



Helen Kathleen Adams Starling

October 5, 1917 - January 11, 2013

Starling, Helen Kathleen Adams

Saline, MI

Age 95, passed away on Friday, January 11, 2013 at the Saline Evangelical Home. She was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on October 5, 1917 to William J. Adams and Clare Esson Adams. She was the oldest of three children. In 1927 the family moved to Dundee, Michigan where her father assumed editorship of the Dundee Reporter. She graduated from Dundee High School in 1935 and assisted her mother with running the newspaper until 1937. On July 23, 1937 Helen was united in marriage to Robert Lynn Starling. In 1948 the family moved from Dundee to Saline. All five of their children graduated from Saline Area Schools. Helen was a Past Matron and Life Member of Saline Chapter #311 of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was initiated into the Order in 1936, was a member for 77 years, served as secretary from 1981-2003, and was a Past President of the Washtenaw County Association of O.E.S. Helen was an active member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ and served on many committees. She was a Past President of the Saline Woman's Club, a Life Member of the American Legion Auxiliary #322, and was president of the Washtenaw County Chapter of Cystic Fibrosis for many years. Helen faithfully donated blood to the American Red Cross and received her 10 gallon pin in 2001. From 1955 – 1965, Helen was the first crossing guard for Saline Area Schools. Many Saline residents have fond memories of Mrs. Starling making sure they made it to school and back home safely. After 15 years of employment, Helen retired from Fischer's Hardware in Ann Arbor in 1982. She is survived by four of her five children: Sharon Heft of Saline, Robert "Bob" Starling Jr. (Katrene) of Tecumseh, John "Jack" Starling (Deborah) of Midland, and Nancy Starling Ross (Wayne) of Mosca, CO. Other survivors include daughter-in-law, Susan Starling of Tipton, 10 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, sister Betty Adams Martin of Arvada, CO, sister-in-law Louise Adams of Boulder, CO and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, son, William, parents William and Clare Adams, brother, John M. Adams, son-in-law, Robert Heft, and two grandsons, Timothy and Mark Heft. Visitation will be on Friday, January 18, 2013 from 4:00-7:00 P.M. at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline with an Order of the Eastern Star Service at 7:00 P.M. under the auspices of Saline Chapter #311

and on Saturday, January 19, 2013 from 10:00 A.M. until the time of the service at 11:00 A.M. at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Saline with Rev. Dr. Patricia Kenney, officiating. Graveside services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 2265 Livernois Road, Troy, MI 48083 (<http://www.cff.org>) or Saline Chapter OES #311, 1282 Judd Road, Saline, MI 48176. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home and at the church. To leave a memory, for more information or for directions please visit <http://www.rbfhsaline.com>.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

18

Robison-Bahnmilller Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 East Michigan Ave., Saline, MI, US, 48176

Comments



“ Mrs. Starling was such a light. She got so many children across Michigan Ave for all those years...and she remembered us after all those years! Hers is a smile and a twinkling eye that will always be remembered.

Celeste Klein

Celeste Klein - January 26, 2013 at 02:09 AM



“ Sharon: My condolences on the loss of your Mother to you and family. I remember fondly your mother and father bowling when my father ran the bowling alley in Sallne. They were a great couple.

David Gray, Lakeland, FL

David H. Gray - January 21, 2013 at 06:54 AM



“ To Nancy and all of the Starlings;
A marvelous human being has just left this earth making our world less kind, and for the moment, sad and feeling a bit vacant. If all of humankind possessed the love and compassion for others that your mother did, strife and contention would lessen to laughter. What a woman! I know everyone who ever met "Mrs. Starling" was touched by her and became a better person for having done so. She represented only the best of the human condition. My thoughts are with you.

