



Helen Marie McDowell

September 24, 1943 - May 1, 2022

Helen Marie McDowell, 78, from Ottumwa, passed away May 1, 2022, at Riverside Hospital in Newport News, Virginia surrounded by her family after a long lifelong battle with kidney disease.

Helen was born September 24, 1943, in Monroe County, Iowa to John and Irene (Biros) Popson. She graduated from Albia High School in 1961. She married Larry McDowell in Weller, Iowa on May 4, 1963.

Helen was an enrollment services specialist at Indian Hills Community College for many years until her retirement, and she very much enjoyed helping and being around students. Helen earned her Associates degree of Arts and Science at Indian Hills in November 1992, and she was very proud of this accomplishment. She was a kindhearted, generous, and gracious person who was always ready to help and always ready for a new adventure. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Helen was always ready with a smile and notorious for her stash of candy. She also had a great love of nature and spent many hours gardening and birdwatching.

She is survived by a daughter, Jan McDowell (Peter Van Veld) of Newport News, Virginia; a son, Jon McDowell of Rockford, Illinois; a grandson, John Hansen of Richmond, Virginia; a step grandson, Peter (Julie) Lord of McFarland, Wisconsin; a step granddaughter, Megan Lord of Madison,

Wisconsin; and great granddaughters, Ella, Gracie and Betsy. She is also survived by brothers, John (Martha) Popson and Bob Popson; sisters, Kathryn (Matt) Cernic, Jeanne (Steve Miller) Popson, Joyce (Terry) Shaw and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, William Popson and sister, Shirley Playle.

A graveside service and interment of ashes with Father Timothy Armbruster, C.P.P.S. officiating, will take place at St. Mary's cemetery in Weller, Iowa at 11 AM on September 24, 2022, followed by a celebration of life at the St. Patrick's parish hall in Melrose at 12 PM.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

Weller, IA

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP **24**. 11:00 AM.

St. Mary's Cemetery
Weller, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Marie McDowell*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Helen Marie McDowell*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *So many memories with Helen. Glad she was a part of my life.*

Maggie Popson - September 21, 2022 at 03:50 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen Marie McDowell.*



September 19, 2022 at 10:02 AM



“ *I am very sorry to hear of Helen's passing. I worked with her at IHCC. There were many occasions when Helen went the extra mile to assist one of the Early Childhood students with various registration/graduation issues. I appreciated her warmth, friendliness and helpfulness. I wish you continued comfort during your time of loss.*

Georgiana Buttikofer - September 15, 2022 at 03:06 PM

JW

“ I am so sorry to hear of Helen’s passing. I enjoyed my years working beside her at Indian Hills Community College. We kept in touch even after I left IHCC. I always think of Helen on Sept. 24th. I have a Grandson born on the same month & day as Helen. She thought that was so neat. She told me “Well now we are FAMILY. I’ll call him my “extended Grandson”.” I showed her his picture as he grew up. (He’s now in our local University’s ROTC program. I think she’d like that.) Rest In Peace, Helen. 🥹

Sincerely,
Judy J. Williams

Judy J. Williams - September 15, 2022 at 12:42 PM