



Helen Ryan

SEP 18, 1933 - NOV 19, 2022



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COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

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Helen Ryan

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Helen Ruth (Warmkessel) Ryan passed away on November 19, 2022 at the age of 89 at Liberty Village, Clinton, IL. She was born on September 18, 1933 in Allentown PA to Maurice and Eva Warmkessel.

Helen married Wallace Ryan on August 9, 1952 in Allentown, PA. She relocated to Decatur, IL where along with her husband owned/operated Ryan Equipment and Supply, a restaurant/concession equipment and supply company for 39 years. She was a member of Central Christian Church and an avid singer with Sweet Adelines, a worldwide organization of women singers. During her tenure with the Sweet Adelines she performed with multiple choruses and as a member of the Four Friends quartet. She also served as the organizations International President from 1969 to 1971. Representing Sweet Adelines she visited troops on a USO tour and on October 27, 1967 performed at Carnegie Hall. In 2008 she was the first inductee into the Midwest Gateway Region 5 Hall of Fame.

She is preceded in death by her parents, 4 infant daughters (Patricia Ann, Lou Ann, Kathy Sue and December), 1 infant son (Wynn Everett), husband Wallace, her sister Florence and brothers Stanley and Woody.

She is survived by her daughter Jennifer Dial, son Jeff (Suzanne) Ryan, grandchildren Daniel Houser, Kyle Ryan and David Wallace Dial, 2 great grandchildren (Natalie and Seth) and many other family and friends that loved her dearly.

A graveside service will be held on December 2, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Mt Pulaski Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to Helen's family at www.gracelandfairlawn.com




Events


Helen Ryan

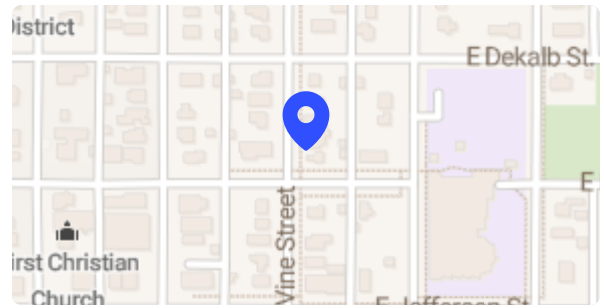
SEP 18, 1933 - NOV 19, 2022

Burial

 **Friday**, December 2, 2022

 11:00 AM CT

 **Mt. Pulaski Cemetery**
Mt. Pulaski IL





Tribute Wall

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Renée Porzel posted:

I met Helen when I became a new member of the Sweet Adelines International judging program. She served as Panel Secretary, and I was drawn to her warm smile, caring manor and the way she brightened whatever room she in! Sending condolences to her family. Renee Porzel

December 8 at 12:22 PM



Dale Syverson posted:

Helen was a gift to all who knew her. She encouraged others to be their best selves and took pride in their accomplishments. She will be remembered by so many - including myself - with much love.
Dale Syverson

December 8 at 9:34 AM



Patty Baker posted:

My deepest condolences to Helen's family. I never had the pleasure of knowing or working with her, but benefitted from her exquisite example of leadership. She will be remembered forever for that generous gift of service. Patty Cobb Baker, Sweet Adelines President 2018-2020

December 8 at 7:45 AM



Ozzi Mask posted:

One of the finest ladies i have ever known...a perfect Sweet Adeline, beautiful in every way...i got to know her because she took care of all the Judging Panels that came to Region 5....(I LOVED Region 5!!)...she always had a little gift for each panel member...i sure still have mine...was thinking abt her just the other day when i came across this beautiful little blue box....love you, Helen

December 8 at 7:34 AM



Helen Peters posted:

A very special old friend.

December 7 at 1:18 PM



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Diane Huber posted:

Helen was my idol. I always wanted to follow in her footsteps. I became president of Sweet Adeline's International in large part because of her example of service. I so admired her as a past president, panel secretary, OPL - whenever or wherever needed Helen answered the call. Love and hugs to her family. She will be deeply missed. Diane Huber Xo

December 5 at 2:52 PM



Gail Burke posted:

Helen and I met when we were panel secretaries on assignment. During a brief break, we went shopping for a mother-of-the-bride dress and since we couldn't make up her mind, she bought two of them. Then we went shopping for a purse. Oh how Helen loved to shop and we had laughs remembering our times. We often visited when she came to Clearwater in the winter and at times visited me in Bradenton when she also visited with family here. I can't recount the number of hours we spent chatting on the phone and it was laughs and more laughs. Helen had the best laugh. My dear friend, RIP Helen.

December 5 at 5:57 AM



Marsha Fulton posted:

Yes, we loved her dearly. Helen and I (and others) shared membership in a selective group known as the "P.I.P.s" (Past International Presidents), Sweet Adelines International. I didn't have the pleasure to serve with Helen on the International Board of Directors, nevertheless became long time friends through various Sweet Adeline activities. Helen was a giver and a doer and loved to give back as a hostess for the many Region 5 judge panels. A consummate hostess, this "job" suited her to a "t"! I was lucky enough to receive a very useful and unique Region 5 thank you gift from Helen - it was an 8" frying pan - - and yes.....it came from Ryan Equipment and Supply. We lost track of each other when she wasn't an annual attendee at the PIP's breakfast during the SAI International Conventions. Marsha Fulton

December 4 at 2:33 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Ryan family.



November 30 at 12:38 PM



Tribute Wall

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Jean, Mike & Nancy Patrick, & Bill & Sandy Patrick-Seay, Marty & Diane Patrick-Puckett sent a Fall Fantasia to the Ryan family.



November 28 at 10:58 AM



Jeff Ryan posted:

I was lucky enough to have Helen as a mother-in-law but even luckier to know her as a friend. She was a warm, kind, generous woman and I am so grateful to have known her. She was one of a kind and will be missed by all who knew her. Suzanne Ryan

November 23 at 3:15 PM



Bob Cearnal December 9 at 6:09 AM

Jeff and Suzanne, On behalf of the Illinois District Quartet Champions Association I want to extend our condolences for your loss. Wally and Helen were always outstanding examples of what 4-part harmony means to Barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines wherever they went. Bob Cearnal QCA Secretary



Dianne Kelley posted:

My condolences to Helens family. I met both Helen and Wally 42 years ago when we were blessed to have both Helen and Wally join our women's barbershop chorus in Bloomington. We ladies of the chorus were pretty mischievious but they seemed to enjoy most of our antics. After Wally and my husband passed, I continued to respect, love and admire Helen even more. She was a steel magnolia, a woman of class and a good friend. May she rest in peace. Dianne Kelley, Bloomington Illinois

November 23 at 11:59 AM



Anonymous sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Ryan family.



November 23 at 9:13 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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