



Helen R. Marshall

September 29, 1918 - June 28, 2015

Helen Ruth Marshall, 96, of Kearney, died Sunday, June 28, 2015 at her home. Memorial services will be held 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 24, 2015 at the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Stephen Price-Gibson officiating. Memorials are suggested to Donor's choice or to the family per Helen's private wishes. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Helen Ruth Havens was born September 27, 1918 in Sac City, Iowa to Lucian E. and Ella (Bowles) Havens. She graduated from Sac City High School in 1936 where she was on the track team and the swimming team as the school gym had an indoor swimming pool. She enjoyed playing the viola until college. A highlight for Helen was playing "Jo" in the school play "Little Women." She would later attend Nebraska Wesleyan University where she met Chester O. Marshall. In 1938, she was named Beauty Queen. The judges for the event were Gracie Allen, George Burns, and Betty Grable. During her time at Nebraska Wesleyan she was asked to sing at a book review for Bess Streeter Aldrich. Helen was united in marriage to Chester O. Marshall on December 1, 1938. The couple enjoyed 49 years of marriage until Chester's death in 1987. She would later earn her Teaching degree from Kearney State Teacher College in 1957. Teaching was Helen's passion. She taught at Kenwood and Central Elementary schools for a total of 27 years. She taught kindergarten and encouraged many students and was respected and admired by her

colleagues. Helen was involved in the community as a member of the First Presbyterian Church for over 50 years. She enjoyed being part of several church activities. Helen was also a charter member of Chapter FN P.E.O., serving all offices during her 78 years as a member. She was also involved in Shriner's Auxiliary, Camp Fire Leaders, Faculty Wives, Red Hats, D.A.R., Garden Club, Sewing Club, Book Club, Golden K Kiwanis, Alpha Delta Kappa, and the N.E.A. Helen enjoyed volunteering at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Trails and Rails Museum and MONA. She was an avid Nebraska Cornhusker Football fan, attending all games until she was in her nineties. Helen loved to travel, attend concerts, play bridge and knit. Above all she loved her family and friends. She will be remembered for her lovely smile gracious manners and her warm and nurturing teacher, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and friend. Helen always looked for the best in people. Her faith meant so much to her and it was obvious in the way she lived.

She is survived by her daughters, Joan Hartman of Kearney and foster daughter, Kathy Wood and her husband, Bob of Conroe, TX; grandchildren, Barbara Jean Berkevick and husband, Daniel, and their daughters, Jessica and Jenna of Burnett, WI, Sue Ann Hartman of Jacksonville, NC and her children, Jordan and Taylor of Jacksonville, NC; foster grandchildren, Debbie Young and husband, Scott and their son, Matthew of Dunwoody, GA, Denise Hobbs and her children, Brian and Jennifer Hobbs of Conroe, TX; foster great great grandchildren, Matthew Young and Ryley Hobbs; as well as, many nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, Chester, she was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Frances and Jean; brother, Dwight; foster grandson, Gregg Fisher; nephews, R.E. and Dan Havens; niece, Wendy Marshall; brothers-in-law, Hunt and Dean Marshall, Allen Packer; sisters-in-law, Mary Kay Marshall and Louise Marshall.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **24**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Ave.
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen R. Marshall*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Helen was the embodiment of a great teacher, most especially a Kindergarten teacher. She guided many, many students thru the transition from home to school with love, kindness and strength and skill. I had the privilege of working with her a bit and will always appreciate what she did for the community of Kearney and the larger world.*

Carol Mischke - March 07, 2016 at 11:37 AM



“ *I was saddened to learn of Helen's passing. Joan, may the comfort of friends and family help you through the coming days.*

Neil Shepherd - August 21, 2015 at 04:51 AM



“ *Joan use to bring her mother, Helen, to the Marshall Reunions. Helen was a very nice lady. Our condolences to the family. Mary Marshall Swartwood and husband Lynn*

Mary Swartwood - August 17, 2015 at 09:42 PM



“ *What a wonderful woman. She'll be missed greatly. Love: Barb and John Bancroft*

John Bancroft - July 28, 2015 at 06:15 PM

JC

“ My cousins Kathy and families, so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember visiting the Marshalls when I was very small with my parents Burdette and Darlene, and Kathy and family came up to visit. Please keep in touch. Contact me, I am on Facebook and still in town.

Julie Clausen-Robertson - July 14, 2015 at 11:39 PM

TR

“ Mrs. Marshall was my kindergarten teacher at Kenwood, and we all loved her so much. She was always bright and happy and made all of us feel special.

Teresa (Treadway) Reeder

Teresa Reeder - July 07, 2015 at 06:11 AM

RM

“ If there was ever a standard for which kindergarten teachers should be measured by, Mrs. Marshall was that standard. It was obvious teaching was her passion. She touched thousands of lives and still is in my "top 5 favorite teachers." She had all the qualities one dreams for in a teacher and then some. As a former student back 1974 at Central Elementary, she was respected and loved through her discipline and nurturing spirit that was, in looking back, rare. Kearney will not quite be the same without her.

Randy Mattley

Randy Mattley - July 06, 2015 at 05:34 PM

TS

“ When Mrs. Marshall was my teacher, I broke my leg and was out of school for 92 days. Mrs. Marshall would come to my home 3 times a week and tutor me. I have enjoyed seeing her over the past 40 years. What a wonderful person she was.

Tim Shada - July 06, 2015 at 09:44 AM

LG

“ I had the privilege of Student Teaching under Helen in 1976. She gave me a lot of responsibilities which prepared me well. I'm still teaching and have kept in touch with her. She visited me in Omaha on the way to Sac City, wrote Christmas cards until recently, and I had the privilege of visiting this wonderful lady and her gracious daughter in Kearney. She was truly a LADY! I know she's now in peace with Chet. May she rest now in peace.-Linda Gutchewsky

Linda Gutchewsky - July 03, 2015 at 10:33 AM



“ Mike Cyplik lit a candle in memory of Helen R. Marshall



Mike Cyplik - July 02, 2015 at 09:59 AM

KR

“ She was such an amazing woman who touched so many lives! What a privilege to have known her.

Karen Rodriguez - July 02, 2015 at 08:10 AM

DR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Dan Reese - July 01, 2015 at 10:52 AM

DR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Dan Reese - June 30, 2015 at 04:48 PM