



Helen J. Putz

July 2, 1943 - May 4, 2016

Helen J. Putz, age 72, of Holly, died Wed. May 4, 2016. she was born in Spartansburg, PA on July 2, 1943 to Melvin and Gladys (Stoltzfus) Yoder. She was a beloved wife, mother, and sister and was a dedicated licensed practical nurse. Surviving are her husband Richard; 3 children, Starla (Duane Koehler) Zehr of Clarkston, Kelson Zehr of Bloomfield Hills, and Elizabeth Putz of Metamora; 5 sisters, Christine Erickson of PA, Pauline Zehr of NY, Carol Thompson, Alice Miller of OH, and Martha Yoder of PA. Visitation will be from 11AM-1PM with a funeral service following at 1 PM on Wed. May 11, 2016 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly. Committal service and interment will follow at 2:30 at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorial donations may be made to the Michigan Parkinson's Foundation. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 11. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Service

MAY 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Burial

MAY 11. 2:30 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery
Holly, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Dryer Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Helen J. Putz*



Dryer Funeral Home, Inc. - May 11, 2016 at 01:58 PM



Starting a new journey for both of us.

Richard Putz - May 18, 2016 at 04:37 PM

DM

“ *Starla, Kelson, and Richard, thanks for sharing the various memories, poems and pictures on this site. I wanted to let you know that you all have been in my thoughts and prayers since I heard about your mom's / wife's passing on, and I wish I could have been there for the service.*

I remember as a child the different times we got together for Christmas at Grandma & Grandpa Yoder's place and how Helen would sometimes bring gifts for each of us nieces and nephews. It was always fun to listen in on the conversations she had with my mom and the other sisters in the family, reminiscing about their growing-up years, etc.

Later on in her life, it was hard to hear about and see the various health challenges she faced, but her spirit of endurance and pressing on to walk through those things was a challenge and encouragement. Even though they didn't happen that often, I was grateful for the times I was able to visit her with others in the family, and one of those times I was even blessed to receive a gift of one of the puzzles she completed.

*My hope and prayer is that the Lord will bring comfort to each of the family and friends who are feeling the loss of her presence here.
Blessings and peace, ~Dustin*

Dustin Miller - May 20, 2016 at 04:16 AM

SZ

*Thank you so much for your kind and gracious tribute. I too have fond memories of the many family gatherings and nostalgia when realizing how precious those times were.
Hope you are doing well.*

STARLA ZEHR - May 20, 2016 at 11:42 PM



thank you so much.

Richard Putz - May 27, 2016 at 06:20 PM

“ HELEN PUTZ MEMORY

Nancy & I met Richard & Helen when we all attended Imlay City Assembly of God (now Gateway Assembly) back in the early 1990s. We were members of the choir together there. Nancy and I were not married yet, in fact we didn't have much interaction outside of our choir practices and services.

Dan Dodge was the choir director. Dan and his wife Cathy loved to go to music conferences and usually tried to put a choir trip together each year. These conferences were designed for music publishers to expose choir directors and others to their new releases by having the conference attendees sight read the music and sing these new songs together! In the evenings there were concerts featuring many popular artists. It was a fun time, and our choir always looked forward to participating!

The trip to the 1994 conference was a special one, held in Westerville, OH a suburb of Columbus. Several members of the choir went, including our Pastor, Billy Mills. As we were coordinating schedules and car pooling, mysteriously, somehow Nancy & I found ourselves riding to the conference with Richard and Helen in their red minivan. I'm pretty sure there was some collusion going between Richard and Helen with a little matchmaking as the motive! Richard invited me and Helen invited Nancy! I will never forget Helen's little smiles as we asked them how this travel arrangement came to pass. I will admit, I was not unhappy about the arrangements because I was attracted to Nancy and hoped to get to know her better!

So it turned out to be kind of a double date that lasted several days! Richard and Helen took good care of us and also served as our chaperones. On December 11 that year Nancy and I were married during a Sunday evening service, and yes we had the choir in their robes as a part of the ceremony!

After we were married we continued to have relationship with Richard and Helen, visited them in their home in Imlay City and continued to enjoy our times together with them. Helen was always so kind, caring and quiet, yet full of a zeal for life! She was a very special friend and Nancy & I will forever hold onto these special memories we have of her!

~Randy & Nancy Williams 810-214-0188

Randy Williams - May 12, 2016 at 01:27 PM

KZ

“ *To Richard: (my step father)*

I wanted to acknowledge publicly here a tribute to you as well. You are truly the most dedicated, fully committed man I have ever known to the vows and sanctity of marriage to my dearest loving mother. You have been an inspirational symbol of unconditional love in your love for my mother. We are so honored to now have you as part of our family always,

Kelson

kelson zehr - May 10, 2016 at 04:58 PM

RW

Richard is a wonderful man. Your Mom was sure blessed to spend her last years with him. Great tribute Kelson!