George Cogar, Charleston, South Carolina

George L.Cogar, Ph.D. - January 18, 2013 at 04:38 PM



“ My condolences go out to all of the Starling family. Helen was a wonderful human being - always a smile and willingness to help anyone who needed it. My husband was very fond of Helen, Bob and their family, and especially of son Jack. We spent many happy hours together watching Jack play ball. I'm certain that when they meet in Heaven that Helen will greet George with a big hug and a "Hi there Rootin Tootin Newton". There are a few people along life's way that you meet and never forget. Helen was one of those people. God Bless.

Ada Newton (formerly of Saline, now in Bradenton, FL)

Ada Newton - January 18, 2013 at 04:16 PM



“ Our prayers to all as you journey thru the coming days. We remember Helen fondly. Over the some forty years of knowing her she always greeted us warmly and with that smile of hers. I know family and friends will surely miss her, however, we have been blessed with wonderful thoughts and memories.

Gene and Sandy DeRossett

Gene and Sandy DeRossett - January 18, 2013 at 02:23 PM



“ How well I remember this woman and her wonderful sense of humor! She helped many young people cross Michigan Avenue safely for years. I also remember my mother (Woodie) saying that when all the kids were driving her nuts that she would suggest that they go out and "play in the traffic"! Helen remains in my mind accompanied by a smile.
Liz Merchant Rohs

Elizabeth Merchant Rohs - January 18, 2013 at 09:39 AM



“ Nancy and all the family. So sorry to hear about your mother. She was a wonderful lady that always had a smile for everyone. My prayer and thought are with you and your family.

Love, Sue Dieterle Farmer Quinn

Sue Dieterle Farmer Quinn - January 17, 2013 at 09:14 AM



“ Nancy and all the family: It always seemed like the entire town of Saline was safe whenever Mrs. Starling was "on duty". To me that meant not only when she was at her post on Michigan Ave., but anywhere you saw her around town. She will be missed. Prayers for all of you as you go on without her. Joe Bassett Sky Valley, CA

joe bassett - January 15, 2013 at 04:05 PM



“ I want to give the entire Starling Family my condolences. Mrs. Starling gave so many of us growing up a "safe" place to land. Having seen the comments on Facebook the past few days, we all loved, respected and cared deeply for this great lady. -
Fleurette Robinson Slayton

Fleurette Robinson Slayton - January 15, 2013 at 10:17 AM



“ Like many, one of the best parts of walking to school for me was the corner with Mrs. Starling. I remember losing a tooth on her corner, and we couldn't find it anywhere. As always, she worked her magic and used her connections with the tooth fairy to make it all turn out right. It was obvious she loved all "her kids", but she was loved just as much in return. Many wonderful memories of a very special lady. My sympathy to each of you.
Patti Scherdt Fosdick

Patricia J. Fosdick - January 15, 2013 at 06:56 AM



“ I didn't know you at all, nor have I met you in a person. Have heard just a little about you. What I have known was that you were a fighter that always carried the Saline/Milan heritage. You were undoubtedly, the very best lady to your family who was very active in all sorts of activities, you were also the gem of Saline. One of your precious granddaughters (Melanie) happens to be the favorable friend I have ever had, who always encourages me to "remain calm," when others blame or yell, right towards me or if others who would think that I'm forsaken, when I'm not. You have had the best, longest life & now, may you RIP! If that weren't enough, I'll also be dancing "with" and "for," Melanie, who's that precious person who has a wonderful smile! Sending your granddaughter big hugs - along with - the dances! :) Bro. Gary Collins II

Gary Collins - January 14, 2013 at 09:10 PM



“ Dear Starling Family,
I am so sorry to hear that Saline has lost another of its finest :)
We were so grateful for your Mom's willingness to do the life sketch @ our Dad's funeral, Milt/Moose Hartman. It was a real honor of us!
I don't think I ever saw your Mom without a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eyes. You were blessed to have her with you for so many years.
I am so sorry for your loss and I will be praying for you as you work through your grief.
with loving memories,
Jane Hartman Sherwin and family

Jane Hartman Sherwin - January 14, 2013 at 04:22 PM



“ Nancy, so sorry to hear about your Mother! She was a beautiful women who always had a smile for everyone!

