



Helen M. Evans

November 2, 1918 - July 19, 2017

Helen Evans, 98 of Omaha, NE, a former Kearney resident for nearly eighty years died July 19, 2017 at Josie Harper Hospice in Omaha.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 24 at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney. Father Joe Hannappel will officiate. A traditional rosary will be said at the church Sunday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. followed by Informal visitation with the family from 5:30 – 7:00. Memorials are suggested to St. James Catholic Church or help a teacher by donating supplies directly to the teacher of your choice that are not ordinarily supplied by the school.

Helen Marie Schmitz was born at the home of her parents, John and Josephine Schmitz, near Poole, NE. on November 2, 1918. Helen was the second of five children growing up on the farm with older brother Don, younger sisters Doris (“Dode”), Jean and little brother Ray.

From a young age her parents instilled the importance of family both as a support network and as an example that they should set for others without ever using those words. Each of the kids assumed jobs around the farm, be they ironing or tending to the farm animals. When electricity was supplied to the farms, Helen developed a love for reading that never left her.

Helen attended grade school in a one room country schoolhouse, passed her

county boards and moved to Kearney to complete high school. She lived in an apartment above the Kearney Opera House with a friend and her grandmother. Helen graduated from Kearney High School in 1935 and received her Teaching Certificate from the Kearney Normal School in August 1936, at the age of 17. She taught school for one year before going to work at Good Samaritan Hospital. Helen was later assigned to work in the x-ray department under Sister Nicosia who would serve as her mentor. Eventually she became a certified x-ray technician and Director of the Good Samaritan X-ray Department.

Helen married John Gion December 29, 1941. He died in May 1946. On April 12, 1955, Helen and Charles Evans were married.

Survivors include her daughter Joan and her husband Ken Crookshank of Bennington, daughter Jane Stephen of Denver, Co. and sons John Evans of Pittsburgh, PA and Jerry Evans of Fond du Lac, WI. She is also survived by her sister Dode Fitzgerald of Kearney. In addition, Grandma/Aunt Helen leaves behind many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends to mourn her loss, celebrate her life and reflect upon her wisdom.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Don and Ray and sister Jean McCarthy as well as first husband John Gion and husband Charles Evans, who died February 27, 2002.

Previous Events

Mass

JUL **24**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Graveside

JUL **24** (CT)

Kearney Cemetery
4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen M. Evans*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Helen M. Evans.*



July 24, 2017 at 08:35 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Helen M. Evans.*



July 22, 2017 at 04:29 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Helen M. Evans.*



July 21, 2017 at 10:30 PM

KL

“ I had the pleasure of doing Helen's hair while I was in school at Joseph's in Kearney. I always looked forward to my Friday mornings with Helen & consider myself blessed to have had her in my life. Helen always wanted to know how my family was & she would beam with pride while sharing her family happenings with me. She was an absolutely delightful woman. I have thought of Helen so many times since she left Kearney. Our thoughts & prayers are with you as you celebrate your wonderful mother & grandmother. I look forward to selecting school supplies to donate in honor of a life well lived.

Karli Loschen - July 21, 2017 at 09:22 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Helen M. Evans.



July 21, 2017 at 12:38 PM