



Helen Dean

January 26, 1922 - January 26, 2011

Helen Louise Dean, 89, of Iron Mountain, went home to her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011.

She was born March 29, 1921, in Bingham Township, Leelanau County, Mich., on the shores of West Grand Traverse Bay between Traverse City and Suttons Bay, the daughter of the late Andrew and Amelia (Schultz) Curry.

Helen learned to embroider at four, became an excellent seamstress and enjoyed knitting. She was a 1938 graduate of Suttons Bay High School. After graduating, she was employed by Leelanau For Boys, a private boys school in Glen Arbor, Mich.

Helen, and many of her co-workers, eventually became registered nurses, receiving their training at the Traverse City State Hospital School of Nursing. During this time, she was a member of the cadet nurse corps.

On Sept. 12, 1944, Helen secretly wed Garth Dean in Traverse City, Mich. Garth was home on leave as a navy pilot and student nurses were not to be married.

When she finished training, Helen joined Garth on the West Coast at Naval Bases in Oak Harbor, Whidby Island, Wash. and San Diego.

As Garth and Helen started a family, she became a devoted mother, sewing most of her children's clothing and making sure they received the best care. At one point, she had two babies and a one-year-old but she often said she had built-in babysitters, the two older girls-she called it "family planning."

Helen entered the workforce when all her children were in school.

The family lived in several places, Traverse City, Kalkaska, Saginaw, Walloon Lake, Flushing and Iron Mountain as Garth was promoted/transferred with Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

Helen worked as a registered nurse for McLaren General Hospital in Flint from 1960-63 and upon moving to Iron Mountain in March, 1963, began working for the Iron Mountain VA Medical Center, retiring in 1983.

Helen attended Trinity United Methodist Church and Maranatha Assembly of God.

While her children were growing, she was involved with Brownies/ Girl Scouts, Cub/Boy Scouts and 4-H.

She also devoted time to Kiwanis Auxiliary, Adult Day Care and the Cancer Society Loan Closet.

In her later years, Helen made several entrelac afghans for family members.

Helen is survived by two sons, Randall (Pamela) Dean of Grand Junction, Colo. and Rex Dean of Iron Mountain; two daughters, Sandra Dean of Iron Mountain and Sue (Mark) Deacon of Clarkston, Mich.; a son-in-law, Larry DuFord of Iron Mountain; a brother, Ralph Curry of Suttons Bay, Mich.; six

grandchildren, Kit (Jeff) DeMuri, Kimberly (Dave Chen) Deacon, Lorne (Katie) Deacon, Keith Dean, Michelle Dean and Mallory Deacon; three great-grandchildren, Dominic DeMuri, Samantha DeMuri and Paxton Deacon, and many nieces and nephews.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Garth in 1974, just weeks after their two youngest graduated from high school, leaving her with three children in college, her daughter, Meri Kay DuFord and a brother, Herbert Curry.

Visitation will be Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kingsford Funeral Home and on Monday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Maranatha Assembly of God Church in Kingsford.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Monday at the church. Rev. David Wilton will officiate.

Grandchildren will serve as pallbearers.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her memory to Maranatha Assembly of God Building Fund.

Condolences to the family of Helen Dean may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Kingsford Funeral Home with arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Kingsford Funeral Home
1000 S. Carpenter
Kingsford, MI 49802

Visitation

JAN 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Maranatha Assembly Of God
920 S. Carpenter Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Funeral Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

Maranatha Assembly Of God
920 S. Carpenter Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

PF

“ The grief that is felt when we lose a loved one may seem unbearable. At such times, we can go to God's word for comfort. God too feels hurt when an individual dies. That is why the encouragement found at Revelation 21:4 assure us that "He will remove sorrow and death will be no more." According to this scripture, there will come a time when those we have lost to death will be brought back by means of a resurrection by the Almighty God. May the family find comfort that God makes available to everyone.

