



Helen Jackman

February 2, 1927 - April 27, 2023

Helen Jackman, a loving mother of nine children, passed away on April 27, 2023, at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township at the age of 96. She was born on February 2, 1927, in Detroit, Michigan, to Rene and Malvina VanDenbrouck. She married her beloved husband, Norman, on September 19, 1948, at St. Charles Catholic Church in Detroit. Helen lived a fulfilling life and was blessed with a large and loving family. She enjoyed traveling and visiting many beautiful places, including Hawaii, San Diego, and taking cruises. However, the most important trip for her was the annual two-week vacation to the cabin in Port Austin with her family. This family tradition continued for over 20 years, and Helen cherished every moment spent with her loved ones. Aside from traveling, Helen also enjoyed a variety of hobbies, including sewing, knitting, crocheting, gardening, and doing puzzle books. Her creativity and dedication to her hobbies were admired by many. Above all, Helen was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She raised nine children with love and care, instilling in them the values of family, hard work, and kindness. Helen was predeceased by her beloved husband, Norman, but her legacy lives on through her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Helen is survived by her five daughters, Marilyn Jackman, Beth (Steve) Gordon, Eileen (Danny "The Veng") Venglar, Amy (Danny "D-Lo") Barr, and Maureen (Mike "Pepe") Pace; and her four sons, Mike (Marcia) Jackman, Tim (Sharon) Jackman, Norm (Mariann) Jackman Jr., and Danny "Zolis" (predeceased Melinda) Jackman. She was the proud

grandmother of two granddaughters, Jade (Dave), and Caitlyn, and nine grandsons, Greg (Angie), Matt (Emma), Chris (Kate), Zach (Katie), Josh, Ryan, Trevor, Chad, and Troy. Helen was also the great-grandmother of Mila, Brayden, Nikolas, Kinsley, Jacob, Aubrey, and Elias. Helen Jackman will be dearly missed by all who knew her, and her family will forever cherish the memories they have shared with her. Visitation will take place on Monday (May 1st) from 2pm -8pm at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road (3 Blocks E. of Van Dyke), Utica, Michigan 48317, with a scripture service at 7pm. A funeral Mass will take place at St. Kieran Catholic Church 53600 Mound Road, Shelby Township, she will lie in state at 9:30am until the time of Mass at 10:00am. Interment will be held at Utica Cemetery, Shelby Twp. MI. Please share a memories of Helen on the Tribute Wall.

Cemetery Details

Utica Cemetery

46325 Shelby Road
Utica, MI 48317

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Prayer Service

MAY 1. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Mass

MAY 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Kieran Catholic Church
53600 Mound Road
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Sweet Helen, by far, was one of my most favorite participants in my daycare. I loved having conversations with this beautiful lady who never failed to lift my spirits when I was down, make me laugh we something bothered me an told me amazing and often funny stories about her kids. She was, by far, one of the most funny and caring ladies I have ever met. AND she LOVED to play Rummy cube and likely is playing it in heaven. I missed Helen from the last day she was in prior to COVID. She will never be replaced. Rest peacefully Helen.

Jacquelyn Kay Smiertka - May 03, 2023 at 01:53 PM

“ In 2001 we moved in next door to Helen and Norm on Carriage Hill Drive. We have three children. Jesse, our only son was just two years old. We were going through a rough time. Shortly after moving in we had received a formal diagnosis of autism.

As you can imagine, it was devastating. Mainly because we had no idea how we could help him. Through much prayer, God placed many people in our path to inform, guide, and give hope and support.

Helen was always quick with a smile, a hug, or a listening ear for a very exhausted and stressed-out mom. My husband Mark would often chat with her over the fence about trees, bushes and gardening, which provided him moments of normal from the crazy chaos we were living. At times I would walk over for a brief visit, and she always offered Jesse a sucker from a dish in her front room.

When we were trying to teach Jesse how to ride a tricycle, (which took hours of hand over hand and hands on feet), Helen observed how he would stop every spin of the wheel and we would have to coax him to "pedal, pedal, pedal" all over again. The goal was to get him, first to Helen's driveway, then moving further, and eventually to around the block.

The first time he made it to her driveway, he immediately got off his bike and ran to her door knocking before I could catch him. When she opened the door, she knew what he was looking for, (he was nonverbal at the time), and she led him right to the suckers. She told him that if he went around the block, he could stop and get a sucker every time.

Norm was a quiet observer of all of this. Helen once told me that Norm had come to her saying, " There's a documentary about autism on", and they both sat and watched it together. The next day they went grocery shopping, and Norm put a huge bag of suckers into the cart. She said, "Why are getting all of those, we still have some at home? " Norm said, " We are going out of town, so we need to leave a bag on the door for Jesse."

Helen was so proud when she told me these things, and we as a family were so touched by their kindness. We knew that God had led us to this home, to these dear people next door, whom we loved.

Over the years, and even after they moved a street over, Jesse and I would visit. Helen knew my kids and my grandkids. Above and beyond the visits with our son, Helen and I shared moments of laughter, talks about life in general, and about God and our faith. She was my friend. I am grateful and blessed to have had her and Norm in my life.

Until we meet again dear Helen, rest in peace.

Debbi Ringle (on behalf of our family)

Mark, Serena, Samantha and Jesse

Debbi Ringle - May 01, 2023 at 09:30 PM

MA

Thank you so much for the wonderful story of mom. I remember the suckers she always had. She was a beautiful soul and I will miss her more than words can express. Maureen #9 😊

Maureen - May 03, 2023 at 01:54 PM

SL

Our family grew up just across the street from the Jackman's. Growing up we kids always played together mostly outside. There were no computer games to keep us busy, and it did not matter if it was summer or winter we always had fun things to do outside. As kids we all got into mischief on occasion, mostly just clean fun. One thing for certain we kids always knew Mrs. Jackman watched out for us. Some of my best memories were at the Disco School Fair where Mrs. Jackman always participated in, she would get us hamburgers anytime we wanted and as many as we can eat.

To the Jackman family, I am so sorry for your loss, this truly saddens my heart. My name is Steve Leshinsky my phone number is 248-882-2463 and email is SRLAL6@yahoo.com. I would like to reconnect and talk about the good old days. God bless you all.

Steve

Steve Leshinsky - May 05, 2023 at 07:04 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Helen Jackman.*



May 01, 2023 at 12:55 PM



“ *Barbara J Crockett purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Helen Jackman.*



Barbara J Crockett - April 30, 2023 at 12:57 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Helen Jackman.*



April 29, 2023 at 12:50 PM