



Helen M. Gaynier

September 7, 1928 - April 18, 2020

Helen M. Gaynier, age 91 of Newport, Michigan, passed away peacefully at 2:18 AM Saturday, April 18, 2020 with her children at her side at Arbor Hospice in Saline, Michigan. Born September 7, 1928 in South Rockwood, Michigan. Helen was the daughter of the late Chauncey and Hazel (Chinavare) Roberts. She married Mose J. Gaynier on August 1, 1959 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Rockwood. Sadly, he preceded Helen in death on April 12, 2003.

Helen was a 1945 graduate of South Rockwood High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in education from Michigan State Normal College (Eastern Michigan University) and a Master of Arts in education from the University of Michigan.

As a life-long teacher, Helen taught in the Atherton School District in Flint, Michigan, Boyd Elementary School in the Monroe Public School system, and retired in 1989 from the Airport School District. She taught second grade at Niedermeier Elementary School for nearly 3 decades. This legacy as an educator gave her the opportunity to teach multiple generations of students. A teacher at heart, after her retirement, she also volunteered her time to help teach adults to read.

For personal enjoyment, she loved to read and liked the challenge of solving crossword puzzles and Sudoku. She found great joy in the flowers she planted and watered in her yard. In late May each year, she looked forward to going with her daughter Lynne to several greenhouses to load up the cars with flowers. Then on Memorial weekend, her children and grandchildren would join her for a day to help plant/landscape and enjoy a meal together.

Helen was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Newport where she was a member of the Altar Society and school board. Her Catholic faith was an integral part of her life. For many years, she devoted an hour each week to attend eucharistic adoration. She frequently prayed the rosary, dedicating portions of the rosary prayers to each of her children and grandchildren.

Helen was a loving mother and grandmother, "Mimi." She was truly proud of her children and grandchildren. She loved to spoil them. Many gatherings of family and friends took place in her home on Niedermeier Street. She loved to gather her children and grandchildren together for special occasions and holidays. She was well known for her

chicken noodle soup, cabbage and cheese casserole and baked goods. Helen's peach, pecan and meringue pies were favorites of her family and friends, as were her "Mimi's" brownies. She also generously shared food with others who might be experiencing a difficult time.

Helen treasured her time with her siblings and nieces/nephews from the Roberts' and Gaynier families. She looked forward to her frequent lunch gatherings with her sisters, and the Roberts and Gaynier family reunions. Helen also enjoyed annual get-togethers with her college roommates and their families. She had fond memories of family vacations, long weekend getaways with her children/grandchildren, and trips with other friends. Following her husband Mose's death, Helen lived in their home independently for 15 years. She felt blessed with the great neighbors/friends she had for several decades on Niedermeier Street. She appreciated how they helped to look after her. In January 2018, she moved to Atria Kinghaven (a senior apartment community) in Riverview. She formed many new friendships among the residents and staff. Helen looked forward to the social interaction of mealtimes in the dining room and attending game nights where she was known for her sharp skills in "Word in a Word." Helen's grandchildren will always remember her exceptional vocabulary and competitive spirit in the game Scrabble. Helen kept a positive attitude even when faced with health challenges in her later years. She always bounced back. She was truly an inspiration to anyone she met.

Helen is survived by three children: John (Nina) Gaynier of Carleton, Lynne (Stan) Fogle of Monroe, and Fred (Carina) Gaynier of Livonia; four sisters: Ada Reaume of Newport, Donna Granger of Trenton, Mary (Frank) Stasa of Carleton, and Betty (Dennis) Beste of Carleton; two brothers: Duane (Margaret) Roberts of Royal Oak and Thomas (Sharon) Roberts of Milan; seven grandchildren: Anthony Gaynier, Mitchell Gaynier, David Gaynier, Hannah Gaynier, Madeline Fogle, Benjamin Gaynier, and Andrew Fogle; and sister-in-law, Evelyn Roberts of Newport.

In addition to her parents and husband, Helen was also preceded in death by a brother, Robert Roberts and two brothers-in-law, Alvie Reaume and George Granger.

Due to current social gathering restrictions, visitation was privately attended by family at Bacarella Funeral Home followed by burial at St. Charles Cemetery. A Memorial Mass of the Resurrection will be scheduled at a later date to celebrate Helen's life.

Memorial donations are suggested to St. Charles Parish in Newport, St. Mary Catholic Central (SMCC) High School in Monroe, or Heartbeat of Monroe.

Online condolences and special memories may be shared with the family by visiting the obituary page at <http://www.bacarellafuneralhome.com>.

