



# Helen H. Knierim

AUG 29, 1934 - DEC 30, 2009



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## **Helen H. Knierim**

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**D**ecatur – Helen A. “Susie” Knierim, 75, of Decatur, passed away at 6:45 am Wednesday, December 30, 2009 at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital. Services to celebrate Helen’s life will be held at 3:00 pm Sunday, January 3, 2010 at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Interment with the “Flight Home” Ceremony will be at Graceland Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Alzheimer’s Association or Charity of Choice. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at [www.gracelandfairlawn.com](http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com).

Susie was born August 29, 1934 in Decatur, the daughter of Chester Arthur and Colborn (Sims) Knierim.

Susie graduated from Decatur High School in 1952 and went on to earn a B.S. in Education at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois in 1956, a M.A. in Education at the University of Iowa in 1960, and a Ph.D. in Education at the University of Iowa in 1970. She taught physical education at the high school level for two years. She taught physical education, anatomy, and kinesiology at Hanover College in Indiana, the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania as head of the Health and Physical Education Department, and University of Baghdad in Iraq as a Fulbright Lecturer for the U.S. State Department.

Susie spent much of her professional career promoting girls and women in sports. She served the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports (NAGWS) as Acting Executive Director in 1978-79 and President in 1981-82. She was inducted into the Illinois State University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1979 and won the University of Iowa Physical Education Department Alumni Award that same year. She won the P.E. Faculty Member of the Year Award in 1985 and 1988 and the President’s Award for Outstanding Service in 1987 from Slippery Rock. In 2002, she was inducted to the Hanover College Athletic Hall of Fame. Susie also authored and co-authored several



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publications including a volume called Recreational Sports and Games.

Susie loved the outdoors, especially camping, fishing, and canoeing. She was a director and/or counselor at many camps in the 50's, 60's, and 70's. She was very active with the Girl Scouts all of her life. Susie loved to travel both within the U.S. and overseas. Upon retirement Susie arranged to have a log home built in northern Wisconsin where she lived for several years.

Susie spent much of her later life taking care of her beloved mother, Colborn Knierim. Her interest and expertise in the field of gerontology led her to teach seminars on aging and to the study of Alzheimer's Disease. In the late 90's Susie was herself diagnosed with the early stages of Alzheimer's. As the years passed the disease gradually took away the function of her thoughts. Susie spent the last years living at The Christian Home in Lincoln, Illinois where she was lovingly called "Doc".

Susie leaves behind two sisters: Margery Wilcoxon (Sam deceased) and Charlene (John) Kessler, and nieces, nephews: Dave Wilcoxon, Carol Conley, Dan Wilcoxon, Laura Brix, Leslie Miner, Garry Brix, Curtis Kessler, Carl Kessler, family members and friends.

She was reunited in Heaven with parents: Chester A. Knierim and Colborn M. Sims Knierim, and her sister: S. Jeanette Knierim Brix.



## Tribute Wall

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NJ

**Naomi Johnston** posted:

Dr. Kneirim was one of the most valuable people as a mentor when I was a freshman at Slippery Rock. She helped with guidance in the educational career as well as personal goals. A true hero in life. The world is much less without her help. Rest in peace. Birchwood 1973-1977

June 16 at 8:50 AM

NS

**Norma Sedgwick** posted:

To Margery and Charlene and families from England. My deepest sympathy to you all. Susie was a truly remarkable person who made a profound impact on the way I lived my life. She was a dear friend. I have fond memories of my times in New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and not least Decatur. She will never be forgotten. With love, prayers and God's blessings to you. p.s I have only just by chance found that Susie had died. I was searching the net and just put her name in Google to find something about camp Wabasso. Please contact me to say you have received this

January 23 at 5:31 AM

CS

**Claire Schmieler** posted:

Suzie was a wonderful friend and mentor during her time at SRU.

January 5 at 7:52 AM

SH

**Sharon Johnson Hodge** posted:

Susie will be missed by all whose lives she touched. She was a wonderful and loving friend and teacher.

January 4 at 9:19 AM

OO

**Oblique Oblique** posted:

card9|fh

January 4 at 7:03 AM

HP

**Heather Pierce** posted:

Sorry to hear of your loss. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers

January 2 at 6:43 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Helen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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