



Helen Jean Blessing

July 28, 1931 - January 12, 2020

Helen Jean (Gorrell) Blessing, 88, of Markle passed away on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at River Terrace Estates in Bluffton.

Jean was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Granville and Martha Gorrell. Jean graduated with honors from South Side High School in 1949, where she was a member of the National Honor Society. She was the only student participant in the formal Commencement program, where she gave the Invocation. She received an academic scholarship to college from General Electric, where her father was a tool and die maker. She married Beverly Gene Blessing of Markle, Indiana on March 25, 1951 at the First Methodist Church in Fort Wayne.

Jean received a dual major Bachelor's degree in 1953 (English and Home Economics) from Ball State University, a Masters degree in 1968 and had compiled an additional 56 master hours in Administration, English and Secondary Education.

Jean worked as an English and Home Economics teacher in the Bluffton Harrison Metropolitan School District. She later became a counselor and the assistant principal at the Bluffton Harrison middle school.

In 1965 Jean became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bluffton, where she was ordained a Deacon in 1966, an Elder in 1973 and served as a trustee from 1986-89 and Clerk of Session from 1995 to 2009.

She served in various capacities in the Bluffton community including president of the Creative Arts Council, member of the Community Corrections Advisory Board and the Wells County Public Library Board, leader for the Child Protection Team, president of Family Centered Services, Vice President of Psi Iota Xi sorority and a founding member of the Wells Community Boys and Girls Club.

In 1986 Jean was honored with the "Women of the Year" award by the Bluffton chapter of Business and Professional Women, recognized "in appreciation for her exceptional qualities of leadership and integrity and her distinguished achievements for the betterment of her community."

Jean influenced multiple generations of school students in her capacity as teacher and assistant principal in the Bluffton Harrison school district and changed many of their lives for the better, showing them the path of education, determination and self-reliance.

Jean was a voracious reader, loved to knit (including teaching classes), sew, cook and bake bread. She traveled the world with Bev after retirement, making multiple trips to Scotland, London, Amsterdam, Italy and throughout Europe. They attended classical concerts throughout the US and enjoyed summering at their home in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

She is survived by her husband, Beverly G. Blessing, and son, Eric (Pam) Blessing of Markle, Indiana, as well as her daughter, Becky (Perry) White of Brimfield, Illinois and grandchildren Jeremiah White of Peoria, IL, Caroline Blessing and Sara Blessing, both of New York City. Jean was preceded in death by her parents and younger sister, Anna (Gorrell) Powless of Anderson, Indiana.

Calling hours will be 2 to 8 pm on Friday January 17th at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 10:30 am Saturday, January 18 th at the First Presbyterian Church of Bluffton on Dustman Road with Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating.

Memorials can be made to Family Centered Services of Bluffton or the Wells Community Boys and Girls Club.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can share online condolences with the family at www.thomarich.com.

“RICH is not how much you have or where you are going or even what you are, RICH is who you have beside you.”

Events

JAN **Visitation** 02:00PM - 08:00PM

17

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home

308 West Washington Street, Bluffton, IN, US, 46714

JAN **Celebration of Life Service** 10:30AM

18

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home

308 West Washington Street, Bluffton, IN, US, 46714

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - January 17 at 02:28 PM



“ Such a great influence on so many. The BEST. Wish every teacher could have just a bit of her brilliance. God bless Mrs. Jean Blessing, teacher and friend.

Valerie Wilson Jackson - January 21 at 11:34 PM



“ I will always remember Jean and Bev in choir during the 1970's and early '80's. We had such fun. What a wonderful woman she was and so talented in so many areas. I am sad that she is no longer with us, and I trust God will give peace and comfort to Bev and the family. In Christ, Judy Hazelton

judith d hazelton - January 18 at 12:57 PM



“ Jason and Amy Horne (McAfee) purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Helen Jean Blessing.



Jason and Amy Horne (McAfee) - January 16 at 04:09 PM



“ I had Mrs. Blessing for 7th or 8th grade English (circa 1967) at Central. She was a great teacher and had a wonderful sense of humor. My condolences to her family

Leslie Miller - January 16 at 02:51 PM



“ Marcia And Peter Schmeckeber lit a candle in memory of Helen Jean Blessing



Marcia and Peter Schmeckeber - January 15 at 10:55 PM



“ Dear Bev, Becky, Eric and family,
Dan and I were very saddened to hear of Jean's passing. A very lovely, warm-hearted, caring Christian lady who I enjoyed visiting with any chance we got! May God bless your family as you mourn the loss of your "Jean".
Much love and hugs to your family,
Christine and Dan Hunt



Christine and Dan Hunt - January 15 at 10:16 PM



“ 77 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - January 15 at 02:33 PM



“ Mrs. Blessing was a delightful elementary school Principal to our children. Clearly, she led with kindness and concern for her students and teachers, as well as she was effective and capable. She was an excellent principal. She made everyone feel like a friend.

Dear Family,

Please accept my Sympathy and Prayers.

Marsha Fountan - January 15 at 02:04 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen Jean Blessing.



January 15 at 10:57 AM



“ In memory of a beloved educator. After 35 years, I still remember her presence in my childhood. Peace to her family- Tonya (Black) Aerts

Tonya Aerts - January 14 at 11:19 PM



“ Bev and family. Sorry to see this. You've lost a wonderful partner. Memories are forever. Steve and Cindy Kunkel

steve kunkel - January 14 at 09:32 PM



“ Jean Blessing played a critical role in my professional life. Beginning with the first day I started teaching in Bluffton, she was always a strong mentor as well as a fellow colleague. She treated our teachers with great respect, encouraged young educators, and advocated for excellence in our district. Personally she guided me with notes of encouragement as well as gratitude as we worked together for the children in our school. Her door was always open for advice. Her knowledge of the workings of a classroom was priceless. She ran a "tight ship" but knew how to guide us through the maze of education. I am grateful to include her as one of the most influential women who entered my life and made a difference for me. Thank you, dear family, for sharing your mother with all of us! Rosemary Barbara Henderson

Rosemary B. Henderson - January 14 at 03:47 PM



“ Ryan Eisenhut lit a candle in memory of Helen Jean Blessing



Ryan Eisenhut - January 14 at 03:24 PM



“ Pam Manning lit a candle in memory of Helen Jean Blessing



Pam Manning - January 14 at 02:51 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Helen Jean Blessing.



January 14 at 12:26 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Helen Jean Blessing.



January 13 at 09:37 PM



“ Rose (hultz) Marshall lit a candle in memory of Helen Jean Blessing



Rose (hultz) Marshall - January 13 at 08:21 PM