

Because of You

As children we watched as you worked long days and evenings on the farm-milking cows, hauling well water to the house, and killing chickens for a special meal. Because of you, we learned HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE.

We watched you clip coupons, sew our clothes, buy second-hand outfits, and refrain from purchasing anything you couldn't afford. We learned to be FRUGAL and live within our means.

We watched as you made sure your children had enough to eat before you took food from the table. We learned to SACRIFICE our needs for that of our families.

We watched as you killed rattlesnakes in our yard to protect us from harm and take on the role of mother and father when our dad had to work away from home. We learned STRENGTH AND COURAGE.

We watched you hurt when others were hurting and help when others wouldn't. We learned COMPASSION.

We watched you laugh at the smallest things including our own silly antics. We gained a SENSE OF HUMOR even when life doesn't go our way.

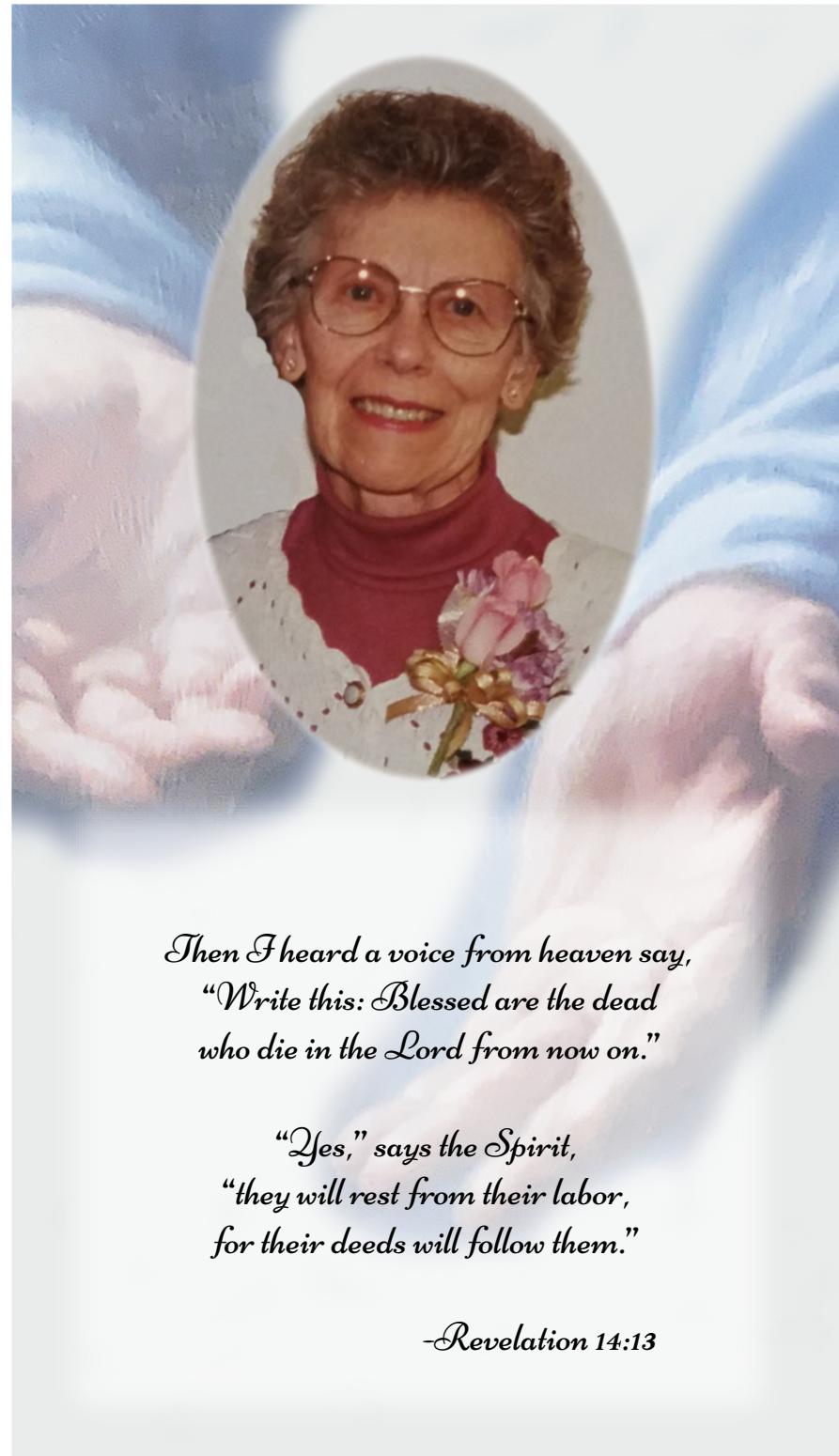
We watched you work in the school lunch room so Debbie would have money for college. We learned GRATITUDE.

