



Helen Leach

June 21, 1923 - February 24, 2013

Helen Leach, 89, a longtime Johnson County resident, died February 24, 2013, in Keene after a short illness. Her memorial service will be on Saturday, April 6, at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Helen June Vartenuk Leach and her twin brother Bud were born June 21, 1923, in Akron, Ohio, the children of Romanian immigrants George and Anna Vartenuk. She attended public schools in Akron, graduating from Akron East High School in 1941. While a freshman nursing student at Washington Missionary College in Maryland, she met theology major Ben Leach, and they were married in Akron on July 19, 1942.

After Ben's graduation from WMC, the pastoral ministry, evangelism and denominational administration took the couple to Ohio, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and finally to Texas in 1957. They had been married for 64 years at the time of Ben's death in 2007.

The Leaches' children include Benjamin Leach, Jr. and wife Sharon of Keene; Jonathan Leach and wife Judy of Portland, OR; and Lori Tullia and husband Mark of Plano. Dan Leach and his wife Billie preceded his parents in death. Helen had ten grandchildren: Rachel Hall and husband Richard of Yountville, CA; Amy Leach and husband Matthew Lukens of Bozeman, MT; Benjamin Leach and wife Jennifer of Walla Walla, WA; Benny Leach and wife Connie of

Collegedale, TN; Daniel Leach of Keene; Eddie and Victoria Leach of Arlington; Joshua Tullia and wife Courtney of Huntsville; Seth Tullia of Lufkin; and Angelica Leach of Portland along with seven adorable great-grandchildren.

Helen is also survived by her sisters Annabelle Zager of Keene and Cynthia Vartenuk of Scottsdale, AZ; and by 43 nieces and nephews.

An accomplished homemaker, organist, interior decorator, and administrative secretary both in the Texas and Southwestern Union conferences of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She also served as a secretary in the development office during the fundraising and building of Huguley Memorial Hospital in Fort Worth, where she was one of that facility's first employees. At the time of her death, she was a member of the Lufkin Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Helen loved people. She was an independent thinker who was passionate about her faith, family, friends and professional sports. She will be dearly missed.

In lieu of flowers a worthy student fund has been established at the Pineywoods Adventist Christian School.

4629 FM 1638

Nacogdoches, Tx. 75964

www.pacsintexas.org

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 6. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Keene SDA Church
114 S Fairview
Keene, TX 76059

Tribute Wall



“ *Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Helen Leach*



Reflecting on Memories - February 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Helen Leach*



Reflecting on Memories - February 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ To Benjamin and Sharon,

The memorial service for your Mom was lovely. I did not have the pleasure of knowing Helen but now I know why you and Sharon seemed to be a match made in Heaven, your dear Mom and God knew best. Sharon, your cooking debut story was precious and funny.

What a great legacy to leave behind! Since Helen had a heart for dogs in her memory, below is the link of a beautiful simple song about the loyalty of dogs called God and Dog (you may have heard it before) by Wendy Francisco of the 1980s Christian singing duet Wendy and Mary.

May God continue to bless your family with His loving kindness and comfort. Keep the hope of the soon coming of our Lord Jesus alive in your hearts.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H17edn_RZoY

With much love,

Mercy Scull

Mercy Scull - April 07, 2013 at 10:17 AM

DL

“ Dwight Leatherwood lit a candle in memory of Helen Leach



Dwight Leatherwood - April 07, 2013 at 08:52 AM



“ 164 files added to the album *Leach Family Memories*



Reflecting on Memories - April 05, 2013 at 12:34 PM

“ To the family of Helen Leach,

I know that it is always hard to lose a parent and somehow mothers are the hardest. I have gone through the loss of a two different mothers myself. I lost my real mom to cancer at the age of two, and then with the loss my stepmother Gladys, a few years ago and Gladys was pretty much the only mother I knew.

I know how important it is to cling to those special memories of our mothers, so I made this special memorial webpage for Helen to bring healing and a lot of joy. As you look at the messages, photo albums, special Life Tribute memorial video, I hope that you can relive each of those memories, that somehow your tears will gradually turn to smiles as you relive those special times and recall that special love that your mother had for each of you.

It is interesting to look back and see how our parent's lives were so intertwined together for so many decades. Your parents, Helen and Ben went to Washington Missionary College together with my stepmother Gladys, about 70 years ago and they were close friends. I have often wished that had some of her old photo albums from those WMC days to scan and put up on this webpage.

Those special bonds of friendship that were formed back in the early 1940's at WMC lasted a lifetime for many people including your mom's close friend, Vivian Ross or Aunt Vivian as we called her. It is always fun to look at the old photos and hear the stories of how tough things were back in the good old days. I remember how your dad was there for our family when my dad died back in 1982.

Don't just remember Helen the way that she was in her last days on hospice, but we need to always remember our parents when they were young, in love, dating, getting married and raising a family. Remember the jokes that Ben would tell, and the wonderful sense of humor that your father had that could have crowds rolling in laughter.

