



Helen Wakus-Smith

September 15, 1929 - April 1, 2019

Helen Wakus Smith

Helen Wakus Smith of Columbia, Illinois, formerly of Kirkwood, Missouri, was born September 15, 1929 in Madison, Illinois to Nicholas and Mary (Zieba) Wakus and entered into rest Monday, April 1st, 2019 in Columbia, Illinois at the age of 89 years.

She is preceded in death by her husband, James Smith and two siblings, Anastasia Wise and Nicholas Wakus Jr., and her special friend Clyde.

She is survived by many family members and friends including her sister, Elizabeth Barciszewski of Granite City, Illinois; nephews Greg (Melissa) Hagen of Columbia, Missouri, and Rick Kostoff of Granite City, Illinois; and nieces Kathleen Wakus of Florissant, Missouri and Nicole Wakus of California.

She is also survived by her great-nephew and niece, Matt and Claudia Hagen whom she loved very much and they loved her back just as much.

It was never a dull moment spending time with Aunt Helen. She was vivacious and full of life until the end, and was one of the funniest people you would ever meet. She loved spending time with her friends at Garden Place and

attending the social events. She especially loved dancing. She was passionate about her political beliefs and enjoyed talking about them to anyone that would listen (and sometimes even if you didn't want to listen). Despite her fun-loving nature, she was a tough lady and nobody got anything past her. She would not hesitate to tell you that you were wrong if that's what she felt. Lastly and the most important thing she would want you to know is that she was the St. Louis Cardinals #1 fan.

Helen will be dearly missed.

Visitation will be Thursday, April 11, 2019 from 10:00-11:00 am with service immediately after at Concordia Lutheran Church 505 South Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Internment at Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church Cemetery in Edwardsville, Illinois following the service. Family and friends can review and share stories, photos and condolences online at www.stlfuneral.com and follow details of this event and others in the community at www.facebook.com/stlchapelhill.

Cemetery Details

Virgin Mary Orthodox Church Cemetery

Edwardsville, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Concordia Lutheran Church
505 S Kirkwood Rd
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 822-7772

Service

APR 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Concordia Lutheran Church
505 S Kirkwood Rd
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 822-7772

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Wakus-Smith*

January 06, 2023 at 10:46 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kathy Foster - April 10, 2019 at 06:20 PM



This picture was taken on Thanksgiving last year.

Helen and I were Kirkwood neighbors and shared many fun times! She loved her baseball Cardinals! We watched games at PJ's and she would wave her Cardinals flag and cheer them to victory. We chatted often when I walked my dog past her house and she would be sitting outside, in nice weather. She and Clyde had a special relationship. She was so loyal to him and cared for him a great deal. I loved how spirited Helen was and will miss her smile! Blessings to the family!

Kathy Foster - April 10, 2019 at 06:28 PM

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“ We met Helen after her tragic fall in her home back in 2014. She was a roommate with our mother Orpha at Columbia Rehab. Helen would always look after Orpha. We all quickly became friends and we enjoyed playing dominoes, bingo and simply passing the time away. Thereafter, once she moved to Garden Place, we maintained our relationship. We had become an extended family by that point. We spent holidays together - she added such a spark to all our lives. Helen celebrated life every day. She often spoke about her wonderful niece Nicole and her nephew, Greg, Melisa and their family; she was so proud them and always looked forward to their visits.

Words cannot express how sad we were to learn of her passing. Helen was a wonderful joyful woman who we will miss so very much. We pray that she is dancing among angels in the ballroom in the sky.

Helen, thank you for your friendship, we love you.
Orpha, Fran and Roger Bruce



Fran and Roger Bruce - April 10, 2019 at 12:58 PM