



## Helen Reis

September 19, 1922 - March 26, 2020

Helen R. Reis, age 97, of Fonda, Iowa died Thursday, March 26, 2020 at the Laurens Care Center in Laurens, Iowa.

Private family services will be held. Burial will be in the St. Columbkille Cemetery in Varina, Iowa. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Helen was born to George and Mary Veehoff September 19, 1922 the first daughter among five children. She grew up on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa.

Helen graduated from Storm Lake High in 1941 and earned a teaching certificate from Briar Cliff College in Sioux City. Following her education, Helen delighted in teaching elementary students in rural schools near Storm Lake and Sheldon.

Helen enjoyed getting together with friends to go dancing at the Sunrise Ballroom where she met her husband Raymond Reis of Varina. They were married June 7, 1949 at St. Mary's Church in Storm Lake. Helen and Raymond began farming in the Varina area and eventually moved to Fonda where they were blessed with six children. There they became active lifetime members of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church.

Helen embraced the farm life with endless enthusiasm; raising chickens, helping with the field work, gardening, and canning. She played guitar, camped, fished, and entertained family and friends. Toast Masters, Bible studies, and Women's Aglow were gatherings of her most meaningful fellowships.

In recent years, Helen struggled with physical pain but was able to remain in her own home, due in great part to the loving support of her son John and eventually caregivers and hospice. The family is thankful to God for the many years we were blessed to have our wonderful mother/grandmother in our lives. We are most grateful that Helen had a strong personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Survivors include 3 daughters; Mary Reis, Jerri (Jay) Copple, Jan Reis; three sons, John, Joe (Marilyn), and Bill (Jill) Reis; 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren and one brother, Joe Veehoff.

But now God has shown us a different way to heaven—not by “being good enough” and trying to keep his laws, but by a new way (though not new, really, for the Scriptures told about it long ago). Now God says he will accept and acquit us—declare us “not guilty”—if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like. Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious ideal; yet now God declares us “not guilty” of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins. For God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all God’s anger against us. He used Christ’s blood and our faith as the means of saving us from his wrath. In this way he was being entirely fair, even though he did not punish those who sinned in former times. For he was looking forward to the time when Christ would come and take away those sins. And now in these days also he can receive sinners in this same way because Jesus took away their sins. But isn’t this unfair for God to let criminals go free, and say that they are innocent? No, for he does it on the basis of their trust in Jesus who took away their sins. Then what can we boast about doing to earn our salvation? Nothing at all. Why? Because our acquittal is not based on our good deeds; it is based on what Christ has done and our faith in him. So it is that we are saved by faith in Christ and not by the good things we do. - Romans 3:21,23-28

# Cemetery

---

## St. Columbkille Catholic Cemetery

IA,

# Comments

---



“ Carolinel Veehoff lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



**Carolinel Veehoff** - April 05, 2020 at 07:35 PM

---



“ Daniel Veehoff lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



**Daniel Veehoff** - April 05, 2020 at 07:34 PM

---



“ Daniel & Caroline Veehoff lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



**Daniel & Caroline Veehoff** - April 05, 2020 at 04:38 PM

---



“ Joe Veehoff lit a candle for my sister Helen. During a phone conversation with Helen , a couple weeks before she left her own home, she asked me if I thought that she would soon be in heaven after her death. I replied that I was confident that she would be in heaven an hour before Saint Peter was even aware that she had died. She liked my answer. Helen was a kind and loving sister. Joe

Joe Veehoff - April 03, 2020 at 04:14 PM

---



“ Casey Veehoff lit a candle in memory of Helen



casey - April 01, 2020 at 06:42 PM

---



“ Bonny Veehoff Dunn lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



Bonny Veehoff Dunn - March 31, 2020 at 09:58 PM

---



“ I remember Helen as a wonderful Mother to one my dear classmate friends, Jan. Helen was always welcoming with a wonderful smile. She was kind and had a great sense of fun!! I send my sincere sympathy to the entire family. Debbie (Kramer) Lynn

Debbie Lynn - March 31, 2020 at 03:36 PM

---



“ Dana Seivert lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



**Dana Seivert** - March 31, 2020 at 09:27 AM



“ We want to extend our sympathy to the family of Helen Reis. We enjoyed singing to her at Christmas time with the carolers from our church. I enjoyed visiting with her on her birthday. Sincerely, Randy and Gloria Mobley

**Gloria Mobley** - March 31, 2020 at 07:45 PM

---



“ wonderful pictures..beautiful memories love and prayers Mike and Rae Marie



**rae thompson** - March 30, 2020 at 03:31 PM

---



“ I am so sorry to hear of Aunt Helen's passing. What a beautiful video tribute to your Mom. I have so many fond memories of family times between my parents and Raymond and Helen. Helen always had a big smile and a ",how are you Norma Jean " and the coffee pot would be put on and we sat around the kitchen table reminiscing of family fun. I will never forget when John and Joe took me snipe hunting, your mom had the biggest chuckle when I got back in the house. Aunt Helen will be missed. She will always be with you in your heart and memories. Imagine the reunion in heaven with the rest of the Reis clan. They were waiting for her at the pearly gates, together again. What a beautiful vision for us behind. I loved Aunt Helen and will treasure my memories of time spent around the kitchen table with her. Hugs to all of you.