Randy Williams - May 12, 2016 at 01:30 PM



“ Carolyn Himes Grinnell lit a candle in memory of Helen J. Putz



carolyn himes grinnell - May 10, 2016 at 11:05 AM

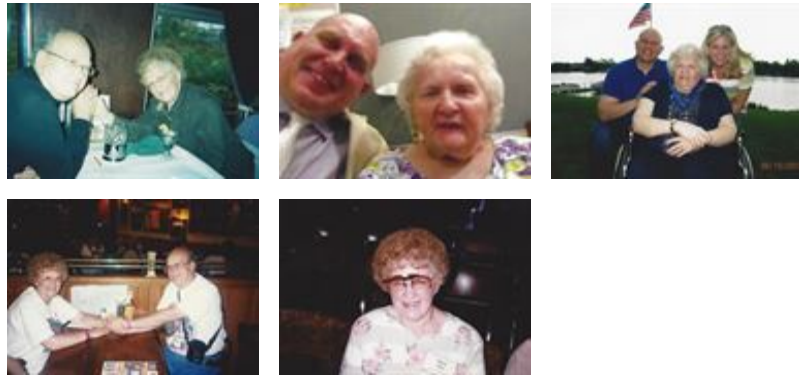


so sorry for your loss.

carolyn himes grinnell - May 10, 2016 at 11:06 AM



“ 25 files added to the album Life Tributes



Dryer Funeral Home, Inc. - May 10, 2016 at 10:32 AM

PH

“ Although Helen endured years of pain and discomfort, she never complained. Her faith and love of God gave her peace, joy, and the strength to carry on when others would have given up. She will always be a role model for me. A few of the lessons I've learned from Helen are to cherish your loved ones, to bring joy to others, and to never feel sorry for yourself. She was an amazing woman and I will truly miss her giggles and smiles.

Polly Heard

Polly Heard - May 09, 2016 at 12:35 PM

“ for those of you that can not attend Wednesday, this will be read at the service and i was able to read it her in January myself:

THE IDEAL MOTHER

Dearest Mother:

Your Daughter and your son have such an appreciation for the Mother you were and are

We always think of you, adore you, and love you whether we are near or far

When we think of what kind of mother as adults we could have always had or wished for

We both always come to the same conclusion each time as we did before

When we think of the ideal Mother, we think of a nurturer

When we think of a shield from pain and discomfort for both me and her

When we think of the ideal Mother, who always took care of any need or desire

When we think of a Role Model for us to look up to for guidance that we both admire

When we think of the ideal Mother we think of someone who would always sacrifice

Who exuded caring, mercy, grace, kindness, and love through continuously being nice

As we get older and we both have experienced other people that didn't measure up to you

We always come back to our original view of what an ideal person should be that is true

TRULY we both and Richard have experienced Heaven on Earth through what is seen as divine

TRULY we have felt God's Eternal touch on all of us as a beautiful sign

That the wish for the IDEAL mother any daughter or son could have

*ever hoped or wished for came true
Someday we will all have Eternal PEACE when we are together
again in Heaven to forever be with YOU
WE LOVE YOU ALWAYS AND FOREVER*

kelson zehr - May 09, 2016 at 11:10 AM

RI

“ *MY wife Helen was so many things to ME. I remember our first date. I took her a rose. I had talked to her on the phone and a few minutes on the phone I knew she was for me. I could feel the love she had for people. I have many treasured thoughts about our love for each other and our friendship. The trip to Jerusalem is our favorite. The concerts that we went too in Israel and the places that we walked. The first time we went to her church, I knew that was the church. It was such a spirit filled church. Every one was just like family. there are so many other things that we have shared together, I could go on & on. The best thing is that she brought me back to GOD!, and the choir that we used to sing in(3 services on Sunday and one on Wednesday. SHE and GOD where the heart of my life. I know she is resting in peace with GOD!*

*Her loving husband & friend
Richard*

Richard - May 09, 2016 at 09:18 AM

RW

We remember those sweet times in choir too! It was great fun singing His praise together with you and Helen!

Randy Williams - May 12, 2016 at 01:31 PM

AM

“ *My sister, Helen always loved to sing. Many times in her younger years at home when she was washing dishes she would pretend that the sink was a piano and pound away on it.*

It's no wonder Helen became a nurse. I have memories of her crushing after dinner mints and putting them in water to give to me, her sister, as medicine.

Oh, what fun, we six girls had on the farm! The farm was our playground. We also learned to work hard.

