



Helen Abernathy

July 11, 1947 - January 16, 2021

Helen Opal Abernathy, 73, of Centralia, passed away Saturday, January 16, 2020 at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital.

Helen was born July 11, 1947, the daughter of Grady Swindell and Patty (Coyne) Swindell. She married Rickie Abernathy on October 23, 1965 in Centralia, and he preceded her in death on November 11, 2020.

She is survived by one daughter: Lisa Abernathy of Centralia; one brother-in-law: Charles M. Schaeffer of Centralia; brother: John Ott and wife Candi of Las Vegas, NV; three sisters-in-law: Susan Smith of Fort Myers, FL, Kim Moody and husband Brad of Sapulpa, OK, and Susan Gilliland of Sapulpa, OK; nephews: Charles P. Schaeffer of Centralia, Grady Swindell Jr. of Nexa, MO; nieces: Tiffany Ott of Centralia, and Ami Finley and husband Matt of Centralia; and niece and nephew she helped raise: Mariah Davis and significant other Corey Meskil of Centralia and Roger Campbell Sr. and wife Danielle of Centralia.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband Rickie Abernathy, her parents: Grady and Patty Swindell and her in-laws: Horgan Abernathy and Kathryn Chivario; daughter: Paula LeeAnn Abernathy; sisters: Leanna Swindell, and Paula Swindell, brothers: Grady Swindell Sr., and Dean Swindell.

Helen was a RN for St. Mary's Hospital for 30 years before she retired. Helen was of the Christian Faith and went to Grace Church. Helen was a sweet lady who had a spunky personality that made it hard for anyone to not like her. She will be greatly missed by her friends and family.

A private family service will be held at a later date with burial to follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Centralia with Alan Nollman officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the family and will be accepted by the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street in Centralia, IL 62801 (618) 532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Abernathy family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com or the Funeral Home's Facebook page.

Tribute Wall

ML

“ *Mary Ann (Monken) Long lit a candle in memory of Helen Abernathy*



Mary Ann (Monken) Long - January 25, 2021 at 02:34 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Funeral Service*




Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - January 21, 2021 at 10:07 PM

WL

“ *Sorry to hear about your mom and dad Wendy*

Winifred Langford - January 20, 2021 at 06:58 PM

 Karen Campbell

“ *So sorry to see the passing of Helen. An old school friend as well as an RN who I worked with at SMH. Condolences to her remaining family members and friends.*

Karen Campbell - January 20, 2021 at 10:55 AM

GJ

“ Georgia Jones-Richardson lit a candle in memory of Helen Abernathy



Georgia Jones-Richardson - January 19, 2021 at 10:33 PM

VJ

“ Lisa and family, Larry and I are saddened to hear of the loss of your precious mother Helen. We're sending love and prayers. Larry and Vicky James

Vicky James - January 19, 2021 at 07:39 PM

LG

“ Helen was a dear friend to me. We go back a long way. Will miss our talks and visiting. She helped me so much when I needed it. I will miss her. My thoughts and prayers to the family, May she rest in peace!!

Linda Gazdik - January 19, 2021 at 04:52 PM

TP

“ I am so fortunate to have known Helen. She always taught me something when we visited. I will miss her advice and friendship! God bless the family at this time of loss. Peace to all.
Tamara Purcell

Tamara Purcell - January 19, 2021 at 10:51 AM

LH

“ *Linda Helmbrecht lit a candle in memory of Helen Abernathy*



Linda Helmbrecht - January 19, 2021 at 09:54 AM

GS

“ *Please accept my deepest sympathy at this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Through the power of God may you find peace and comfort. Gilda Weathersby*



Gilda M Stallard-Weathers - January 18, 2021 at 10:33 PM

DD

“ *May God lift you all in his loving arms at this difficult time and may Helen fly with the angels now. My Deepest sympathy, Desiree Donnelly&family*



Desiree Donnelly - January 18, 2021 at 09:43 PM

JO

“ *John Candie Ott lit a candle in memory of Helen Abernathy*



john candie ott - January 18, 2021 at 09:24 PM

BM

“ Lisa. I am so sorry to hear about Your mom’s passing. She was one of a kind. Always with a quick come back. Loved working with her many years ago . Will be praying for you all. Glad I at least could keep up on how she was doing when I talked to you.

Becky Mays - January 18, 2021 at 06:43 PM

PB

“ I am so very sorry to see this!! My goodness. 😞. I’ve known all the Swindell kids forever, I think. Hurts my heart to see all this! My thoughts and Prayers are with you, Lisa, and all the family! Godspeed! 💖🙏

Peggy Myers Beal - January 18, 2021 at 05:24 PM