



Helen B. Cavanagh

November 11, 1930 - June 27, 2014

Albany-On June 27, 2014 we lost our beloved wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and friend. Helen B. Cavanagh, 83, of Albany died in her home at the Avila Retirement Community surrounded by her loving family and friends. Born in Menands in 1930, she was the daughter of Minnie and Dudley Bartlett.

Helen graduated from Vincentian Institute, class of 1948, and later from The College of Saint Rose, class of 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Helen also earned a Master of Science Degree from The College of St. Rose in 1970. She is survived by her loving husband Edward T. Cavanagh and her devoted children Maureen Cavanagh, Edward Cavanagh (Donna) of Norristown, PA, Linda Cavanagh, and Carol O'Connor (Joe). She is also survived by her sister Dorothy Sleasman and her four beloved grandchildren: Coleen Cavanagh (Fiancé Joe Kozlowski) of PA, Daniel, Erin, and Laura O'Connor as well as her nephew Robert Sleasman (Rich Ostreicher) of CA and her niece Nancy Laurin (Gregory). Helen was predeceased by her brothers Donald and Francis Bartlett. Married in 1954, Ed and Helen spent 60 happy years together devoting their lives to their children and grandchildren.

Teaching, for Helen, was her passion and life mission and she will be remembered by many as their beloved math teacher. She taught briefly at St. Ann's of Albany and Vincentian Institute, but will never be forgotten at Holy Cross Grammar School (now All Saints Catholic Academy), where she taught

for 30 years (1966-1996). She received numerous accolades during her teaching career, the most notable being chosen as one of twenty-five teachers nationally named "Outstanding Educator" by Today's Catholic Teacher in 1992 and being recognized by Governor Mario Cuomo for this achievement. She was also listed in the "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" in 2000 and has a scholarship in her honor awarded annually at Holy Cross School. To her students whom she loved so dearly, Helen will be remembered as their math teacher who always went above and beyond to ensure their success and never forgot to relieve them of homework whenever the New York Giants won a game. She also initiated, photographed, and single handedly produced the Holy Cross Yearbook for many years. Outside of the classroom Helen enjoyed tending to her various hobbies including tracing her family's genealogy, organizing VI High School class of 48 reunions in 1963, 1998, and 2003, managing the Religious Education Program at Holy Cross Church, serving as president of the Holy Cross Altar Rosary Society, founding the Alumni Association of Holy Cross School and serving as a trustee at Holy Cross Church. Above all Helen lived for her family and will be dearly missed.

Helen loved all of her doctors who did their best to treat her various conditions including Dr. Richard Lavigne, Dr. Anthony Turi, Dr. John Kavanaugh, and Dr. Brian Murray. The family would also like to remember and thank Helen's Bridge Club for their enduring friendship: Mary Lu Lubbe, Helen Benoit, Dolores McEnaney, Peggy Carroll, Louise Jameson, Marion Safford, and Janet Gelzheiser; Helen's evening aides for their tender care: Paulette, Chris, Theresa, and Kiera; The Eddy Health Care Providers who helped her so much in her final days: Karen Hotaling, Dave Orenstein, and especially Michelle; Sue Mason for her life long friendship, love and support; and Bishop Howard Hubbard for his visits, spiritual guidance and friendship. Finally the family thanks Helen's many friends at the Avila Community, all of whom provided such joy in the later years of her life.

Funeral services Wednesday, July 2, 2014 at 8:15 am from McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany thence to All Saints Catholic Church, Albany at 9:00 am where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call Tuesday, July 1, 2014 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the funeral home.

Interment St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands.

To leave a message for the family, obtain directions or view other helpful services, please visit [ww.McveighFuneralHome.com](http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com)

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Service

JUL 2. 9:00 AM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church
16 Homestead St.
Albany, NY 12203

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Helen B. Cavanagh*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - July 01, 2014 at 10:24 AM

AM

As a teacher, I remember her cruelty.

Ann Moise - June 22, 2023 at 08:55 AM



“ *Helen B. Cavanagh*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM

MW

“ *My sincere condolences. May the words at Isaiah 25:8 bring you comfort during this difficult time " He will swallow up death forever, And the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."*

Montana W. - December 04, 2015 at 08:23 PM

DF

“ *Dear Carol and the Kavanaugh Family, please accept our deepest sympathies and condolences on the loss of your mom. With love and friendship, Diana Favata-Stanish and Family*

Diana Favata-Stanish - July 25, 2014 at 03:41 PM

VZ

“ To the Cavanagh family....especially Carol who I taught, and Maureen who I got to know very well....Unfortunately, I found out of your mother's death just yesterday, July 4th. It really hit me hard. When I first started my teaching career at Holy Cross, Helen became my role model, my beacon, and my mentor. I only wish I could have lived up to all of her standards but she set the bar too high. She will always be remembered, a true heroine in the teaching world.....my deepest sympathy, Vincent Zabinski

Vincent Zabinski - July 05, 2014 at 04:09 AM

ED

“ Dear Maureen and Linda,
What a beautiful tribute. Yes, she taught her students math, but what they were also learning was how to life life well. What a role model, a gift, a blessing she was to her family and her extended family -- her students.
Keep that beautiful smile in your memory --- and know that she is with you always, holding your heart gently in her hands.
Love,
Eileen Daugherty

Eileen Daugherty - June 30, 2014 at 09:39 PM

JS

“ Dear Ed, Maureen, Linda, Carol, Joe, Danny, Erin, and Laura, Edward and family,
When I think of Helen, my first thought is family, and my second, Holy Cross School. When I came to Holy Cross in 1988, she was my guardian angel, and someone I wanted to be like. Taking over the eighth grade in 1996, was her legacy to me. I can always remember the words of wisdom she gave me "Always be flexible!" She was so right!! The joy shared about her children, grandchildren, and Bishop Hubbard, goes without saying. How fitting that he will say the Mass for her. I can remember how happy and proud she was showing off Danny when Carol brought him to school as an infant. I think she had him destined for CBA from the first breath he took! Needless to say, Erin and Laura were also the apple of her eye. Your wife, mother, and grandmother was always a lady, and a perfect example for the hundreds of children and adults whose lives she touched. Helen once told me that walking the parade grounds with Edward at CBA was one of the happiest days of her life. I think that is why she loved West Point so much. You are all so blessed to have had her so close in your lives. I know I am so glad she came into mine and that I was able to teach her grandchildren. We will be in Ohio Monday through Wednesday, but my heart will be with you all.

*With sincerest sympathy,
Janice and John Smircich
new number 452 0490*

janice smircich - June 29, 2014 at 12:03 PM

WF

“ Condolences to the Cavanagh family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your whole family. Psalms 147:3 says Jehovah God, "heals the broken hearted, and binds up their wounds." May God bring you comfort and peace.

Williams Family - June 29, 2014 at 11:55 AM