



Helen A. Tomak

February 12, 1924 - June 26, 2017

Helen Antoinette Tomak, 93, of Huntington Woods, Michigan died on June 26, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Helen was born in Detroit on February 12, 1924 to Caroline and Anthony Slabuka. She lived her early childhood in Hamtramck mostly in the care of her maternal grandmother who owned a combination rooming house and grocery store on Elmwood Street. She liked to remember her little dog Bubby who was her constant companion and she would tell of often being left to her own devices as a little girl since her grandmother was busy running the store. When she was seven she moved with her mother and new husband John Kreciesz to a farm near Smiths Creek; and, from that time she told stories of how she and her mother picked pickles in the hot sun and hauled them to the pickle factory to sell. As a teenager she had a job at Kresge's in Port Huron where her pretty face and bright personality caught the attention of store executives who wanted to send her to New York to learn the art of selling cosmetics; but, her mother wouldn't hear of such an ambitious plan for her seventeen-year-old daughter and so she didn't go. Her spirit of adventure was not dampened though as evident by her enrollment in flying school. She actually flew an open cockpit plane with her flight instructor and, as she told it, she was learning how to land when her mother found out and put an end to her flying lessons.

As a young woman Helen worked as a secretary at the Fort Wayne Army Post in Detroit. In 1945 she married Stanley Tomak and they had two children, Bob

who was born in 1947 and Joanne in 1949. In 1954 the family moved from Columbus Township to Standish, Michigan where they built the Standish Motel and ran it as a successful business enterprise for the next thirty years. Stanley died in 1991. Helen's life was one of emotion and boundless love. She loved people of all shapes, sizes and dispositions. She had many friends including friends in high places yet she wouldn't hesitate to stop and listen to a down and out pan-handler on the street tell her his life story. She was a natural born listener and caregiver. Helen took especially great pleasure from the company of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and, she was "Aunty Helen" to many, many relatives and non-relatives alike. She is survived by her son and daughter Robert Tomak and Joanne Naiman, her sisters Arlene Johnson and Michele Schroeder and by her grandchildren Kelly Spencer, Robert Naiman and Leslie Naiman, Alison Duffy and Paige Tomak as well as great grandchildren Paxton and Jack Spencer, Nicole Naiman and Jordan Naiman.

There will be a viewing and gathering of family and friends on Friday, July 7, 2017 from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E of Woodward), Royal Oak, MI 48067. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak

705 W. Eleven Mile Road

Royal Oak, MI 48067

(248) 541-7000

royal@sullivanfh.com

<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Cynthia and Steve purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Helen A. Tomak.



Cynthia and Steve - July 05, 2017 at 06:58 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen A. Tomak.



July 04, 2017 at 08:50 AM

BP

“ Dear Bob,
My sincere condolences to you and your family. I am sorry for your loss.
Sincerely,
Bob Perlberg

Bob Perlberg - July 03, 2017 at 04:38 PM

DB

“ To my Dear Auntie Helen, We all loved you! Whenever we saw you, you made us feel so special by hugging us saying "Hi Honey. I love you. You are so beautiful". It is a greeting we will always remember! You were always vibrant, beautiful and a wonderful person as well as a mentor to us all. We will miss you and love you but you will always be with us!

Doreen, Fred and Braeseker Family

Doreen Braeseker - July 02, 2017 at 09:46 AM

MM

“ I was felt like one of her much loved necies, and called her Aunt Helen. She made me and everyone she touche'd feel beautiful and special. Love to her family

Margie (Nowakowski) Muir

Margaret muir - June 28, 2017 at 04:33 PM

BG

“ She was my special girl. My godmother. And I have lots of wonderful memories. I got Chinese lounging pajamas as a twelve-year-old. Just what I needed in a house full of brothers! When we went grocery shopping, she would not stop at the end of the aisle to watch for traffic...said she was old and they should watch for her. And it would never fail, while riding in the car, she would wonder what made the sky blue or what would we find at the bottom of the St Clair River if they drained it. I also accompanied her on her 80th bday present trip to Hawaii (gift from all her friends and family). She enjoyed meeting my neighbors when we went for our walks. They have all expressed their sadness at her passing. And the Little Bar in Marine City was her favorite place for burger nite with us. She has left a hole in my life that I'm glad not to fill, as it will now hold all my cherished memories.

Barbara Grone - June 28, 2017 at 02:56 PM

SL

“ Steve, Bobby and all of us at Michigan Auto Law purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Helen A. Tomak.



Steve, Bobby and all of us at Michigan Auto Law - June 28, 2017 at 01:57 PM

AJ

“ Going up north shopping. Laughing now shedding tears I know you are in heaven with all the angels looking down on us miss you so much sending all my love you loving sister penny

Arlene Johnson - June 28, 2017 at 12:57 PM

PG

“ When i was a little boy our family and aunt helen was going to the beach and she cracked herself up by saying instead of saying son of a gun you could say son of a pistol i remember her laughing harderly and i remember that so vividly

Pat Grone - June 28, 2017 at 09:41 AM

TW

“ My favorite memory as a child was spending time at the Standish motel. Auntie Helen was always so happy to see us! As an adult, my favorite memory was spending a weekend with her, Kelly, Barb and Tina at the soaring Eagle Casino. Auntie Helen brought homemade wine from her neighbor which we ended up slushing because it was so strong! We laughed all night long! Every memory I have of her was full of warmth, love and laughter! I don't know of any other person that I have ever met that has ever made me feel so loved and so important as she made me feel. She was one-of-a-kind and I will miss her deeply. I thank God for putting her in my life! She has left such a huge impression. I pray that you now feel the unconditional love that you have given throughout your whole life. Love you auntie Helen.

Therese Wolak - June 27, 2017 at 10:56 PM

LN

“ There are so many wonderful memories I had with her. She was so full of life and loved to have fun every chance she got. I looked forward to holidays with her and vacations we took together. One thing I will remember the most about her is her loving nature. She was the most compassionate person I ever met. She never turned her back on anyone. She listened to our problems and grivences with an open heart and never judged anyone. I am going miss her amazing hugs. Grandma's hugs could melt anyone's stresses away. I am going to miss her so much. God gained the most amazing angel when He called her home.

Leslie Naiman - June 27, 2017 at 10:50 PM



“ I dreaded the day we would have to live in this world without you. The pain of your loss is unbearable. You were my everything... my best friend, my confidant, my beautiful grandma. I learned what unconditional love was from you. I am so proud to be your granddaughter. I will miss you everyday for the rest of my life. I love love love you!

Kelly

Kelly Spencer - June 27, 2017 at 10:36 PM

JD

“ Kelly, I'm so sorry about your grandma. Reading fb posts and her obituary I understand why she was so special. It reminded me of reading a book like Anne of Green Gables. You will have so many special memories to treasure that in time will bring you smiles and laughter.

Jean Davis - June 27, 2017 at 10:30 PM

RN

“ Some of my best childhood memories was while i was with my grandma. She was honestly a true blessing. She loved life. But the love she gave her grandchildren was like no other. She will and always be a part of me. I will never forget the impact my grandma gave me through out my life. Now she is in heaven. Though this is the worst time of my life losing someone i truly loved. I know that she is no longer suffering. And god received an angel. I love you grandma.

Robert Naiman(grandson)

Robert Naiman - June 27, 2017 at 10:12 PM