Cemetery

St. Charles Cemetery

7880 North Dixie Hwy

Newport, MI, 48166

Comments



“ Dear John, Fred and Lynne:
So sorry to learn of your mother's passing. We will keep your mother and your families in our prayers. We always appreciated your mom and dad's support of SMA, MCC and SMCC and all the activities that each of you were involved. Whenever I saw your mom, she always had a smile and a kind word to say. God bless to all of you.
Kathy and Joe Sandersen

Kathy and Joe Sandersen - April 27, 2020 at 02:15 PM



“ John and Nina — so very sorry to hear of your mom's passing. What a sweet lady she was! My deepest sympathy to your entire family. May you find comfort in the many treasured memories you have! Hugs and prayers for all of you!
Gina Swiercz

Gina Swiercz - April 25, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ Helen was my dear friend & neighbor for many year. How special she was. Kind, generous, & loving. I know she is in heaven with the Angels. She will be greatly missed My deepest condolences to her family.

Cheryl Grigsby - April 24, 2020 at 05:02 PM



“ Thank you Cheryl, yes you were a dear friend; so many unforgettable memories of Niedermeier Street

Lynne - April 25, 2020 at 10:23 AM



“ Mrs. Fields Nibblers Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Helen M. Gaynier.



April 24, 2020 at 11:07 AM



“ John, sorry to hear about your mom's passing. You were blessed to have such a wonderful mom. God Bless you and your family. Mark Z

Mark Zochowski - April 24, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ Thanks Mark and give your sweet daughters a congratulatory hug from me

Lynne - April 25, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ To the family what wonderful memories I have a both your mother and father your mother was just the queen of kindness and mows might've been the funniest and most compassionate guy ever met it is sad to think people of that quality are no longer with us you have my condolences

dean anteau - April 23, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ Thank you for sharing these sentiments about my parents; they mean so much to my brothers and I

Lynne - April 23, 2020 at 11:08 AM



“ Lynne, it is so sad that we could not attend a regular funeral for her. She would have had the longest nonstop line of former students and friends at the viewing like Larry did. I have the fondest memories of her as a teacher and a personal friend from Niedermeier School. Larry and Helen were like two peas in a pod. She meant so much to him. She now is very happy in Heaven with your Dad and walks daily with Jesus. You have my deepest sympathy and prayers for your peace and comfort during this very sad time. Remember that love never dies. She is still with you. Sending you a very big hug!!!

Diane - April 23, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ Mrs. Gaynier was my favorite teacher throughout all my school years. We also were neighbors for the last 21 years.

Gloria warthen - April 23, 2020 at 07:20 PM



“ I had such a great time teaching with Helen. She never failed to make me laugh with her stories. We had 'community' coffee cups in the lounge and when the stock would dwindle, Helen knew right where they were...yep..in her room. Sometimes about a dozen of them. I also remember during the strike of 1983, she had just had some type of heart issues, and I was 8 1/2 months pregnant so, rather than picketing, she and I had to run news releases to the Monroe news and Guardian. She was a delightful friend and colleague.

Lin Dishaw - April 23, 2020 at 08:29 PM



“ John, Lynn, Fred & Your Families, Mom was one of the sweetest women I knew, and one thing I will always remember is her laugh, I could always walk into a room and know Aunt Helen was there ! I will always remember her as just a fun, sweet, and educated woman, that I had the pleasure of knowing ! Be Proud ! Hugs to all ! Tammie (Reed) Fahnestock

Tammie Fahnestock - April 23, 2020 at 11:21 PM



“ John, Lynn, Fred, On behalf of the Cramer family, I want to express our condolences to your family. We had great times in Newport! Many, many memories were made as we played and played hard we did. And. Mrs. Gaynier was my teacher. What an awesome time it was back then.

Andrew Cramer - April 24, 2020 at 09:01 AM



“ My condolences to Helens family, always upbeat and positive. Enjoyed talking with her at the Gaynier Reunions. Just found out about Helens passing, she will be missed but not forgotten.

Spencer Chinavare - April 24, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ Lynne I was so sorry to hear about your mother. She was a wonderful woman with a heart of gold. There are always key teachers that the community looks to for guidance regarding our school system. Your mother, Helen, was one of those people. I remember her being part of our meetings when I was just a rookie teacher getting started. Nothing but kind words were ever spoken of your mother. Helen’s passion for education influenced the lives of countless children and their parents for many years. With heartfelt sympathy please accept this. Henry Schafer

Henry Schafer - April 24, 2020 at 10:04 AM



“ Thank you everyone for the sympathy wishes and sharing the wonderful memories of our mom; due to the Coronavirus limitations for a funeral seeing these comments has been so comforting. John, Lynne, and Fred

Lynne - April 25, 2020 at 05:18 PM