



Helen Irene O'Neill

August 6, 1923 - September 12, 2020

Helen Irene (Butterfield) O'Neill, 97, of Lindenhurst, IL, peacefully moved on to her permanent home in Heaven on Saturday, September 12, 2020. Helen was born August 6, 1923 and lived in the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff area for 92 years. Helen married William "Bill" O'Neill in 1944 and had three children. Helen's final years were spent at the Village of Victory Lakes in Lindenhurst, IL.

First and foremost, Helen was a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend. She treasured her family and embraced every moment with them. Helen retired from the Lake Forest school district as a cook. Many of those years spent at Cherokee School. She volunteered for many local charities and events, supported the American Legion Auxiliary, Lake Forest Day, and the local police and fire association. Helen loved to knit, attend swim exercise class, play cards / bingo, support her church with all her heart, and generally be a ray of sunshine to everyone she met. She was a loyal and devoted friend to many and especially her lifelong friend Ann Martin (2010).

Helen was preceded in death by her husband Bill (1994), sister Ruth Lichtwalt (Frank), brother Frank Butterfield (Joyce), son-in-law Dick Kimmel, daughter-in-law Shirley O'Neill, and grandson Keith Kimmel. Helen is survived by her daughter Carol O'Neill Kimmel Wright (Jerry), sons Bruce O'Neill (Nancy), Brian O'Neill, grandchildren Valerie Strzyz, Stephen Kimmel, Taylor

O'Neill, and Keenan O'Neill and Taylor and Keenan's mother Anita. Helen was also blessed with great grandchildren; Bill Strzyz, John Strzyz, and Vincent Kimmel.

The family would like to thank the staff at Victory Lakes for making such a difference in her life and for the outstanding level of care, dignity and respect they provided her. And all of the residents who made her feel welcome from day one many of which grew into cherished friends.

As a lifelong Lake Forester, Helen had a passion for the community and preserving its history. As tribute to Helen's life and to honor the family, several photographs and artifacts will be added to the collection at the History Center of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions with facilities and large gatherings, services and interment will be private and by invitation only. The Funeral Mass will be live streamed on Saturday, September 19, 2020, at 11:30 am. You may view the service on the Church of St. Mary-Lake Forest Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofStMaryLF/videos/>. We appreciate your understanding and regret that we are not able to gather in person. FACEBOOK NO LONGER ALLOWS YOU TO VIEW THE LIVESTREAM WITHOUT AN ACCOUNT, THE SERVICE WILL BE RECORDED AND UPLOADED TO THE FUNERAL HOME WEBSITE AFTER THE FUNERAL.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests honoring Helen's memory by donating to the History Center of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff at <https://flbhistory.org/give-join/donate> or 509 E. Deerpath Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

For more information contact Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest, 847-234-9649 or www.RTfunerals.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

Spruce Road & Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Tribute Wall



“ *Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Helen Irene O'Neill*



Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest - September 17, 2020 at 03:49 PM

BG

My sincere condolences to the family of Helen O'neill. I knew Her for many years. We were together for many years at the Lake Bluff pool and continued to go to swim classes at the LFHS and finally to the LF fitness center. She was someone to look up to. She always had a smile and I always felt if she could do something so could I. She is missed by her many friends. BJ Giannasi

Barbara Giannasi - September 27, 2020 at 04:55 PM

CS

“ Dear O'Neill Family:

I echo the sentiment that your mother, mother-in-law and grandmother was, indeed, a ray of sunshine and I would add: left her footprint in many hearts. I enjoyed taking several ceramics classes together with her and her good friend, Ann Martin, many years ago...two delightful ladies. Our teacher's first name was Betty and she taught not only ceramics but porcelain doll painting, as well, in her Libertyville, Illinois home.



"The pain passes, but the beauty remains." ...Pierre Auguste Renoir

*With heartfelt condolences & caring thoughts...Cobi Witberg Stein
(Lake Forest resident)*

Cobi Stein - September 22, 2020 at 06:41 PM

JB

“ *She was the cook at Cherokee School when I went there. She was a great cook and always wonderful to all of us (the kids). She knew our names and treated us like we were her own.*

James Bogen - September 19, 2020 at 10:19 AM

SB

“ *I only had the pleasure of having one meal with Helen and a few meetings but her loving daughter has posted so many wonderful pictures and has told me so much about her for many years. She was such a beautiful lady.*

Susan Bishop - September 16, 2020 at 08:58 AM