I always will remember Helen as a good mother who dearly loved her two children, Starla and Kelson. She was very proud of both of them.

After we were adults, our families would all go to Mom and Dad's for the holidays. All of us sisters, would stay up late at night sharing about our lives. There was always much fun and laughter.

As Helen's health declined, she inspired me with her determination and desire to enjoy life through all the challenges which she faced.

Yes, Helen, I loved you dearly. You were my big sister and I admired you. I am going to miss you. May you rest in peace.

*Your sister,
Alice*

Alice Miller - May 09, 2016 at 05:25 AM

“Helen's son, Kelson, asked and obtained many of his Mom's favorite memories last January, 2016 including:

-Her first phone conversation with her beloved husband, Richard (88 minutes long!)

-Traveling to Jerusalem with Richard and walking where Jesus walked.

-Attending the many football, baseball, and cheerleading events for her children

-Enjoying her son's saxophone music.

-Many happy memories growing up on a Mennonite farm with her five sisters,

including watching her Dad rescuing her sister, Pauline, after she got stuck in a tree.

-Arranging and planning extravagant family birthday and Christmas holidays!

-Helen enjoyed family time and was joyful with any opportunity to visit her parents and sisters in Pennsylvania.

-She enjoyed caring for her patients and truly loved her Imlay City church and social community during her healthy years.

-She loved every achievement for her children, no matter how small or large.

-My Mom became the "puzzle lady" who enjoyed jigsaw puzzles during her last few years in her nursing home but smiled the most when she could give away the laminated finished puzzle or even better, to "fill a puzzle request order"!

Final note: Observing the many nurses aides who quietly made their way to my Mom's room the day she passed away to simply touch her or pay their respects was a beautiful comfort. It was amazing that my Mom continued to leave such a lasting loving impression during her toughest years of health decline.

She was an amazing woman who endured unimaginable and significant health issues without complaint. Instead, my mother continued to find joy and the will to live, after spending her healthy years caring for others. I truly never heard her question why she had endure so much. My Mom understood the most important things in life and was happy with most simple kindness. I still have much to learn from her. She will remain my ideal for finding joy in life and I am grateful beyond words that she was my Mother.

May my loving Mother Rest in Peace. I will miss her dearly.
Starla Dawn Zehr

Starla Zehr - May 09, 2016 at 02:58 AM

AR

What beautiful words coming from her outstanding children, I am so fortunate to have been blessed with our great friendship almost all of my life. You are more like her than you'll probably ever give yourself credit for but all of us who know and love you see what a constant, living testament you are to your mothers goodness, kindness and generosity.

Amy Reis - May 09, 2016 at 11:07 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:57 AM

ST

“ My Mother loved the Sound of Music Play and one of my fondest youngest memories is her delight in taking me to see the live play. My Mom knew every song and had a voice like an angel. I grew up appreciating those rare occasions when my Mother and her five sisters would sing hymns at church a Capella - truly beautiful and heavenly. I now realize what a gift it was to share a hymn book and sing with her during the many church services I attended as a kid. During her last years, she continued to enjoy any form of singing and was brave enough to sing several short solos at small services at her nursing home. I was lucky to enjoy several; sure wish I would have seen every one.now. I know she is singing her favorite hymns with her parents in heaven now.

Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:49 AM

ST

“ *Whispering Hope**
Hymn Writer ~ Septimus Winner (1827-1902)

Stanza 1:

*Soft as the voice of an angel,
Breathing a lesson unheard,
Hope with a gentle persuasion
Whispers her comforting word:
Wait till the darkness is over,
Wait till the tempest is done,
Hope for the sunshine tomorrow,
After the shower is gone.*

Refrain:

*Whispering hope, oh how welcome thy voice,
Making my heart in its sorrow rejoice.*

Stanza 2:

*If, in the dusk of the twilight,
Dim be the region afar,
Will not the deepening darkness
Brighten the glimmering star?
Then when the night is upon us,
Why should the heart sink away?
When the dark midnight is over,
Watch for the breaking of day.*

Refrain:

*Whispering hope, oh how welcome thy voice,
Making my heart in its sorrow rejoice.*

**Song requested by Helen Putz to be played by her Son, Kelson
Zehr, at her Eulogy Service*

Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:34 AM

ST

“ *An (adaptation of) a Birthday Poem written by Kelson for his Mom, Helen Putz....*

*A Mother who said "try it you'll like it!"
A Mother who wears who scarf so carefully "fit"
A Mother who loves sweet lil' treats
A Mother who wore those lousy nursing shoes for years on her feet!
A Mother whose laughter is the delight for everyone who can hear
A Mother who still to this day made the best meat loaf ever!
A Mother who made the best blueberry whatever!
A Mother who I now realize when she wore that all white uniform
She wasn't just another nurse and certainly not "the norm"
She wasn't just another mother either; she took on a special form
God's guardian angel looking over us in life's storms!*

Beloved Mother to Kelson and Starla

Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:32 AM

ST

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:17 AM

SZ

A happy visit home to Holly.

