



Helen Martha O'Neal

June 20, 1934 - May 19, 2023

Helen Martha (Myres) O'Neal, 88 of Hazelwood, cherished wife, loving and devoted mother and adored grandmother, gently passed away in her home with loved ones at her bedside in the early morning May 19, 2023.

Funeral Mass will be held at St. Martin de Porres in Hazelwood on Saturday June 24 at 10 am.

Helen loved her Savior and her family passionately. She loved unconditionally, encouraged enthusiastically, taught patiently and prayed fervently. Helen made the mundane and usual fun and special. She lived a lifetime of learning, facilitating vocabulary games at our dinner table, earning a degree in education when she was 50 and her United States citizenship in 2013. She retired from Hazelwood School District. Helen was a voracious reader, enjoyed travel and camping in dozens of national parks across the country. Vibrant colors, gardens, birds and family brought her joy. This spring she spent much of her waking time on her deck, enjoying the garden and good company and we are forever grateful we had that quiet and still time with her.

Helen is preceded in death by her mother, Mildred Ables and her daughters, Kathie (O'Neal) Eller and Tracy (O'Neal) Doner. She is survived by Rich O'Neal, her husband of 69 years. Dozens of people whose lives Helen

touched know her as Grandma Helen who loved readily, recognizing that family is built on love whether or not blood relation. Also surviving Helen are: daughter, Debby (O'Neal) Jackson, Debby's husband Kent and their children Daniel Jackson and Abigail (Jackson) Rothrock and Helen's great-grandson Noah Rothrock from Overland Park, KS; son, David O'Neal, his wife Renee (King) O'Neal of Minneapolis, and their children Scott O'Neal, his wife Emily (Cavanaugh) and Helen's Great-granddaughter daughter Esther from Louisville; daughter Allie (O'Neal) Mauerer and her family, husband Ben Mauerer and Helen's great-grandchildren Gideon, Elijah, Caroline and Soren Mauerer from Burnsville; daughter Katie (O'Neal) Mahlum and her husband David; daughter Amy O'Neal and son Keith O'Neal also from Minneapolis; and daughter Erin (O'Neal) Dunham, her husband Scott and Helen's great-granddaughter Phoebe Leigh Helen Dunham of Phoenix; Daughter Judi (O'Neal) Brown of Hazelwood and Judi's daughter Sarah (Iggens) Hodson, her husband Kenny and Helen's great grandson, Konnor from Kansas City; Tim and Char O'Neal from St. Peters; grandson Kyle Doner and his wife Kacie (Matson) Doner and Helen's great-granddaughter, Lakelyn, of Shawnee Kansas; grandson Jordan Eller and Helen's great children Brilynn, Emberlynn and Grayson also from St. Louis and son-in-law Dave (the late Tracy) Doner from Foristell MO and his son David (Jackie nee Borrson) Ryan Doner and their children; Price, Emma, Riley and Olin.

Helen and Rich support children and their families through Shriners and St Jude and ask that you consider a memorial gift in lieu of flowers.

Mail memorial gift to Shriners Hospitals for Children at PO Box 1525 Ranson, WV zip code 25438.or gift online at donorrelations@shrinernet.org

Memorial gift to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by mail at 501 St. Jude, Memphis, TN zip code 37105, or online at www.stjude.org.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JUN **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
615 Dunn Road
Hazelwood, MO 63042
ocmgk@aol.com

Tribute Wall

AR

“ I have so many memories that I could write about but I'll just write a few things that I'll always remember about my grandma and visiting her. I remember her house being so much fun and even though it was not very close to my house it was always felt like a second home. Waking up in the mornings smelling breakfast and coffee and being excited about what fun plans we would be doing that day! We always did something fun when we would come visit. My grandma was always asking me about what was going on in my life. She was a great person to talk to and was always interested in what you were saying. She would get or make me my favorite foods when I came to visit. I remember playing on her computer in the kid's room, watching movies on the little tv in her room, playing in her basement, her Christmas villages. The sound of airplanes and wind chimes will always remind me of her house and always has. I could go on and on but those are just some of my memories. She accepted so many kids as her own grandkids! She was a grandmother to many and will be missed by many!!

Abigail Rothrock - June 23, 2023 at 11:11 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen Martha O'Neal.



June 21, 2023 at 09:13 PM

MB

“Helen & I were the best of friends for over 50 years. There aren't enough words in the dictionary to describe how I felt about her. All I know is when she passed, apart of me went with her.

Mary Ann Boyer - June 21, 2023 at 04:01 PM

MC

“Helen and I worked together as volunteers at DePaul. She was hard-working, answering questions and pushing wheelchairs all day even when her back hurt. She was understanding with the people who came to the doctor's office in a bad mood. She was compassionate with the people who had to deal with pain and sorrow. And yet she was always cheerful! She would entertain me with stories about her wonderful family, all of whom she loved dearly. She told me about her courtship with her beloved Rich, whom she still thought was so very handsome. She told me about her travels all over the country, often with a grandchild. She had many dear friends whom she loved to feed and party with. I was so impressed when she passed her citizenship test and was sworn in on July 4th at the age of eighty! Helen was my role model, my mentor, my very dear friend! I will miss her greatly!



Mary Kay Canavan - June 07, 2023 at 02:36 PM

DJ

“For many years Mom collected frogs like some folks collect spoons or shot glasses. She had dozens displayed in corner shelving in the dining room. She advised me not to kiss all of them because only one is a prince and kissing multiple would-be prince frogs would make it harder for me to know which one is meant to be my prince. They were for us. "I already found my prince."

Debby Jackson - June 03, 2023 at 04:48 PM

DJ

“ As young teenagers, my friends and I spent many many afternoons watching our soaps and cooling off in our backyard pool. We always felt welcome; Mom had cold bottles of Tab and and many reminders not to leave our wet towels on the furniture. She loved us well.

Debby Jackson - June 02, 2023 at 08:27 PM

MW

Helen was a truly unique and welcoming person. I met her daughter Debbie when we were in elementary school and remained great friends for many years. I spent a lot of time at Debbie's house and got to know her family quite well. We had a group of friends that enjoyed swimming in the family pool with endless bottles of Tab and cheese popcorn provided to us by Debbie's parents. Helen always took time to visit with us! She had such a wonderful smile and a twinkle in her eye! She had an abundance of love for her family especially Rich. I will always treasure the many fond memories of Helen and my visits with the O'Neal family. Please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of Helen. 😊

Michelle "Blois" Whitworth

June 12th

michelle whitworth - June 12, 2023 at 09:46 PM

DJ

“ Mom loved unconditionally. Once when I was young I did something I shouldn't have and hid in the clothes hamper in her bathroom in her room where she was ironing pillow slips crying so hard the hamper was moving! Mom obviously knew I was there. She began talking to herself (me) about loving and learning. I climbed from the hamper and into her lap. She told me for that moment she loved me more than anything.

Debby Jackson - June 02, 2023 at 09:25 AM

KS

“ *Ken And Archway Staff lit a candle in memory of Helen Martha O'Neal*



Ken and Archway Staff - May 19, 2023 at 11:13 AM