

Helen Karpen, age 90, of Carrington, ND, passed away peacefully on July 2, 2022. At the time of her passing, she was surrounded by love and prayers by her family at CHI St Alexius Health, Carrington, ND.

Helen Mae "Honey" Carr was born on September 4, 1931 in Carrington, ND to J.M. and Mabel (Baklund) Carr. She was the fifth of seven children. Her childhood years were spent running and playing around the family farm, doing chores and avoiding taking care of the chickens when possible. Reading became a passion at an early age which continued throughout her life until her eyesight became a challenge.

Helen graduated from Carrington High School in 1949 and attended one year of college at Mount St Clare Women's College in Clinton, Iowa. She benefited from her relationship with the college dean- her aunt Sister Cyrilla Carr.

Helen dreamed of traveling and seeing the world so when the FBI visited the campus in 1950 looking for women interested in working for the Bureau, she leaped at the chance and interviewed for the position. She was accepted and worked for the FBI in Washington, DC from September 1950 until 1952 when she was called home due to her mother's illness.

Her mother recovered and she was invited by a close friend to move to Davenport, Iowa. She eagerly jumped on a train to experience a new adventure working at Interstate Finance until 1953. Helen moved to Fargo, ND and worked for Bell Telephone as an executive secretary until 1955. During this time period, she met a tall dark, handsome Game & Fish Biologist who made her want to return to Carrington.

Helen married George Karpen on June 18, 1955 at Sacred Heart Church in Carrington where they made their home for the rest of their lives. She worked as a secretary at Dakota Electric and REA for several years while taking care of her growing family. In 1972, Helen began her career at Carrington Hospital in the business office and worked her way up to Director of Medical Records. She retired in 1996 after working for the healthcare system for almost 25 years.

Helen is survived by daughters - Linda (Ken) Carlson, Grand Forks, ND; Camille Karpen, Grand Forks, ND; Eileen (Gary) Hoffman, Carrington, ND; Christine Schroeder (Timothy Schmeets), Carrington, ND; Sister - Evelyn Copenhaver, Lakewood, CA.; Brothers - Clifford, Las Vegas, NV; Joseph (Rita), Seal Beach, CA; John, St Anthony, MN; six Grandchildren - Amy (Brian) Zimmerman, Pendleton, OR; Jesse Schroeder, Carrington, ND; Brooke (Seth) Kutz, Carrington, ND; Heather (Ross) Berglund, Chaska, MN; Heidi (Jade) Brown, Horace, ND; Anthony (Jalissa) Hoffman, Fargo, ND, seventeen Great Grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband George; her parents J.M. and Mabel Carr; her father and mother in law John P. and Agnes Karpen; brothers James & Fritz; sister-in laws Lorraine (James), Lucille (Fritz), Louise (Clifford); brother in law Cyrus (Evelyn) Copenhaver; and son in law Jeffrey Schroeder.

*In
Loving
Memory*



*Helen
Mae
Karpen*

SEPTEMBER 4, 1931 - JULY 2, 2022

Letting Go

The Angels gathered near your bed,
so very close to you.
For they knew the *pain and suffering*
that you were going through.

I thought about so many things,
as I held tightly to your hand.
Oh, HOW I WISHED that you were strong
and happy once again.

But your eyes were looking homeward,
to that place beyond the sky.
Where JESUS held His outstretched arms,
it was time *to say goodbye.*

I struggled with my SELFISH THOUGHTS,
for I wanted you to stay.
So we could walk and talk again,
like we did - just yesterday.

But JESUS KNEW THE ANSWER,
and I knew He loved you so.
So I gave to you life's greatest gift,
the gift of letting go.

Now my heart will carry MEMORIES
of the love you gave to me
Until we meet again in heaven,
where the best is yet to be.

Celebrating The Life Of *Helen Mae "Honey" Karpen*

September 4, 1931 – Carrington, ND
July 2, 2022 – Carrington, ND

ROSARY SERVICE
Wednesday, July 6, 2022
4:30PM

Evans Funeral Home, Carrington

VISITATION
Wednesday, July 6, 2022
5:00PM - 6:00PM
Evans Funeral Home, Carrington

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
Thursday, July 7, 2022
10:30AM
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Carrington

OFFICIATING
Father Terry Dodge
Deacon Bart Salazar

SPECIAL MUSIC
Marlene Boyer ~ Pianist
Jacee O'Sullivan ~ Soloist ~ *Ave Maria*
Sacred Heart Choir

PALLBEARERS
Amy Zimmerman ~ Jesse Schroeder ~ Brooke Kutz
Heather Berglund ~ Heidi Brown ~ Anthony Hoffman

BURIAL
Carrington Cemetery
Carrington, ND

Arrangements by
Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND
www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com