**Norma Jean (Jeanne) Reis** - March 30, 2020 at 01:50 AM

---



“ Julie Haefner lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



**Julie Haefner** - March 29, 2020 at 08:48 PM

---



“ One of the flowers Helen gave us.



**Randy and Marilyn Schmitt** - March 29, 2020 at 08:33 PM

---



“ Our prayers to Helen's family on her call Home. Marilyn remembers fondly giving guitar lessons to Helen both at her studio and at Helen's home. Helen enjoyed so playing and singing country songs. We both enjoyed calls from Helen at winter to provide a home for a few of her plants because she didn't want them to freeze. One is blooming beautifully now and we are including a photo. God's Peace to a special lady.

**Randy and Marilyn Schmitt** - March 29, 2020 at 08:30 PM

---



“ Paul And Barb Rebhuhn lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



**Paul and Barb Rebhuhn** - March 29, 2020 at 04:24 PM

---



“ Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



**Peg Flynn** - March 29, 2020 at 01:24 PM

---





“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - March 28, 2020 at 11:46 PM



“ Great video of Helen and her family. Thanks for posting.

**Doris Ries Wessels** - March 29, 2020 at 10:03 AM



“ BEAUTIFUL tribute video

Many tears hugs to all

**Tina Pridemore** - March 29, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ What a beautiful and fulfilling life your mother had.

**karen larson** - March 29, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ Awesome video Thank you for sharing ..my heart breaks for all of you. Many great memories of your family

**Joan Nehman** - March 29, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ Heart felt and loving video! Beautiful God fearing family. I am sorry for your loss Helen.

**Gail Ann Bending** - March 29, 2020 at 03:33 PM



“ Wonderful video Mary. Beautiful family. She's in the arms of our Lord and Savior now. Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise. --Joan Altmann

**Joanie** - March 30, 2020 at 01:29 AM



“ Thank you so much for creating such a beautiful video. So sorry for your lost and heavens gain.

**Jerry Reis** - March 30, 2020 at 04:30 AM



“ I just now found the news of Helen's passing. It's so hard to lose your Mom and selfishly we are never ready to say that final goodbye. Your Mom always made me laugh. She was a joy. I can imagine the party going on in Heaven right now! Thinking of all the Reis clan and other family and friends that are thrilled to see her. To me, that is what Heaven is all about, absolute joy. My thoughts and prayers go out to you all. May God Bless You and give you peace during this difficult time.

**Carlin Bunda Osborn** - March 28, 2020 at 10:02 PM



“ Pat McKenna lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



Pat McKenna - March 28, 2020 at 05:23 PM

---



“ OUR PRAYERS & SYMPATHY TO HELEN'S FAMILY. I ALWAYS KNEW YOUR MOTHER, HELEN AS A SISTER OF EDDY & JOE. GO BACK A LOT OF YEARS. SHE WAS A WONDERFUL LADY WITH A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR. SHE NOW IS AT PEACE WITH HER HUSBAND, RAY, HER PARENTS & HER SISTER EDDY, BUT MOST OF ALL WITH JESUS.  
PEACE, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE  
STORM LAKE, IOWA



PATTY GUNVILLE - March 28, 2020 at 03:43 PM

---



“ Helen made the best green tomato pie . Had my first taste of it a couple years ago with Helen and Melva. We delivered some apples to her. A fantastic lady. My condolences to the family

Nicki Harrington - March 28, 2020 at 10:44 AM

---



“ Nicki Harrington lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



**Nicki Harrington** - March 28, 2020 at 10:41 AM

---



“ Our prayers are with you.

**Paul and Nancy Berte** - March 28, 2020 at 08:52 AM

---



“ So sorry for your loss. Wade & Cheri Nehring



**Cheri Nehring** - March 28, 2020 at 07:30 AM

---



“ John, Joe, Marry, Jan, Jerri, Bill and Families,

I am so sorry for you loss. Steve and I always tried to visit her when we flew home and the last time I visited your mom was after my own mom's funeral. It was always fun to catch up with news of the family. She was so proud of all of you.

Prayers for all of you during this difficult time.,

Diane and Steve Moffett  
San Jose, Ca

**Diane Reis Moffett** - March 28, 2020 at 04:08 AM



“ Sorry to hear about your Mom. It has been years since I last seen her. Mom and Keith's family up there. She was a special lady. Hold your memories close to your heart. Peggy and Keith Graversen Brunswick, Ga

**Peggy Graversen** - March 28, 2020 at 01:40 PM

---



“ Bev Reis lit a candle in memory of Helen Reis



**Bev Reis** - March 27, 2020 at 05:16 PM