



Helen Virginia Duke

August 16, 1943 - June 13, 2016

Helen Virginia Duke passed away at her home in Roswell surrounded by her loving family on June 13, 2016. She was born August 16, 1943, in Las Vegas, NM. She grew up in Albuquerque, graduating from Valley High School in 1961. She was a resident of Roswell since 1974.

Helen was preceded in death by her father Griffis Leon Dukeminier, mother Grace Vienna Dukeminier and brother-in-law Dave Pruitt.

Helen married her husband Bill Duke in 1963. They were blessed with a close, loving marriage for over 53 years.

Those left to cherish Helen's memory are her husband Bill Duke and sons Billy Duke & wife Deanna Duke, James Duke, Greg Duke, and Joel Duke & wife Lena Duke; grandchildren Amanda Duke, Jessica Ham, Grace Duke, John Howard, Justin Ruiz, Kaden Duke, Jimmy Lopez, Harley Duke, Blaizze Duke, Snowden Duke and Forrest Duke; great-grandchildren Alexandra Duke, Autum Bishop, Gary Bishop, Jude McDuffie, June Ham, Ruby Ham, Kaydence Lopez, Alexa Reyes, Sadie Lynn Reyes and Emily Lopez; one great-great-grandchild Sophia Hernandez; sisters Deanna Rains & husband Terry Rains, Ruth Ray Pruitt, Elaine Tourjee & husband Art Tourjee; and numerous nieces and nephews. Helen had a deep love for everyone in her large family. She will be missed beyond measure.

Helen is being cremated and there will be no graveside services per her wishes. A memorial service will be planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Helen would be honored by donations to the Assurance Home Inc., 1000 E. 18th St., Roswell, NM 88201.

The family would like to thank deeply the many friends who have shared their condolences.

This obituary tribute was written by Helen's loved ones to treasure her memories.

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Virginia Duke*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *My condolences to the Duke family... She was a wonderful woman and had a big heart. I was lucky enough to know her throughout my childhood as she welcomed me into her home. My prayers to you all*

melissa arias and family - June 28, 2016 at 08:28 PM



“ *She was 22 months older than me. We shared a room for most of our childhood and adolescence. She shared her clothes when I was in high school. She occasionally let me drive her "56 Chevy, as long as I would put gas in it. She wrote amazingly funny letters. She signed them Helen and boys. Late at night, she could talk for hours on the phone about Bill, her four boys, and her grandkids. She loved to cook. She loved green, wooden soldiers, and the photo gallery of family generations. She was curious and loved to read. She researched nearly every book she read. She worried because Bill was taking care of her. She was usually the caregiver for family and friends. She passed on my birthday, which was a heartbreaking gift to know she was truly at rest. My heart aches for Bill and her boys, because my boys and I know how deep their grief is. She gave and received love. She had a life well lived. I miss her.*

Love, Ruthray

Ruthray Pruitt - June 21, 2016 at 02:06 PM

TJ

“ *Bill Duke and Family*

Please know it was a sad day to learn of Helen's passing. During this time of bereavement please know Helen and the Duke family and friends are in my thoughts.

I have known and been friends with Helen, Bill and the Duke boys all of my adult life. Helen's beautiful smile, laugh, voice, and considerate ways will be missed. Simply, it was always a pleasure to see and visit with your mother. She always had a friendly smile and a great disposition.

We all were fortunate to have mothers and women such as Helen to love, nurture, guide, work with and consider friends in life.

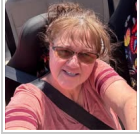
It was honor and pleasure to have known Helen, a woman whom I looked-up to, respected and admired.

Helen was fortunate to have had a long and healthy life shared with Bill and their family and many friends. Please know just as your family this friend has many fond memories that will be cherished and hopefully provide comfort during this time of bereavement.

*With kind thoughts and regards, I remain,
Respectfully,*

Tom Jennings

Tom Jennings - June 20, 2016 at 11:32 AM



“ *My Dukey,
Our prayers and condolences for the loss of your wife...Mrs. Duke
was such a beautiful lady...
Carmen and Richard Briseno*

Carmen N Richard Briseno - June 20, 2016 at 07:26 AM

SS

“ *Helen was always nice to my daughter who dated Greg for a few
years. My condolences to the family.
Sharyn Smith-Jensen*

SHARYN SMITH-JENSEN - June 19, 2016 at 08:00 PM

CM

“ *Helen and Bill were married on the day I was born, January 6, 1963.
Joel was born on their 10th anniversary. Every year they would call
the shop to wish us both happy birthday, and we would wish them
happy anniversary. I'll miss that phone call every year. Thank you
Helen, for loving me like a son.*

Coulter Morgan - June 18, 2016 at 11:45 AM

JP

“ *We didn't spend a lot of time together, but when we did the
memories I have of my aunt Helen are vivid. She had the most
amazing dry wit about her. Her "matter-of-fact" attitude was direct
and to the point. There was no mistaking where she stood on
anything. Her laugh towered above everyone else's. She was
opinionated but at the same time would listen to what you had to
say. She never made me feel as though my opinion was inferior. I
will miss you. Love and prayers to her family and her friends.*

Justin

Justin Pruitt - June 17, 2016 at 07:49 PM

MW

“ To all of Helen's family, Gerald and I send our sincere condolences. We enjoyed Helen's friendship and she will be miss! Our love and prayers to the entire family.

Gerald and Mary Wiggins

Mary Wiggins - June 17, 2016 at 09:33 AM

RR

“ Christmas at the Duke's was unlike anything I'd ever experienced before.....so much delicious food and mountains of gifts for family and the countless numbers who stopped by to visit at their open house I cherish the hand-made quilt she gave me. She was always so kind and generous with me and my entire family She was a beautiful and caring person who I will miss dearly.

Ralph Ruiz - June 16, 2016 at 07:01 PM



“ Michelle Torres sent a virtual gift in memory of Helen Virginia Duke



Michelle Torres - June 16, 2016 at 03:14 PM



Shari
Drake

“Wow, what to say about this amazing woman who was my mother's best friend. Helen is a most beautiful soul. Not only did she do so, so much for my mother over all the years, she was also one of the most kind, wise and loving persons I have ever been blessed to know. I will NEVER forget all of the moments she took to explain life to me and to take her time to show me that I was special too. I love you, Helen. Thank you so much for everything you taught me. Wednesday nite dinner will always be my favorite. Bill and boys, I love you guys and my thoughts and prayers are with you...love

Shari

Shari Drake - June 16, 2016 at 03:06 PM



ET

“My sister loved everyone she met. She was a lot like Will Rogers; who said, "I never met a man I didn't like." Her home was always a welcoming place. I never had to ring the doorbell; just turn the door knob and yell knock knock. I will miss her humor, wisdom and unwavering love. My sweet sister, I miss you deeply. Elaine Tourjee

Elaine Tourjee - June 16, 2016 at 10:30 AM



“Helen was an amazing mother and grandmother. She loved watching her boys and grandkids play baseball. She cooked amazing meals and opened her home to everyone. We miss her and wish we had more time with her. Love you Helen!

Lena Duke - June 16, 2016 at 08:39 AM

JB

“ *Jerry and Carlon (Hobbs) Baker purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Helen Virginia Duke.*



Jerry and Carlon (Hobbs) Baker - June 14, 2016 at 01:24 PM