



## Helen Smeester

June 17, 1926 - June 17, 2006

KINGSFORD - Helen A. Smeester, 80, of Riverhills Road, Kingsford, died Saturday, June 17, 2006, at her home with her family at her side.

She was born Sept. 5, 1925, in Kingsford, daughter of the late Anton and Mary (Rodman) Bucan. She was a lifelong resident of this area and graduated from Kingsford High School in 1943. After graduating, she worked in Ypsilanti at a World War II bomber plant for a short period. When she returned to the U.P., she married Joseph Blagec on June 14, 1947.

Helen had worked at Liberty Loan and then for the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Credit Union for 25 years before retiring.

On Dec. 29, 1978, she married Basil Smeester Sr. The couple had wintered in Las Vegas for the past 12 years.

Helen was a member of American Martyrs Church and a former member of St. Veronica's Circle. She sang with a group called Smile Awhile and performed at various nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Helen was very dedicated to her family and friends and enjoyed baking for everyone. She loved to golf, was dedicated to the Class of 1943, and belonged to a neighborhood Bible study.

She is survived by her husband, Basil Sr.; four children, Barbara (Mark) Willman of Hoffman Estates, Ill. and Spread Eagle, Stephen (Hope) Blagec of Iron Mountain, Nicholas (Susan) Blagec of Kingsford, and Betsy (Patrick) Shrift of DePere, Wis.; one stepson, Basil Smeester Jr. of Green Lake, Wis.; three sisters, Mary Carlson of Owosso, lower Michigan, Agnes Lindstrom of Kingsford, and Veronica Greenleaf of Iron Mountain; one brother, Anton Bucan of Romeo, lower Michigan; nine grandchildren, Dane Willman, Brett (Anna) Willman, Tracy Blagec, Tara Blagec, Trinity Blagec, Sarah Blagec, Brad (Debby) Steeno, Brooke (John) Brodersen, and Kimberly Wittcock; three step-grandchildren, Chad Smeester, Leanna (Jeff) Lindquist, and Brandon Smeester; eight great-grandchildren, Connar, Annika, Tessa, Brandon, Austin, Amanda, John and Tyler; many nieces, nephews, and numerous friends.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Mike, Emil, and Joseph Bucan, one sister, Ann Wroblewski, and by one great-granddaughter, Katelyn Blagec.

Friends may call from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

Parish prayers will be recited at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday evening at the funeral home followed by a moment of special family tributes.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday on 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home and 11 a.m. at American Martyrs Church. Fr. Joseph Gouin will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Her grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

Entombment will take place at Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Dickinson County Cancer

Unit-Loan Closet, 1401 Carpenter Ave., Iron Mountain, MI.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Helen Smeester online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ TO MY DEAR FAMILY,  
I WAS TRULY SADDENED TO HEAR OF AUNT HELEN PASSING.  
SHE WAS A GEM. I AM SO GLAD TO HAVE SEEN HER  
RECENTLY AND HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED OUR TIMES  
TOGETHER. SHE SHARED SO MUCH OF HERSELF. ALL MY  
FAVORITE RECIPES ARE HERS, AND SHE ALWAYS SENT ME  
THE LATEST HOCKEY NEWS FROM YOUR AREA. SHE WAS SO  
GOOD AT KEEPING ME ABREAST OF THE FAMILY. WHICH I  
SHALL MISS. I COULD GO ON AND ON, AS I HAVE SO MANY  
GOOD MEMORIES OF/WITH AUNT HELEN. MY THOUGHTS  
AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ALL AT THIS TIME. HUGS TO  
YOU ALL. JEANNE

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**JEANNE WROBLEWSKI-BOETTO** - June 22, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Basil,

*You have my deepest sympathy for the loss of your wonderful wife  
Helen. We will all miss her smiling face in the neighborhood.*

*I sent a check to the Cancer Unit.*

*Ray*

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**Ray Famiani** - June 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Nick,

*So sorry on the passing of your Mother. She was a bright spot in the neighborhood, always smiling.*

*Ray*

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**Ray Famiani** - June 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *Basil, you have my profound sympathy in the loss of Helen. As you know, she sent me newspaper clippings of what was happening in the area of Las Vegas concerning veterans for years. That broadened my scope of veterans issues etc. I also knew your wife in the years I was a Kingsford Police Officer. She will be missed by many. I also brought up to her about her smiles and how sincere it always was....Steve*

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**Steve Hudson** - June 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *Dear Steve and Hope, So sorry to hear about your mom. My prayers go out to you and your family. Losing a mother is so hard to get over, a mom was always the one to be there for us and to help us in our life when we needed someone to talk to. May God be with you and our prayers will be with you. God Bless you all. Maureen and Charles Pasten*

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**Maureen(Julian)andChuckPasten** - June 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ *Dear Basil; So sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.*  
*The Fick Family*

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**The Fick Family in Amberg** - June 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Dear Betsy and children, We are so sorry to hear about your Mom. It has been a very long time since we have spoken. I hope with God's Love and prayers and family's love you will make it thru this. You will always feel her presence as I still do my mom's. I will never forget my mother and all that she did for me., and I know you won't forget your mom either.. I will be praying for you Betsy. Love, Maureen Pasten

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**Maureen and Charles Pasten** - June 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Dear Basil, Steve and Hope-Ann,  
I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. Steve, I know what the loss of a Mother is like..... My Mother was my Rock! One thing My Mom would always tell me was, "When I am gone, please don't cry for me because my last breath on Earth will be my first breath in Heaven." I carry those words with me everyday and find comfort in them.

Basil, Thank you for the little chats we had when I was at your home. Your wife was a great Woman and you will be in my prayers at this difficult time.

Hope-Ann, I miss you and pray that your family will get through this difficult time.

You are all in my prayers and I will be thinking of you. God Bless you.

Sue Monosso

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**Sue Monosso** - June 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM