



Helen E. Purvis

April 6, 1922 - March 30, 2011

Helen Purvis was the daughter of Herman O. Gatlin and Ruth Fraizer Gatlin. She was born April 6, 1922 in Fairmount, Missouri. The family remained in Fairmount until 1937 when they relocated to Gravois Mills, Missouri. She attended Gravois High School and graduated from Gravois in 1939. During her senior year, Helen began dating George Purvis of Purvis, Missouri. They were married October 13, 1941. During World War II, while George served in the US Army, Helen taught school until his return in 1946.

The young couple moved to Independence, Missouri, after the birth of their first child, Kathryn Ruth. A second child, George Ivan (Van) II, was born in 1952. The following year, the family returned to the Lake area. They were blessed with three more daughters, Peggy Sue, Harriet Elane, and Sara Elizabeth. Michael Lee McDorman is also considered a member of the family.

Helen was co-owner/operator of Gatlin's Boat Yard and active in the Gravois Methodist Church, Gravois P.T.A.; Gravois BPW. In 1972, she sold the boat yard. She became an advocate for treatment and recovery services in the Lake of the Ozarks region. Helen served on the Boonville Valley Hope Board for many years. She was resident/manager of Cochurmin Homes in excess of 20 years, retiring at the age of 84. Helen served as secretary of the Ozarks Chapel Cemetery Board. She was one of the founding members of Unity at the Lake Church, in Sunrise Beach. Helen served as a co-chairperson of the

Prayer Team at the church.

Helen is survived by her son, Van Purvis of Osage Beach, Missouri; her daughters, Kathy Tankersley and husband George of Gravois Mills, Missouri, Peggy Robb and husband Randy of Franklin, Missouri, Harriet Ryman and husband John of Kansas City, Missouri, and Sara Wofford and husband Mark of Tulsa, Oklahoma; eight grandchildren, Jenifer Purvis-Dierks, Jessica Barrington, Randa Robb, Morgan Ryman, Alex Lively, Hannah Ryman, Madison Wofford, and Purvis Wofford; her sister-in-law, Rosemary Butts and husband Charles of Sunrise Beach, Missouri; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, George Purvis, half-brother, Burgess George "Bud" Gatlin, and grandson, Travis Tankersley.

A memorial service will be held at 12:00 noon, Saturday, April 2, at the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel, with the Reverend Marge Dale officiating. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the funeral home. Inurnment will be held at a later date in the Ozark Chapel Cemetery in Laurie. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Valley of Hope Association, Ozark Chapel Cemetery Association, Unity at the Lake Church, or the Laurie Care Center.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel
417 Silvey Rd.
Laurie, MO 65038
(573) 374-7688

Service

APR 2. 12:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel
417 Silvey Rd.
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Tribute Wall



“ Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Helen E. Purvis



Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes - March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ I've known Helen for many years. We used to laugh that we went to school together at Gravois Mills, which had all 12 grades. I was 1st grade, she was a Senior. Later years brought us closer together, as she was a special friend to my mother-in-law, Gertrude Real. We shared many happy times and she will be sadly missed. Helen had a profound influence on many people. She also reared a really great family, to which I send sincere sympathy. She was one of God's miracles, and she is with Him now.
Lu Alice Real

Lu Alice Real - April 04, 2011 at 11:30 PM

TR

“ I never saw Helen that she didn't have a smile on her face. She will be missed. Hugs and prayers to all...have comfort that she is in a much better place.

Tenessa Rehmer

Tenessa Rehmer - April 01, 2011 at 04:07 PM

SJ

“ *She was a very special person. I can picture her up in heaven with Travis who is with Doug and thereby associating with my parents and Paul's parents. She would have been a friend of my mother and Helen as they were so much alike in life. She will be missed by all your family but take comfort that she is in such great company and watching over all of your family and by association watching over us as well. Our prayers are with all of you at this terrible time in your life. Paul & Sue Jansen*

Sue Jansen - April 01, 2011 at 03:22 PM

SC

“ *"Spread your wings and fly, free bird" !!!*



Stack Cowgill - April 01, 2011 at 02:48 PM

CB

“Helen is loved by many and will be missed greatly. She was an active member of Sunrise Serenity Group and sponsored many women over the past 39 years, including myself. She had an open door policy. Was always willing to lend an ear, support, guidance and a prayer. She taught me so much about acceptance and unconditional love. I am eternally grateful for those teachings. One of her favorite quotes, "It's hard to be hateful and grateful at the same time". She believed in making gratitude lists. I have a prayer quilt she made for me and I placed it on our bed over Stack and I the night before she passed. I believe that was one of those God things as I had no idea her passing was at hand. I think when you are touched by another soul, the soul knows things and reveals them in some way. I love you Helen. I will miss you. I am hopeful that you will be with us always in spirit. Stack says that you can run now. That you are free. He loves you too. Thank you for loving me unconditionally. I will see you in that meeting in the sky one day! Helen always said, "My God has skin on it". What a gift you have been! Love always and forever, Cindy Brown



Cynthia Brown - April 01, 2011 at 12:43 PM