



Helen M. Merkel

August 27, 1939 - June 29, 2023

Helen (Lewis) Merkel (nee Smith), age 83, of Portage, Indiana, passed away peacefully on June 29, 2023. She was born and raised in Hegewisch, Illinois, and went to CVS High School. Helen then moved to Whiting, Indiana, where she raised her six children. She was employed by Amaizo and later retired in Walkerton, Indiana. Helen loved listening to her gospel music, especially on Sundays; loved to read mysteries and her favorite was Stephen King. She loved to crochet and made many blankets for her children and grandchildren. Helen also loved to cross stitch and plastic canvas. One of her past time enjoyments was putting puzzles together with her children and grandchildren and she was a whiz at crossword puzzles and could finish them expeditiously. Her greatest joy in life was her children: Susan (Allen) Young, Deborah (Dave) Poleski, Ray (Caryl) Lewis, Jr., Linda (Dennis) Thompson, Kimberly Nordhoff, Sandra (Gene) Payton, and Stephanie Ahrens; twenty-two grandchildren; Daniel (Tracy) Banaszak, David (Marisa) Banaszak, Douglas Banaszak, Kristina Crawley, Matthew Thompson, Kimberly (Matt) Ballard, Rebecca Payton, Abigail Payton, Ashley Poleski, Victoria Poleski, Ryan Poleski, Jacob Headley, Charles (Diana) Popielarz, Audrey (Prudencio) Rodriguez, James Lewis, Ray Lewis, Allison Lewis, Lori Kluth, Emily Ahrens, Duane Ahrens, and Matthews Ahrens. She had 31 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. Helen also had 4 stepchildren, brother-in-law, many nieces and nephews, many great nieces and great nephews, and extended family whom she cared for deeply.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald D. Merkel Sr.; grandson, Joshua Headley; parents, Jessie and Edith Smith; two sisters: Patricia Kania and Elizabeth Bednarz; and beloved dog, Yogi.

Friends may visit with family on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, Crown Point, IN, at 10:00 am. Rev. Tom Shanahan officiating. Interment will take place at Hebron Cemetery in Hebron, Indiana. w
www.burnsfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Hebron Cemetery

St. Rd.2 and W. 900 S.
Boone, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 5. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (cst)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

funeral

JUL 6. 10:00 AM (cst)

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Tribute Wall

SY

“ *Your birthday is today mom. Thinking of you all the time. My mom an angel in heaven. Love and miss you so. Your oldest.* ”



susan young - August 27, 2025 at 01:51 PM

SY

“ *Hello momma, miss and love you. 🌹* ”



susan young - June 15, 2025 at 08:55 AM

SY

“ *Miss you mom* ”



susan young - March 23, 2025 at 08:03 PM

SY

“ *Miss talking to you mom.* ”



susan young - January 09, 2025 at 03:04 PM

SY

“ A candle lit for you mom, love and miss you.



susan young - December 26, 2024 at 03:16 AM

SY

“ Susan Young sent a virtual gift in memory of Helen M. Merkel



susan young - December 01, 2024 at 12:58 PM

SD

“ Susan Young Oldest Daughter lit a candle in memory of Helen M. Merkel



susan young oldest daughter - September 23, 2024 at 11:05 AM

SD

“ My mom was so fun. I was born in 1957, so my mom taught me to dance to chubby checker- fats domino, Elvis. We would stay up all night when I got older and played cards, scrabble. Then it was svangoolie, Abbott and Costello, Jerry Lewis (nutty professor.). She was so much fun. 😊



susan young oldest daughter - September 21, 2024 at 12:46 PM

SD

“ Mom I miss you .



susan young oldest daughter - September 21, 2024 at 12:40 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen M. Merkel.



July 03, 2023 at 06:38 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Helen M. Merkel.



July 02, 2023 at 07:39 PM