



Helen Mary Kirby

July 17, 1939 - February 4, 2009

Helen Mary Mudar Kirby (“Bushie”)

Passed peacefully in the presence of her family Thursday, February 5, 2009 at Ingham Medical Center, Lansing, MI. A strong believer in her faith, devout wife of 50 years; mother to 12; Bushie to 28; fun-filled sister; trusted Aunt to numerous nieces and nephews, and of course, maker of the world’s all-time best jams, wedding cakes, and assorted other goodies bringing smiles to us all. Born July 17, 1939 in Owosso, the daughter of Michael and Antonia Mudar (Tyslicki), Helen graduated from Owosso High School, and received a degree in education from Sienna Heights College. Helen married Dudley Kirby, on June 6, 1959 at St. Paul Catholic Church, Owosso. In 1965 they relocated to St. Charles, MI where together her and Dudley built a successful business and had 8 of their 12 children. Helen's love of teaching led her to work both full and part time at St. Mary Elementary School in St. Charles. In 1980 Helen and Dudley sold their business in St. Charles and moved to Charlotte, MI. Helen's love of teaching led her to continue teaching at St. Mary Elementary School in Charlotte, MI. Helen's greatest joy was her family and friends. Bushie, as she was called by her grandchildren, preferred to serve others in following her calling by our Lord. Cooking and collecting were hobbies and labors of love. Survivors include: Loving husband of 50 years Dudley of Charlotte; 12 children: Leo (Kathy) Kirby of Clarkston, MI; Theresa (Duane) Hein of Portland, MI; Denise (John) Jasinski of Maryville, MO; Mark Kirby of Charlotte, MI; Patrick Kirby of Carmel, IN; Wil Kirby of Columbus, OH; Brian

Kirby of Seattle, WA; Kevin (Annie) Kirby of East Lansing, MI; Molly (Jase) Bolger of Marshall, MI; Dudley (Shannon) Kirby of Shelton, WA; Eric (Niki) Kirby of Seattle, WA; and Sara Jayne Kirby of Palm Springs, CA. She also is survived by 28 grandchildren; Sisters Jane O'Dea of Owosso, MI and Virginia Sysak of Mancelona, MI. She was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Antonia; brothers Walter, Thomas, William, Steve, and Leo; sisters Sophie, Mary, and Amelia. Services will be held Monday, February 9, 2009 at 11:00 am at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte, MI with Father Dennis Spitzley presiding. Visitations will be Saturday 3-5 p.m. and Sunday 3-5 p.m. with a rosary service at 7:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home, 401 W. Seminary, Charlotte, MI 48813. Memorials are suggested to the St. Jude Hospital Fund - <http://stj.convio.net/site/TR> then enter Helen Kirby.

Tribute Wall

CT

“ Will, I don't know if you remember me or not (Kunsan AB Korea 1987-88), I just wanted to send you and your family my condolences. When I read her obituary in the paper and saw your name, I knew it was your Mom. Even though I only met her once, while home on leave from Korea, she must have been an incredible woman to have raised such a wonderful son as you. May God Bless you and your family.

Cathy (Barnes) Terry - February 08, 2009 at 11:10 AM

SD

“ to the family god bless you all,your in our prayers.

scott charmayne dewey - February 08, 2009 at 08:59 AM

SI

“ Patrick, I'm very sorry about your mom. I only knew her for a short time. What I did know of her she was a wonderful lady. I will pray for you and your family. May God be with you. Sherrie Ireland

Sherrie Ireland Ingram - February 08, 2009 at 06:34 AM

TM

“ I'll always remember her taking care of me at her wedding...and the chocolate covered strawberries! What a beautiful soul. She will be missed by everyone who ever had the pleasure of her company. We love you Uncle Dudley. Sherry (Kirby) and Keith Mehl of Palatka, FL



To a great Aunt, With Love, Sherry (Kirby) & Keith Mehl - February 07, 2009 at 05:28 PM

SF

“ *A lovely women will be missed by the 7-ski Family. Thank you Helen for all the laughs and good memories. Rest in Peace. The 7-ski Family*

Sevenski Family - February 06, 2009 at 08:48 AM