



Helen D. Cleary

February 1, 1922 - March 27, 2016

Helen Dolores O'Hara-Cleary, 94, of Petersburg, passed away peacefully at 7:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016, at Sunny Acres Nursing Home.

Helen was born February 1, 1922, to Michael and Amanda O'Hara, at their family home near Bulwark, Alberta, where she grew up one of fourteen siblings. Around 1950 she moved to Vancouver, British Columbia; where she worked for Crone Moving & Storage as a payroll clerk. While working at Crone Moving & Storage she worked her way up to manager of the Storage Department. While working there she met Jack Cleary, a truck driver from Seattle. Helen married Jack in December of 1955 in Seattle, Washington. They had 2 daughters together. While living in Seattle she worked for Boeing Airplane Co. as a clerk. After 6 years, she divorced and took her 2 daughters to Long Beach, CA to raise as a single mother. One of the life lessons that she passed on to her daughters was, "Don't be a conformist." She worked her whole life as a bookkeeper, office manager, etc. She was very proud of her work and was never out of work long enough to collect an Unemployment Check. Helen moved from California to the Petersburg area in the late 1980's where one of her daughters and granddaughters resided. She wanted to be a part of her granddaughter's life.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents: 11 of her 14 siblings, and her daughter Michelle Rademaker of Oakford, IL. She is survived by her daughter

Pamela-Cleary Wilson (husband Don Wilson) of Nyssa, OR, her granddaughter Sara Heaton of Tallula, IL, her great-grandchildren Jacob and Payton Dawson of Tallula, IL, her sister Scarlet Smith of Quallieum BC, and her brother Vince O'Hara of Kamloops, BC, Canada.

In accordance with Helen's wishes cremation rites will be accorded by Hurley Funeral Home Petersburg.

A memorial mass celebrated by Msgr. Thomas Holinga will be held on Monday, April 4, at 2 p.m. at St. Peter Catholic Church, 711 S 6th St. Petersburg, IL 62675. Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until the time of mass.

Those who wish may leave memorials in Helen's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Please visit Helen's online obituary at www.hurleyfh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter Catholic Church
711 S. 6th
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7118

Memorial Service

APR 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter Catholic Church
711 S. 6th
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7118

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen D. Cleary*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *I will always remember Aunt Helen as having so much enthusiasm and a nice smile. One of my fondest memories is when we went and stayed with you all in California. My dad was 7 years older than her, and I remember him talking very kindly of her -- they were a close family growing up and even throughout their whole life, I think there was a special sibling bond they all shared. I'm sorry for your loss Pam. Hugs Judy*



Judy O'Hara-Jackson - April 09, 2016 at 02:35 AM



“ *Helen will always have a special place in my heart and in my memories.*

Miriam Ingham - April 05, 2016 at 08:21 PM



“ *Helen and I were friends for many, many years and I was so fortunate to see her again a couple of years ago after she moved to Ill after I moved to Albuquerque, NM. But we did not loose touch with each other. Meeting her again was simply taking up where we left off those many years before. Helen was a special person love by many including my children. May she rest in peace!!*

Veronica Hurlbirt - April 04, 2016 at 07:36 PM