



Helen Healey

July 8, 1920 - March 16, 2019

Our beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother and dearest friend, Helen Healey, passed into the loving arms of her Lord on March 16, 2019. Her strength and courage in the face of adversity and illness will remain inspirations to all who knew her.

Helen was born in Pittsfield on July 8, 1920 to Thomas and Ellen Hartigan. She was educated at St Joseph's High School and received her nursing degree in 1941 at what was then Bishop Memorial Nursing School in Pittsfield. It was at this time she met the love of her life, William H. Healey. They married on April 6, 1942 and began a lifetime of love and the creation of a wonderful family. While Bill enlisted in the Navy, serving in the Pacific during WWII, Helen was an active mother for their first two children.

Helen had a caring and generous nature, a curious mind, a love of reading and learning, a lifelong interest in making new friends and nourishing old relationships. She and Bill loved their post-retirement trips to various Caribbean islands with their youngest child Theresa. Following his untimely death in 1977, she found strength in her faith and reinvented herself as an independent woman with a mission to forge ahead, see her youngest daughter off into the world, and embrace everything life had to offer.

She became active in the church, in meditation groups, and various charitable efforts including reading for the blind. Not one to turn away from a new opportunity, Helen leaped at the chance to attend lectures, enjoy plays, visit Ireland on her own, travel in Europe with her oldest daughter, Martha, and fit

in visits to her sons' families in Oklahoma and Texas. Helen eagerly engaged with her grandchildren, was always in attendance at their various sporting and school activities, and enjoyed frequent phone conversations with them all, near and far.

Helen was the undisputed beating heart of her large family, now numbering 46 direct descendants living in 6 states, who all remained in close communication with her. Her best traits of inner strength, generosity, optimism, outreach, and resilience are mirrored in her two daughters, Martha and Theresa who, through their love and untiring efforts, have together added immeasurable happiness and quality to Helen's life -- especially in her final years.

Survivors include her sister, Louise Ducharme of Lenox, and her 4 children: Martha Chutjian of Milford CT, Theresa Apple (Peter) of Pittsfield, Bill Healey (Nancy Wigglesworth) of Dallas TX, and Thomas Healey (Kirsti) of Crowley, TX; also son-in-law Jack Nelson of Plainfield, MA. and daughter-in-law Mary Healey of Lenox.

Other relatives who will long cherish her memory and sing her song include 15 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, and 5 great, great grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She is pre-deceased by son-in law, John Chutjian.

The family would like to acknowledge the exceptional care Helen received from the nurses at the Berkshire VNA, especially Melinda, and HospiceCare in the Berkshires, her aides Lisa and Nissa,, as well as the 4 years of loving care and friendship from the wonderful staff at Melbourne Place.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Helen Healey will be Thursday, March 21, 2019, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 9 a.m. at St. Joseph Church, celebrated by Msgr. Michael Shershanovich, Pastor. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. Calling hours at the Dwyer Funeral Home will be Wednesday evening, March 20, 2019 from 4 to 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Berkshire Chapter of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic or the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield's Public Library, where they will be used to purchase

audiobooks, in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield, MA 01201 in her memory. DONATIONS CANNOT BE MADE ONLINE, but may be made through the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

MAR 21. 9:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Church
414 North St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *who was Helen?*

She was a daughter, who with her love and compassion took wonderful care of her parents.

She was a sister, who with her admeration and affection had great fun with her siblings. She and her brother (my dad) were best friends.

She was an aunt, who loved her nieces and nephews very much and shared her wonderful sence of humor through her very funny stories.

She was a wife, who found and fell in love with the love of her life. Together they built their lives and added to the legacy of family.

She was a mother, who raised four amazing children, each with their own interests and talents. They were all blessed with her gift for the importance of family.

She was a grandmother, who loved each of her grandchildren and took great pride in all of their accomplishments.

She was a great grandmother, who enjoyed hearing about and watching her great grandchildren grow into who they will be as they develop their interests.

She was a woman of deep faith, love, kindness, warmth and passion.

I am so blessed to have known and loved this marvelous woman and to have had her as my aunt.

I love you Helen. I will always hold you in my heart.

