



## Helen Tlapek

April 4, 2015

Helen Page Hanes Tlapek September 9, 1922 to April 4, 2015 The soul of Helen Tlapek has moved on. Thanks in large part to the faith she shared with them, her children have hope and faith that her loving spirit has returned to God after a lifetime of unwavering devotion to them and their father. Helen Tlapek was a person of independent thought with compassion and understanding that inspired people to confide in her. Their confidence was not misguided. Helen was possessed of a good intellect and she made good decisions. Her virtues were many. Her devotion to family was inspired by a strong family. Due to the death of her father, Charles Moses Hanes when she was 11, her family was headed up by a remarkable mother, Mary Ellen Debaun Hanes, and her mother's sister Margaret Debaun. Her mother's side of the family was from Cairo, Illinois. Her father was partner in the Hanes-Kilgo construction company. The Hanes family made its home in Jerseyville, Illinois. Helen and her three brothers, Charles, Bobby and Inky, as well as her four sisters, Mary Ward, Mutt McKinnon, Anna Carmody and Kathy Holmes all attended college. Helen earned her RN from St. John's Mercy School of Nursing in 1944. She was the last of her siblings to die and she remembered the others often and missed them sorely. For a while Helen worked as a nurse on the B&O Railroad. She met Jim Tlapek because a fellow nursing student was dating one of Jim's brother. She and Jim were married in St. Louis, May 11, 1951. They moved to Cape Girardeau and began a lifetime faithfully devoted to each other and their children in a marriage which spanned 60

years until Jim died in 2011 at the age of 96. Helen lived to the age of 92. There will be no visitation. The funeral Mass will be on Monday, April 6, at 11:00 at St. Vincent's Church on Ritter with the Rev. David Hulshof officiating. All five of Helen and Jim's children will gather with as many of the grandchildren as can attend. Paul Tlapek (spouse Renee, son Benjamin), Margaret Tlapek (spouse Gary Seesing-daughters Frances & Clare, son Jack-child Lily), Janet Tlapek (daughter Madeleine), Gregory Tlapek, and Therese Tlapek (spouse Bud Owens, children Anna and Joseph). Private burial will be at St. Mary Cemetery. The family asks that you send a note or simply honor her memory by being a strong mother, making a good decision or being courageous enough to challenge convention when it needs it, especially when it would be easier to do otherwise. She was a remarkable woman and precious to her children.

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ How fortunate all of Helen's family and friends have been to have shared such a long life with her. She will be surely missed but remember she was a woman of strong faith and she has gone home to be with the Lord. We love you all are here for you. Carol and Alex

Carol and Alex dannenhauer - August 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ What a lovely memorial to your mother, she sounds like she really was a remarkable woman. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Susan Rutledge Kemp - August 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Tlapek children, inlaws, grandchildren and great grandchild. Our deepest sympathies for your loss. Mrs. Tlapek will be missed but her spirit will live on in her family. May she rest in peace and may Perpetual Light shine on her. Our condolences, Pat and David Seesing

David Seesing - June 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

CAROLYN KINDER RN - June 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *The pain of losing someone as special as a mom is something that we will never get use to because God's Word refers to death as 'the last enemy.' May your family find comfort as I have in knowing that our loving heavenly Father promises us that very soon he will have our enemy 'brought to nothing.' (1 Corinthians 15:33) What a wonderful day that will be!*

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**K. Jackson** - June 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *I had the pleasure of knowing Helen many years as a regular client of the Style Stop in Jackson. I can think of no other whose opinion was valued more than hers. Helen possessed a rare combination of wisdom, faith, and compassion with just the right amount of truth and common sense. We were blessed to have known her. Heaven Rejoices!*

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**Bobbi Jo Renner** - May 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ *Greg, so sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you.*

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**Ted Lomax** - May 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. Your mother was a very remarkable woman. I know you all will miss her. My prayers and thoughts are with each and everyone of you. god Bless!*

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**Beth Meyer McFerron** - April 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM