her family in Pasadena, Maryland where her daughter Lana visits her every day. Her son Richard lives in Florida and visits often. She is surrounded by her grandchildren and she continues to amaze people with her health and attitude.

Ella Mae "Fritz" in her school cafeteria uniform, circa 1954.



Today, Fritz enjoying a bun that her grandson brings her every weekend. We call this the "Bun Run".

