

Helen Marie Donovan

Helen Marie Donovan, age 85, passed away peacefully at Bryan Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska with her family by her side on Sunday, September 3, 2017. She was the beloved wife of Edward Donovan who preceded her in death May 20, 1997.

A lifelong resident of the Sandhills, Helen was born on April 9, 1932 in Ainsworth, Nebraska to Alfred and Naomi Shaul. She grew up on a ranch near Wood Lake and graduated from Wood Lake High School in 1950. She then attended Duchesne College in Omaha and graduated in 1954. She returned to the Sandhills where she was a teacher in the Valentine school system until marrying Edward on September 10, 1960. While Edward worked in his construction business, Helen devoted her energies to raising their five children and worked as a substitute teacher. An excellent cook, her home and kitchen were always open to family, friends, and neighbors.

Helen had an unwavering faith in God and was an active member of Saint Nicholas Catholic Church frequently attending daily mass. She was also active in her community over her lifetime serving as a member of the Valentine School Board, the Cherry County Historical Society, the Nebraska Democratic Party, and the Valentine Cemetery Board and most recently volunteering as a Pink Lady at the hospital. Her passions were family, gardening, genealogy, and politics.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Donald Shaul in 1945. She is survived by her son Kevin and his wife Celeste, son Mark and his wife Lisa, daughter Mary, daughter Colleen and her husband Matt, and son Shawn and his wife Michelle. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Dustin Donovan, Devon Donovan, Brianne Donovan, Lindsey Donovan, Kellan Walls, Erin Walls, Brennan Lewis, Connor Lewis, Logan Lewis, Quinlan Lewis, Grant Donovan, Ty Donovan, Jillian Donovan. Helen had four great grandchildren: Caeleigh, Aaleigha, Addison and Avery Donovan and many nieces and nephews.



In Loving Memory Of

Helen

1932 - 2017

In Celebration Of The Life Of
Helen Marie Donovan

April 9, 1932 ~ September 3, 2017

“Death is nothing at all. It does not count. I have only slipped away into the next room. Nothing has happened. Everything remains exactly as it was. I am I, and you are you, and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by the old familiar name. Speak of me in the easy way which you always used to. Put no difference into your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. There is absolute and unbroken continuity. What is this death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well.”

Arrangements By
Holmes Funeral Home ~ Valentine, NE
www.HolmesFH.com

Rosary & Prayer Service

Friday - September 8, 2017 @ 7:00 pm
St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Valentine, NE

Mass of Christian Burial

Saturday - September 9, 2017 @ 10:00am
St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Valentine, NE

Officiant

Fr. Abraham Kaduthodiyil

Gifts

Brianne Donovan ~ Lindsey Donovan
Jillian Donovan ~ Erin Walls
Saxophonist: Grant Donovan ~ *'Irish Eyes Are Smiling'*
Eulogy: Mike McKenna **Reading:** Michael Donovan

Special Music

Musician: Anne Clark
Processional-*'Your Are Mine'* ~ Communion-*'Ave Maria'*
Recessional-*'Here I Am Lord'*
Doug Stoeger ~ Meditation-*'Danny Boy'*

Pallbearers ~ Grandsons

Brennan Lewis ~ Connor Lewis
Kellan Walls ~ Logan Lewis ~ Quinlan Lewis
Grant Donovan ~ Ty Donovan

Honorary Bearers

Dustin Donovan ~ Devon Donovan

Interment

Mount Hope Cemetery
Valentine, Nebraska