Betsy Hatigan Becker - March 22, 2019 at 07:17 PM

BB

“ Who was Helen? She was a daughter, who with her love and compassion took wonderful care of her parents.
She was a sister, who with admeration and great affection had fun with her sibilings. She and her brother (my dad) were best friends. She was an aunt, who loved her nieces and nephews very much and shared her wonderful sence of humor through her very funny stories.
She was a wife, who found and fell in love with the love of her life. Together they built their lives and added to the legacy of family.
She was a mother, who raised four amazing children, each with their own interests and talents. They were all blessed with her gift for the importance of family.
She was a grandmother, who loved each of her grandchildren. She took great pride in all of their accomplishments and would glow when speaking of them.
She was a great grandmother, who enjoyed hearing about and watching her great grandchildren grow and finding out what their interests are in life.
She was a woman of great faith, love, kindness, warmth and passion.
I am so blessed to have known and loved this marvelous woman and to have had her as my aunt.
I love you aunt Helen. I will always hold you in my heart.

Betsy Hartigan Becker - March 22, 2019 at 06:08 PM

JM

“ Helen was a beautiful Lady inside and out and I will miss seeing her smile. Lots of good memories. My prayers and condolences go out for Martha, Bill and all of her family.
Joe McHugh

Joseph McHugh - March 22, 2019 at 10:43 AM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Catherine Healey - March 22, 2019 at 10:19 AM



Lovely photo of the two of you!

Maureen Peddy - March 25, 2019 at 02:19 PM

RT

“ Dear Miss Healey (Martha),

Again, my sincere sympathy on the loss of your mom. After reading the beautiful tribute in the newspaper, it's obvious your mom was instrumental in modeling behaviors that shaped the special teacher that you became – engaging, inspirational and patient. May the good memories, last a lifetime, and comfort you as you grieve.

As an aside and in some way ironic, my dad passed in 1966, when I was 9 years old. His wake was also at the Dwyer Funeral Home and he was laid out in the same “grieving” room, as your mom. I remember your act of kindness in attending my dad's wake, along with a fellow teacher, Mrs. Gladys King, and principal, Mrs. Dunphrey.

Martha, I was lucky to have you as a teacher. You came into my life for a very short time, but it was the right time. I will never forget.

Wishing you peace.

Ralph Tassone

Ralph C Tassone - March 20, 2019 at 11:21 PM

AF

“ Aunt Helen, my mother Louise’s sister, came and worked at Pittsfield General Hospital when I was very young (tonsillectomy) so I wouldn’t be totally alone and would know someone among all the doctors and nurses. I have never forgotten that act of kindness. Helen had her children and husband at home, but came to the hospital so I wouldn’t be too afraid!

One of my favorite memories is when Uncle Bill would belch after dinner, and Aunt Helen would turn around, look at him, and say, “Oh Bill!” We kids, of course, thought it was hilarious and would laugh our heads off! And of course, Uncle Bill would grace us with another great belch!

We were so fortunate growing up in that marvelous family - aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins all lived within short distances and many a weekend we’d all be together. What a gift from their generation to us! Now, we aren’t as nuclear, and we lose some of the closeness, but will never lose the feeling.

Bless you Martha, Bill, Tommy and Theresa in this loss. Now Aunt Helen is with her Bill again. My love, sorrow, tears and prayers are with you although I cannot be physically there with you. Love, Anne Marie

Anne Flood - March 20, 2019 at 09:38 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Helen Healey.



March 20, 2019 at 03:12 AM

LO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lori - March 19, 2019 at 01:06 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 01:01 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 01:00 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 12:56 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 12:56 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 12:52 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 12:50 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 12:49 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 12:48 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 12:47 PM

JB

“ *What a moving and deeply beautiful tribute for such a deserving dear soul. Helen shared a hospital room with my mother when she was born :) and in later life was a warm and wonderful friend to our mother, Mary Jane Nesbit (Stauch Gonias) who joined the Lord in March of 2012. Helen had a wonderful spirit and we have often enjoyed sharing long conversation and book recommendations with each other. I still have several on her list to finish. She was so proud of her family and so intelligent, and she endured her suffering with such grace. Totally an inspiration. I was honored to be a small little tiny fraction of her life. Helen was a little tether to the loss of my own mother, I think she knew that. I love her for it and I will miss her. Jayne Bannish Harpswell Maine*

Jayne Bannish - March 19, 2019 at 12:20 PM

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Lori - March 19, 2019 at 12:15 PM

LO

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Lori - March 19, 2019 at 11:18 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Lori - March 19, 2019 at 11:16 AM