Pat Freeman - February 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ I loved and miss you, but trust that you're in a better place sharing happy times with Grandpa and Aunt Jo. I also wanted to acknowledge Uncle Rex and Aunt Sandy for all of their loving care toward you. They are the kind of children I'm sure all parents hope for. You raised a wonderful family--Sandy, Meri Kay, Randy, Sue and Rex are all role models for your grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Love always,

Mmmmmuh!!! Kimberly

Kimberly Deacon - Granddaughter - February 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“Helen, was a delight to be around her presistace was something to see getting to work with helen while i was an aid was such a blessing and then he becoming somewhat of a family friend was even more of a blessing, my thought and prayers are with the family at this time, she sure was a very special lady.

Courtney Dal Santo - Channing, MI - February 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AD

“Dear Sandy,
I am so sorry for your loss. I will miss seeing Helen, it has been a great pleasure to have been able to get to know such a great woman over the past 5 years. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Angie Daldine - February 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BS

“I loved, admired and respected Helen for the seventy years or so that I knew her.

Barb Dean - Beverly Hills, FL - Sister-in-law - February 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“Dear Sandy and Family,

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

With love,
Susie

Susie Gurnik - Whitefish Bay, WI - Friend - January 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WN

“ To the Dean Family, sorry for the loss although we go through the grieving the "void" what gets us through is knowing that our Loved one has ETERNAL LIFE with our Lord JESUS CHRIST.

Amen GOD-BLESS

Wayne Curry - Nephew - January 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Dearest Sandy & family members,

Helen had a dear memory for me when I lived in Iron Mountain. Not only did she attend our Tuesday morning pray time from time to time but my best memory was when Sandy brought her to my birthday celebration at the Chinese Restaurant. She was a bright spot for us and such a dear sweet spirit. I am sure she will be missed greatly by Sandy. She was such a big part of her day..

Please accept my condolences and I will be praising the Lord tomorrow just thinking how great it must be, Helen singing for the first time in that heavenly choir. For those who are found are never lost...Being with Jesus is the ultimate goal of our life and Helen has arrived.

Luke 20:36

" Nor can they die anymore , for they are equal to the angles and are Sons of God, being sons of the resurection. "

Keeping you in our prayers..

Love & Blessings,

Stretch & Carol Swigert

Carol Swigert - Zebulon, NC - Friend of Sandy Deans - January 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ To Our Dearest Dean Family,
We certainly will miss the Sunday brunches we had with you Sandy and your mom. We enjoyed them very much as well as learning quite a bit about the family history she talked about. Please stay in touch!!! She will be missed that's for certain.

Much Love to All,

Larry & Nancy

Larry & Nancy Hyliard - Traverse City, MI - Niece - January 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Dear Sandy & family,
I saw in the Daily News online that your mother has gone on to Glory. That is a blessing even though I know she will greatly missed down here. Just think, she and Meri Kay are having a sweet reunion. God Bless You All.
love & Peace, Freda

Freda Halley - Greenville, FL - Friend - January 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Sandy,
You have been a faithful daughter to lovingly care for your Mother! As she has now graduated to Glory, know that she is rejoicing with God!
I know you will miss her. Eternity looks even sweeter now.

Praying for you in this time of transition.

Huggggggggggggs,
Susan :)

Susan Bradbury - Iron Mountain, MI - friend - January 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *Sandy and Family...you are in my thoughts and prayers. Your mom is rejoicing in the Lord and catching up with those who went before her. Remember the love, laughter, and tears you shared together.*

*Love to you all...
Grace Sparapani*

Grace Sparapani - Saukville, WI - Friend - January 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ *Rex & Sue, I'm so sorry to hear about your Mom. Our thoughts & prayers will be with you.*

Tom Johnson - Rochelle,, IL - January 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Dear Sandy and Family,*

My deepest sympathy to you all on the loss of Helen. I got to know her through my daily visits to several of my relatives at Manor Care and know that you, Sandy, were there daily as well.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Cynthia Gordon - Iron Mountain , MI - Friend - January 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Dear Sue and Family,*

I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing! I know that you have been so vigilant in your caretaking and this will be a great loss to you.

My thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of loss.

Sincerely, Cheryl Wender-Menghini

Cheryl Wender-Menghini - Iron Mountain , MI - January 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM