



## Helen Marie Minnick Keeling

November 26, 1932 - December 19, 2011

Helen Marie Minnick Keeling was born on November 26, 1932 in Brighton, CO. She grew up in Colorado until she was 15 years of age. Her family then moved to Missouri. She graduated from Cabool High School in 1950.

After graduation she went to work at the shoe factory in Mt. Grove. In 1951 she got a job at the PX on Ft. Leonard Wood as a bookkeeper where she met Floyd who was also working on the post. They were married on September 22, 1951 in Neosho, MO. She bought the rings because she said she had more money than he did. They were married in the woods at a minister's house. The minister's wife played the piano and his 12 or so kids kept peeking through the doors and windows at them. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past September.

Their first home was a little cabin on the Big Piney River in Devil's Elbow, MO. After that they moved to Stoutland where Floyd's parent's lived and then relocated to Richland in 1953 and then to Waynesville in 1954. They lived on Bluff Circle until 1968. Her best friend Nan Hull and her husband Phil were developing a new subdivision off old H Highway who Helen & Floyd bought their current home from. She went to work as a bookkeeper for Waynesville Schools in 1968 and retired from that job in 1994. Her job was backfilled with her youngest daughter Jonnie who is still currently holding that position. Through out the years she worked on the side as a bookkeeper for Floyd's

garage and his mother's diner.

She loved being with family especially at Christmas and the annual family float trip. She enjoyed doing puzzles, crocheting, and reading until her eyesight failed her. She loved her Kids, Grandkids, Great Grand Daughter, and all her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband Floyd of the home, her son Michael and wife Patty, her daughter Debby Leuthen and her husband Mike, her daughter Jonnie Figg and her husband Jim all of Waynesville, four grandchildren, Kasie Lercher and her husband Brock of Richland, Cody Keeling of Columbia, Allison Keeling of Springfield, Zane Keeling of Chandler, AZ and a great grand daughter Brooklyn Lercher of Richland. She was also survived by three sisters and a brother, Loweta Hicks of Springfield, Juanita Minnear of Denver, CO, Doris Whitaker of Brady, TX and Robert Minnick and wife Janet of Iberia and numerous nieces, nephews, grand and great grand nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Frank & Lucy Minnick.

She had a philosophy that everyone should have fun, get along, love one another and be thankful for the time you have together. She was eternally optimistic and high spirited, with a smile that could launch a thousand ships. She had a rule that no one could get mad at another while she was around.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Helen Marie Minnick Keeling*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - December 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Helen Marie Minnick Keeling*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *As a prialng commissioner and member of the biomass power plant subcommittee, I worked with Jere and I found him to be a gentleman and a community builder with a wide circle of friends and associates, a valuable voice of reason with a mildly self effacing sense of humor, who will be missed greatly. He often brought keen insights to a discussion, was a great meeting facilitator, and always added appropriate humor to any discussion. I'll definitely miss the man and his influence, R.I.P. Jere. To his family and friends I extend my Heartfelt condolences and hope that time, along with the love and support of your friends and the rest of our wonderful community will help to fill some of the void left by Jere's untimely passing.##imported-begin##Jeison##imported-end##*

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February 09, 2012 at 08:05 PM



“ Floyd, sorry for you and your families loss. Helen was a great lady and will be missed.##imported-begin##Frank Livingston##imported-end##

December 27, 2011 at 07:07 PM



“ Deepest sympathies. God Bless.##imported-begin##Ronnie and Peggy Walters##imported-end##

December 24, 2011 at 08:33 PM



“ Floyd and Mike, so sorry to hear about Your Wife and Mom. Helen was always a big help at the business office and always had the answers to my questions. All of the Keelings have been great to me, and I wish the best for all of you during these difficult times.##imported-begin##Ben Lord##imported-end##

December 23, 2011 at 07:00 PM



“ Please accept our sympathy and prayers of love and comfort in this sorrowful time. God bless you and lift you up with His grace.##imported-begin##Steve and Deborah Lynch##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 05:22 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss, this time of the year makes it even more tough. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers##imported-begin##Jeannie Barnett##imported-end##

December 22, 2011 at 01:38 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Helen was such a sweet soul. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this difficult time. God Bless you all!##imported-begin##Chuck and Velda Ousley##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 11:56 PM



“ Helen was a beautiful lady inside and out, we will surely miss her smiling face and kindness. Her family has lots of great memories that now they can hold close to their hearts. And Kassie sure did pick up Helen's beautiful genes, as you my dear look just like your grandmother. Peace to you all at this difficult time in your lives.##imported-begin##Cheryl & Richard Teague##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 10:08 PM



“ Mike, sorry for your loss. I lost my mom a year ago on Dec 23, so I totally understand the deep sadness you must feel. We are praying for you and your family. God's Blessings.

