



Helen E. Lerash

September 2, 1920 - April 30, 2016

Helen (Smitty) E. Lerash, age 95, of Bad Axe, passed away peacefully on April 30, 2016 at her home.

Helen was born in Bad Axe on September 2, 1920, daughter of the late Hugh and Kate (McClellen) Smith. She married Frank Lerash on January 2, 1946 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. They were married 60 years when Frank passed away November 8, 2006.

Helen attended the Bad Axe Schools and graduated in the class of 1939. She was a lifetime member of Sacred Heart (St. Hubert Parish) Catholic Church. She had many accomplishments in her life. She worked at Millick's Bakery, Cole's Market and Henny's Florist. After she married Frank, they opened a small market. Later, they built Lerash Country Market and Pigeon Grocery and Bakery in Elkton, Bad Axe and Caseville. In 1969, they bought the Franklin Inn. Helen was a pillar of the community and a smart business woman. She was a volunteer for many programs, a fantastic mother and grandmother and homemaker who loved to entertain and will be sorely missed by all.

Helen is survived by: 2 Sons- Pat (Holly) Lerash of Bad Axe and Paul (Cathy) Lerash of Bad Axe. 2 Daughters- Lora (Richard) Humbarger of St. Clair and Susan (Bruce) Smith of Kalamazoo.

7 Grandchildren- Amy (Jim) Evans, Frank Lerash, Morgan (Joe) Drossos, Alec Lerash, Tricia (Bill) VanderPloeg, Cheryl Alassane, Amber (Mike) Kleekamp.

9 Great-Grandchildren-Jacklyn, Zachary, Audrey VanderPloeg.

Lilliana Alassane.

James and Chris Kleekamp.

Nolan, Gordan, and Cooper Drossos.

Sister-in-law- Alice Gottschalk.

Brother-in-law- Carl Byarski.

Special Niece- Kay White.

Many nieces and nephews.

Helen was preceded in death by: Husband-Frank Lerash.

2 Sisters- June (Bill) Healy and Betty Smith.

Mother and Father-in-law- Frank and Hattie Lerash.

Brothers and Sisters-in-law- John and Gertie Lerash.

Tony and Vi Lerash.

Rosie and Fred Meagher.

Joe and Martha Lerash.

Tillie and Toby White.

Maggie Byarski.

Eddie Lerash.

Don Gottschalk.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 am. on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at St. Hubert Parish-Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bad Axe. Officiating will be Fr. Rob Howe, pastor. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 from 1 – 8 pm. or Wednesday at the church from 10 am until the time of service at 11 am. A scripture service will be offered on Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Sacred Heart Food Pantry, the Humane Society or to the charity of your choice.

The family would like to thank our round the clock care-givers, Jane, Connie and Janis for your wonderful compassion and care.

Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Cemetery

Bad Axe, MI 48413

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 3. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.
84 Westland Dr
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-3000
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

MAY 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Hubert Parish-Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Bad Axe, MI 48413

Funeral Mass

MAY 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Hubert Parish-Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Bad Axe, MI 48413

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen E. Lerash*

January 28, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ *I was so sorry to see Helen had passed away on the internet. I was still in Florida or I would have been at her funeral. I always enjoyed our visits when I came to BA and hoped to have another visit soon when I come to BA to plant flowers at the family plot She was a very fun, lively, full of life person and will be missed by all who knew her. I know she went flying up to Heaven. My condolences to all of you. Jeannie McIntyre Pfister*

Jeannie McIntyre Pfister - May 11, 2016 at 09:06 AM



“ *Helen stayed friends with me my whole life. She was my Moms best friend and my girlfriend became her friend, We would all meet at the Coffee Cup. Smitty(Helen) my Mom(Red) Mrs Buckley, Aunt Marie, Addie, Marcella, Me and my girlfriend Joan. We would talk and talk and laugh and laugh until they closed up. Smitty was also my Godmother. I shall never forget her infectious laugh. Bad Axe lost a lovely women.
She will be missed.
Jane Kladzyk/Berris*

Jane Kladzyk/Berris - May 04, 2016 at 10:24 AM



“ *May fond memories bring you peace. Liz Williamson Voorheis*

Liz Voorheis - May 03, 2016 at 05:53 PM

BD

“So sorry to hear of the passing of your Mother, I have many fond memories of the time spent with Helen and her family. She will be missed, but our memories of her will live on. My Love and Sympathy to all of her family...”

Brenda Dean

Brenda Dean - May 03, 2016 at 01:41 PM

YT

“Your Friends at Delhi Charter Township purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Helen E. Lerash.



Your Friends at Delhi Charter Township - May 03, 2016 at 10:18 AM

BE

“Helen was an amazing woman who will be missed by many. I have many fond memories of this wonderful person who was always there when she needed to be. A woman who loved life and her family..who gave more than she took..an Angel we were Blessed to have in our lives..... I know when she arrived at those pearly gates, she was greeted with..."you have done well faithful servant"... Helen, you will be missed..but we know you are still with us..Thank you for being such a wonderful example of what we should all strive to become. Our Love and Sympathy to all of her family and friends....



Bill & M J Essenmacher - May 03, 2016 at 09:13 AM

JW

“ So sorry to read about the passing of your Mother. I have so many memories of our parents enjoying life together. She was a great lady.

Jo Ann Bach Walter.

Jo Ann Bach Walter - May 03, 2016 at 08:04 AM

LL

Happy mothers day mom-miss you so much

Lora Lerash - May 08, 2016 at 04:56 PM

MN

“ My condolences to your family. May she rest in peace. God's blessings. Matt Ney

matthew ney - May 03, 2016 at 07:53 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen E. Lerash.



May 02, 2016 at 07:15 PM