STARLA ZEHR - May 09, 2016 at 11:09 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:16 AM

SZ

Mom's last visit with her beloved brother-in-law, Tom Erickson, and her sister, Christine.

STARLA ZEHR - May 09, 2016 at 11:12 AM



To Christine and families....Milt & I send our love to your whole family...Thoughts and prayers

Dudy Schweitzer - May 09, 2016 at 10:40 PM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:15 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:11 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:10 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:09 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:08 AM

KZ

This visit with my mom is the last coherent visit I had with her January 4th 2016. She was calm, coherent. I seen her 5 days in a row and played my saxophone for her every day and played "whispering hope and amazing grace for her, per her request, along with many Kenny G songs I have played for her over the years. During these days, I brought in the DVD " THE SOUND OF MUSIC". ironically, this was the first time I ever remember her watching it all the way to the end, (she would always fall asleep growing up when we watched movies." (I also took her as a surprise about ten years ago on Mother's day to see the play 'The sound of music' at the Majestic Theatre in Detroit. She loved it! This visit is when I got her lasting favorite memories of her life, final wishes and advice for me, and read her my last poem to her " the IDEAL MOTHER". I love you always and forever, Kelson

kelson zehr - May 09, 2016 at 09:31 PM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:07 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:05 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:02 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:01 AM

ST

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Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:01 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 01:00 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 12:59 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 12:58 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 12:57 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 12:56 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 12:55 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 12:55 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 12:54 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 12:53 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Starla - May 09, 2016 at 12:52 AM

TF

“ *The Carlton Zehr Family & The Francis Zehr Family purchased the Violets And Butterflies for the family of Helen J. Putz.*



The Carlton Zehr Family & The Francis Zehr Family - May 08, 2016 at 06:49 PM

CM

“ *Chris, Pauline, Carol, Alice and Martha purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Helen J. Putz.*



Chris, Pauline, Carol, Alice and Martha - May 08, 2016 at
06:41 PM

AM

“ My sister, Helen always loved to sing. Many times in her younger years at home when she was washing dishes she would pretend that the sink was a piano and pound away on it.

It's no wonder Helen became a nurse. I have memories of her crushing after dinner mints and putting them in water to give to me, her little sister, as medicine!

Oh, what fun, we six girls had on the farm! The whole farm was our playground. We also learned to work hard.

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After we were adults, our families would all go to Mom and Dad's for the holidays. All of us sisters, would stay up late at night sharing about our lives. There was always much fun and laughter.

As Helen's health declined, she inspired me with her determination and desire to enjoy life through all the challenges which she faced. Yes, Helen, I loved you dearly. You were my big sister and I admired you. I am going to miss you. May you rest in peace.

*Helen's sister,
Alice*

Alice Miller - May 08, 2016 at 05:30 PM

DA

“ Kelson, I am praying for you and each family member and loved one. Thinking of you all and sending well wishes for peace and great memories to come to mind to make you smile.
Love you my friend



Dawn - May 07, 2016 at 08:02 PM

LR

“ Love, Paulette & Ray purchased the Glorious Grace Bouquet for the family of Helen J. Putz.



Love, Paulette & Ray - May 07, 2016 at 09:54 AM

BZ

“ Starla and Kelson,
Thinking of you and your family at this difficult
time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Jason, Barbara and Zehr family



barbara zehr - May 06, 2016 at 05:20 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Helen J. Putz.



May 06, 2016 at 02:57 PM

JO

“ Janet Overall lit a candle in memory of Helen
J. Putz



Janet Overall - May 05, 2016 at 09:20 PM

JO

“ Kelson and I worked together at a facility in Canton. One day he wasn't his usual smiling, fun loving gentleman. I asked him what was wrong. Mom was in UofM. I asked, if I could go with him to visit her. He had a twinkle in his eyes, and said yes. He came back to pick me up. We visited Mom and we had a wonderful visit. We connected. I cheered her up. I'll never forget her smile and kindness. She was so appreciative for the visit. And so was I. Because I had lost my Mom and missed her. Helen filled the void momentarily. Thank Kelson for sharing Mom that day 💕🌸

Janet Overall - May 05, 2016 at 08:16 PM

JM

“ Jenny Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of Helen J. Putz



Jenny Mitchell - May 05, 2016 at 03:55 PM

JM

“ Jenny Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Helen J. Putz



Jenny Mitchell - May 05, 2016 at 03:54 PM