But most important of all, we watched your faith in God and heard your prayers. Because of you, we children have a gift that lasts an eternity. We gained BELIEF IN JESUS that no one can take away from us.

From our grateful hearts, we'll forever love you, Mom.



*Arrangements Entrusted to
Luz Funeral Home - Highmore, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net*



*Then I heard a voice from heaven say,
"Write this: Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord from now on."*

*"Yes," says the Spirit,
"they will rest from their labor,
for their deeds will follow them."*

-Revelation 14:13

Helen Lucille Davis was born on a farm in Logan, Oklahoma. She was one of six children born to John and Vera Davis. On that farm, she learned to milk cows at the age of six. She liked to gather them from the pasture regardless of how far away they were. Her dad made her a special stool for milking cows.

Helen taught herself to tap dance when she was four years old.

Her brother, Junior, was always teasing her and one time he hid her doll, Joanne, up on the windmill. When she finally found it, she said, "My lands, Joanne, what are you doing on the windmill?"

Helen often played with her doll under the table while her mom was cooking, and her dad was playing banjo, guitar, or harmonica. She later learned to play piano and together with her dad would play songs including John's Tune, a song her dad wrote.

She attended Plainview Country School near Booker, TX and graduated from Darrouzett, TX high school in 1943.

She met her future husband, Roy Nelson Durfey, at a square dance and dated a few times before he was drafted into the Army. While in the service, "Nelson" sent her a diamond ring and they were married on November 4, 1945, a few days after he returned home from World War II.

They settled in Oklahoma and had two children, Sharon and Roy Dee. In 1949, they followed the wheat harvest to South Dakota and later moved to a farm outside of Highmore. During the winter of 1951, their home and car burned to the ground, and they lost everything. Later, before their daughter, Debra, was born, they moved to a farm on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation near Stephan with no electricity, running water, or plumbing. Water was drawn from the well and hauled to the house. Sometimes skunks would be found in the outhouse.

On the farm, they raised cattle, pigs, and chickens. She became skilled at killing rattlesnakes, that were quite often found around the farm. She milked cows, separated the milk, made butter and cottage cheese, and used the cream for cinnamon rolls. The cinnamon rolls were packed in the children's lunches as they mounted their horses and rode off to the Stephan country school. The rolls were bartered for goodies from the other kids' lunches.

She had a large garden and canned enough food including meat to last through the winter.

They moved to Highmore in 1961, where she was a homemaker, babysat her grandchildren, and worked for five years at the Highmore School lunchroom.

Helen was an active member of the Church of Christ in Highmore where she also taught Sunday School for many years. She was actively involved in the Highmore Senior Center and served as an officer for several years. She also belonged to the Highmore Health Care Auxiliary and received various awards for volunteer work.

Her hobbies included playing the piano, sewing, crocheting, gardening, watching birds, canning and baking. Her grandchildren loved her dill pickles and raised doughnuts.

Helen is survived by three children: Sharon (Harlan) Smith of Harrold, SD, Roy Dee Durfey of Savannah, MO, and Debra (Larmount) Lawson of Bowie, MD; special friend, Carroll Morford of Highmore; seven grandchildren; three step grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; twelve great step grandchildren; and one great great step grandchild; brother, Milfred (Arabelle) Davis of Amarillo, TX, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy Durfey; son-in-law, Neil Larson; granddaughter-in-law, Jane Larson; five great grandchildren; her parents; two sisters and two brothers and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

In Loving Memory

Helen Lucille Durfey

Funeral Service:

3:00 p.m., Friday, September 3, 2021

Church of Christ

Highmore, South Dakota

Officiating:

Pastor Jeff McKean

Casketbearers: *Grandsons*

Galin Larson - Weston Durfey

Eric Lawson - Darin Larson

Travis Durfey - Kevin Larson

Tyson Durfey

Honorary Casketbearers:

All Helen's Great Grandchildren &
One Great Great Grandchild

Ushers:

Ryan and Kris Rittel

Lector:

Denise Campbell

Flowerbearers:

Peggy Fausett - Denise Campbell

Guestbook Attendants:

Ro-Ann Stagg - Elaine Ashdown

Musician:

Claudia Rheinbolt

Musical Selections:

"Beyond The Sunset"

"It Is Well With My Soul"

"I Want to Stroll Over Heaven With You"