*Don and Dottie Hutchison##imported-begin##Don and Dottie Hutchison##imported-end##*

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December 21, 2011 at 09:54 PM



“ To the Keeling family, our sympathy to you all for the loss of you wife, mother, grandmother and friend. After losing my mother in July, I know the pain that this brings. But, the memories are a great thing. Keep her close to your heart and never let her go. Our thoughts go out to you.##imported-begin##Terry Collins##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 08:18 PM



“ Floyd and Family Members, we are so sorry for your loss and we pray that the good Lord will be kind unto you and family members as he places his arms around each and everyone to help ease the pain that you are experiencing. We are so thankful to have lived in the same neighborhood with you. God Bless You.##imported-begin##Gordon and Marge Scott##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 05:14 PM



“ I am so saddened to learn of Helen's passing. She was always so supportive, kind and caring. Anyone fortunate enough to know her was blessed. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. Janis##imported-begin##Janis Thompson##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 03:48 PM



“ Helen -- A Super fine Lady will be greatly missed ! We have good memories though to keep us company.##imported-begin##Carl & Jackie Larson##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 03:21 PM



“ *Helen was always so full of life. I'm sorry to hear of her passing. I remember several times being around her and Floyd. One was our bowling league Harold and I were a foursome with them plus the times spent swimming in the Gasconade River (by Hazelgreen) years ago. Those are fond memories we keep forever. Helen will be missed by all her friends and love ones.##imported-begin##Carol French##imported-end##*

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December 21, 2011 at 02:42 PM



“ *So sorry to read of your loss, especially at this time of year. May God be with you and yours.##imported-begin## Dave & Johnna Wilson##imported-end##*

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December 21, 2011 at 01:54 PM



“ *To all the family, I am so deeply sorry for your loss. I have the greatest memories of my second mom, the endless sleepovers with Jonnie, the hilarious family floats, the New Years Eve Babysitting and then being able to attend the party. So many great memories I will always hold dear to my heart. With a very heavy heart, my deepest sympathy for my second family. With all my love Lisa & Craig Mashburn##imported-begin##Lisa (Rippe) & Craig ##imported-end##*

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December 21, 2011 at 12:28 PM



“ Our deepest regrets to your family. Helen was a special Lady, we will remember her always with love and a smile.  
Love and Prayers,  
Sheree & Terry###imported-begin###Sheree & Terry  
McPherson###imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 12:08 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to your family. She was a wonderful lady and I always picture her with a bright smile on her face and a kind word to say. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Jess and Cindy###imported-begin###Cindy and Jess  
Grizzell###imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 11:38 AM



“ Dear Family,  
We are saddened to hear about Helen this morning. Please know that we will keep each one of you in our prayers now and in the days ahead.###imported-begin###Martin and Georgia  
White###imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 11:34 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. It was always fun visiting with your mom at the kids sporting events. If we can do anything, please don't hesitate to call.###imported-begin###Inez & Dave Neeley###imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 11:04 AM



“ Good bye to a Great Lady.##imported-begin##Jim & Charlas Bales##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 11:01 AM



“ Helen was a loving person and I don't think she ever met a stranger. Her smile and laughter ( a lot at herself) will always be with us.##imported-begin##Paul and Bonnie Frantzen ##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 10:42 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to the Keeling family. My thoughts are with you during this time of difficulty.##imported-begin##Jim Mathews##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 10:40 AM



“ Debbie  
Very sorry to hear about your mother  
From the McKendrick family our prayers are with you

Sue Melton  
daughter of Ruth McKendrick##imported-begin##McKendrick##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 10:30 AM



“ I was saddened this morning to see of Helen's passing during the Christmas season. Some of my fondest memories of settling here in Waynesville involve Floyd and Helen. Whether it was Floyd helping me with my Volkswagens over the years or Helen boosting my confidence over some irate parent, they were very special to me. I am sad that I had not visited them in the last few years. May we all leave a legacy like Helen's. I will remember her always.##imported-begin##Luge Hardman##imported-end##

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December 21, 2011 at 10:25 AM