



Helen R. Sommer

March 20, 1930 - March 21, 2025

Helen R. Sommer, 95 of Poneto, passed away on Friday afternoon, March 21, 2025, at Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluffton.

Helen was born on March 20, 1930, in Poneto to Eldon & Catherine (Starr) Carnes. After graduating from Chester Center High School, Helen graduated from Manchester University and took some summer classes at Ball State University. After teaching second grade for two years at Montpelier, she was offered a teaching position at Taylor University which she turned down in order to move to Sewickley, PA., where she obtained her Master of Education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Helen met a young man, while working as head woman's counselor, at Bethany Camp, on Winona Lake, IN. On July 31, 1955, at the Blanche Chapel Church, Helen married that young man, Rev. Daniel G. Sommer (they spent their Honeymoon serving as counselors in a Christian Camp in PA). Together, they served in the ministry for seventy years.

They started serving at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, PA, First Baptist Church in Monongahela, PA, and served at Lincoln Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio for 25 years. At Lincoln, Helen founded and directed Little School in the Prairie, a Christian School, and served as the Director of Christian Education for the Church. In their retirement, they served for 9 years at the Liberty Center Baptist Church where Helen was the director of the Jr. Church. After retiring again, they were asked to serve at Keystone Christian Church for six years. Helen and Dan continued to minister at Poneto Baptist

Church.

Helen had a tremendous impact on children and young people. Her greatest delight was teaching people to read. She was a substitute teacher in every community she lived in and tutored illiterate adults. But, for Helen, her primary task was to make a warm, loving, comfortable home for her children and husband. She was a great cook. Her pies won first prize at the Ohio State Fair. She gardened and preserved most of the food with which she fed her family. She was a great basketball fan and participated in different sports. Helen is survived by her husband of almost 70 years, Rev. Daniel G. Sommer of Poneto, and children: Matthew David (Jan) Sommer of Ojai, CA and Mary Priscilla (Joshua) Sommer-Rosenthal of Melbourne, Australia. She was a loving grandmother to 7 grandchildren: Luke Sommer, Caleb (Alyx) Sommer, Rachel Sommer, Julian Sommer, Somer (Logan) Neubert, Felicia Rosenthal, Lucius Rosenthal and 2 great-grandchildren: Emrys and Maddox Neubert. She is preceded in death by her parents, a son, Daniel Johnathon Sommer, a daughter, Rebecca Ann Wadley and a brother, Paul Carnes.

Visitation will take place from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M., followed by a brief "Goodbye Service" at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, (March 26, 2025) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. A public graveside service will take place at 11:30 on Thursday, (March 27, 2025) at Alton Cemetery located at Galloway, Ohio. A family memorial celebration of Helen's life will take place in September.

Memorials may be made in Helen's memory to the Ponteio Baptist Church and can be directed to the funeral home.

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

Cemetery Details

Alton Cemetery

185-225 Alton Darby Road
Galloway, OH 43119

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 26. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

PUBLIC GRAVESIDE SERVICE

MAR 27. 11:30 AM (ET)

Alton Cemetery
185-225 Alton Darby Road
Galloway, OH 43119

Tribute Wall



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Helen R. Sommer.*



March 25, 2025 at 05:32 AM



“ *Bethany Arensberg lit a candle in memory of Helen Sommer*



Bethany Arensberg - March 24, 2025 at 11:17 PM



“ *I remember Helen and always have cherished our conversations. She was very kind and wise.*

The entire family has played a huge part in my family's life. From Lincoln Baptist to Pastor Dan traveling back to Ohio to Marry me and my husband!

Our prayers are with you! Sincere condolences! ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏

Laura Corbett - March 24, 2025 at 08:04 PM

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“ *Helen was one of the sweetest ladies I've ever met.
I went with my husband, Bob, to fertilize the walnut trees one time
and she welcomed us into her home like we were old friends.
My condolences to the family on your loss.
Cathy Halterman*

Cathy Halterman - March 23, 2025 at 12:04 PM