My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family!

Scott Skinner

Scott Skinner - January 14, 2013 at 02:19 PM



“ We are indeed blessed to have shared Mom Starling as our surrogate Mom for so many years. How wonderful it was to be a part of her "family" and be treated as one of her own. We will treasure all of the glad and sad memories we have shared with her family. Our hearts go out to all of her family and extended family but have comfort that she is at peace.
Al & Linda Vanderpool

Al and Linda Vanderpool - January 14, 2013 at 11:39 AM



“ Nancy, Wayne, and Starling family. Sorry to learn of your loss.

Mark and Janet Ross

Mark Ross - January 14, 2013 at 12:15 AM



“ What a great lady who shared her love and hugs with everyone. I and my family were fortunate to receive that love for many years. May you all find comfort in knowing that your mom, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, sister made a difference in this world and will be missed by many. Hugs to you all.

Peggy Whitford - January 13, 2013 at 09:12 PM



“ What a Grand Lady she was. I will always remember her smile and loving personality. She will be missed but not forgotten.

Gary and Diane Skinner

gary I skinner - January 13, 2013 at 03:20 PM



“ Karen Starling is following this tribute.

Karen Starling - January 13, 2013 at 03:00 PM



“ Helen Starling was one remarkable woman and the extent of her love was endless. Not only did she get me across US 12 2/day she was a dear friend to the Hartman family. I went on many a Starling vacation, often to the lake but one fond memory was to Missouri, Nancy, Bob and Helen and I. When you were with the Starlings, you were always considered family and ALWAYS got a huge hug from Helen. I'll always remember Helen's laughter and fun spirit.
My heart goes out to all you Starling kids as you say good-bye to the matriarch of your family, no fun being an orphan.
Love to you all.
Dutch and Cyndy Hartman Nyboer and family

Cyndy Hartman Nyboer - January 13, 2013 at 12:57 PM



“ I remember her beautiful smile and kind heart. I looked forward to seeing her in church during my once a year visit to Saline. She always made me feel so welcome. My sympathy to all of the extended family. Her star will always shine brightly in my memory.
Jackie Smiley

Jacquelin (Jackie) Smiley - January 13, 2013 at 12:08 PM



“ Nancy, Wayne and all the Starling family. Your mom was one in a million! I am so sorry for your loss. I know you will all be comforted by all your wonderful memories. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers. Sandy Wheeler

Sandy Wheeler - January 13, 2013 at 10:36 AM



“ Your Mom was an awesome lady. She always made me feel safe and cared about. She has left behind wonderful memories for so many of us. The world needs more people like her. She will be missed.



Laurel Scruggs Layher - January 13, 2013 at 07:30 AM



“ Patricia Hampton lit a candle in memory of Helen Kathleen Adams Starling



Patricia Hampton - January 13, 2013 at 06:18 AM



“ Starling Family,,I don't recall ever having met Helen, but I have met Roma Hughes Starling. She was my mothers maternal aunt. My condolences go out to the family. May God be with you at this time.
Love,, Patricia Hampton.

Patricia Hampton - January 13, 2013 at 06:22 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories



Nancy Starling Ross - January 12, 2013 at 10:43 PM



“ Sharon, Cindy, and the entire Starling Family..thinking of you all and remembering a long ago time with fond memories. My earliest memories include Helen and Bob and the visits as a child. Please know my thoughts are with you all.

With love and prayers,
Natalie Bice Peterson



Natalie Peterson - January 12, 2013 at 06:14 PM



“ Nancy and Sharon, I wanted to express my deepest sympathy. Your mom was a remarkable and energetic woman and she touched the life of every one who was fortunate to have met her.

Sharon Ware

Sharon Ware - January 14, 2013 at 07:44 AM