Remember the cute nickname that your dad lovingly called your mom and how she got it. Remember the love that she showed for each of you and how proud that she was of each of you when you lived up to her teachings. If we only remember our parents the way that they were when they are old, giving them up becomes too easy. Remember the wonderful examples they set for each of you children and how each of us are even more homesick for heaven and want to be reunited with our parents again.

Memories only last if they are shared, so know that each name that is penned on this webpage and each memory that is shared, is penned in love and respect. It is my hope that these memories will help to heal the heartache of grief and help each one starting out on their bereavement journey.

Know that you have my condolences, and just hold on to those special memories that will bless and enrich your life forever.

Sincerely,

Elder Roger Rustad

ReflectingOnMemories@gmail.com

Chaplain Roger Rustad - March 01, 2013 at 01:28 AM



“ 3 files added to the album WM College early 1940's



Reflecting on Memories - February 28, 2013 at 11:46 PM

VR

“ I am so saddened to hear of the death of my dear friend, Helen (Vartenuk) Leach. She and I roomed together one summer, but were friends from those WMC college days in the 1940's until her death. My heart goes out to her children and to all of the extended family & friends. I pray they will be comforted by our dear Lord until the wonderful day of reunion in Heaven. My love to all of you. I will miss her, too. - Vivian Godwin Ross

Vivian Ross - February 28, 2013 at 09:07 PM

LH

“ Lindy Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Helen Leach



Lindy Hamilton - February 28, 2013 at 01:58 PM

TF

“ Tess And Ed Fry lit a candle in memory of Helen Leach



Tess and Ed Fry - February 27, 2013 at 09:40 AM

AB

“ *Our love and prayers are with the Leach Family. May God wraps His warm and loving arms around each one of you and give you peace and the memories that will tie you over until His coming. Love you all.*

Annette Bowyer

Annette Bowyer - February 27, 2013 at 09:01 AM

KL

“ *Kim Luttman lit a candle in memory of Helen Leach*



Kim Luttman - February 27, 2013 at 06:51 AM

BT

“ *Sorry For Your Loss.*

Benny Tullia

Benny Tullia - February 27, 2013 at 05:14 AM

JO

“ *Lori and Mark,
I am so sorry for your loss. I will keep your family in my prayers. Mrs. Leach was a very sweet lady and I am glad that we got to opportunity to know her. I pray that God comforts you during this difficult time.*

Josie - February 26, 2013 at 10:13 PM



“ *Tami Zambrano lit a candle in memory of Helen Leach*



Tami Zambrano - February 26, 2013 at 10:04 PM



“ *I miss my mom so much the pain is indescribable. She loved her family so much. I can't wait til we are all together in heaven what a day that will be. I will never stop loving you mom you were the best mom ever and like you said to us "I love you a bushel and a peck and a hug around the neck all the way up to the sky and back down again"*

Lori Tullia - February 26, 2013 at 10:04 PM



“ *Suzanne Tullia lit a candle in memory of Helen Leach*



Suzanne Tullia - February 26, 2013 at 10:00 PM



“ *Lori Tullia lit a candle in memory of Helen Leach*



Lori Tullia - February 26, 2013 at 09:58 PM

SC

Lori, I am so saddened at your loss. I remember both of your parents well... what beautiful people. Your dad married me, and was always "on call" for the needs of his church family. I will never, ever forget him. And your mom... what a beauty. I remember her tenderness and compassion and humor. Many of us have gone through the loss of our mothers, and we just wrap our arms around you this day and send our prayers and love.

Sandra Shoemaker Cole - February 27, 2013 at 10:09 AM

DP

My parents loved and appreciated Ben and Helen. I grew up with stories and joy coming out of those stories of Ben and Helen. They both are beautiful and loving people that overflowed with love and support of the church family and friends. May we all be united again in heaven and our losses be far behind us. God has blessed us all, and will continue to comfort the family .

Donna Findley Pike - February 27, 2013 at 10:46 AM

MW

*Lori & Mark,
We share your loss. Ben and Helen were loved by most and a true Man and Woman of God. God blessed them and the family in so many special ways. We will see them at the reunion at the 1st resurrection for the dead in Christ will rise 1st. I'm looking so forward to seeing my MOM and DAD.*

Sincerely Harold and Mary Werning - 5:51 PM Thursday.

Mary Werning - February 28, 2013 at 05:52 PM

JR

*I have such wonderful memories of Aunt Sis. She was a giving and compassionate lady. The entire family made my college days brighter. It was wonderful to have family close and be able to get home-cooked meals. She always made me feel so special and welcome. I miss her.
Jolene Dart-Rogers*

Jolene Rogers - April 02, 2013 at 04:37 PM



*YOUR PARENTS WERE SPECIAL FUN UNSELFISH PEOPLE -
SHIRLEY MORENO*

jim moreno - April 02, 2013 at 07:29 PM