



## Helen Marie Stephens

August 15, 1923 - February 19, 2012

Helen Marie (Talley) Stephens, age 88 of Bolivar, MO died Sunday February 19, 2012 at Parkview Healthcare Facility in Bolivar following an extended battle with Alzheimers disease.

Helen was born the youngest of three children on a farm in northeast Kansas on August 15, 1923 to Effie M. (Bonjour) Talley and George B. Talley.

She spent her early years working on the family farm, moving to Onaga, Kansas during her high school years to live with her grandparents. Following high school she moved with her sister to Topeka, KS to find work. At the outbreak of World War II she was recruited by North American Aviation in Kansas City, MO to join assembly line production of military aircraft. While there, wiring bombardier boxes, she met her future husband Gerald F. (Steve) Stephens. They were married on July 25, 1943 at the First Baptist Church in Ozark, MO. To this union was born two sons, Mike and Mark and one daughter Meleah.

Following the war after being stationed in Florida, Helen and Steve returned to Missouri to attend photography training school. In 1946 they moved to Bolivar to open Stephens Photography at a downtown location, moving to its present location on West Broadway two years later. For the next thirty-seven years they worked side by side to build a business based on superb quality,

meticulous attention to detail and devotion to customer satisfaction. Through Helen and Steves work they touched the lives of families in the area, sharing and recording the milestones of their lives: new births, school photos, senior pictures, graduations, weddings and reunions. They worked as a precision team with Helen making sure everything was perfectly set and Steve getting the perfect shot. Their works hang on the walls of countless homes in the area.

They were baptized into the First Christian Church of Bolivar on Easter Sunday of 1947 and have remained faithful members with Helen teaching Sunday school, bible school and serving with the women of the church. In 1985 they sold their business to their son Mark who carries on their tradition to this day.

Helen was a charter member of the 20 Club and a member of the Christian Womens Fellowship, The Bolivar Golf Club, Silo Ridge Country Club and various bridge, birthday and other social clubs. In their retirement years they have enjoyed friends, family, travel, ballgames, church and home.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, her brother and her sister.

She is survived by her husband Gerald F. (Steve) Stephens of the couples home, sons Mike and wife Nancy Stephens and Mark and wife Susie Stephens of Bolivar; a daughter Meleah and husband Ray Larroca of San Francisco, CA. Four Grandchildren, Mary Helen Jordan of Long Beach, CA; Carmen Stephens of Bolivar, MO; Nancy Stephens of Tulsa, OK; John Stephens of Dallas, TX. Six Step-Grandchildren, Angela Modesitt of Bolivar; Anthony Wells of San Jose, CA; Ty Smith of Bolivar; Christie Smith of Dallas, TX; Brandon Baker of Bolivar; Brock Baker of Kansas City, MO; 10 Great Grandchildren and Step-Great Grandchildren, Madison, Lyla, Molly, Zane, Michael, Kayla, Madeline, Mya, Ella, and Baylee and a world of many other

relatives and friends.

Helen leaves with a richly deserved legacy of class, grace, elegance, beauty, devotion and love.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the First Christian Church in Bolivar.

A Memorial Funeral Service for the Celebration of Helens Life will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at the First Christian Church in Bolivar with Rev. Jerry Book officiating. A Luncheon reception will follow for family and friends in the church fellowship hall. Services under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home of Bolivar.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorial contributions may be made in Helens memory to the First Christian Church, P. O. Box 416, Bolivar, MO 65613 or to Southwest Baptist University, 1600 S. University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613

Friends may sign the guestbook or send private condolences at [www.butlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.butlerfuneralhome.com)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Marie Stephens*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Helen Marie Stephens*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time.*

**Barb & Tom Layton** - February 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our sympathies to all of you at this time of loss. We pray your memories and the Lord will comfort you. We were blessed to have been on the receiving end of Helen and Gerald's professional services in Senior pictures and our wedding.*

*Larry and Kay(McColm) Davis*

**larry and kay davis** - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *we are truly sorry about helen passing away. it is so sad to let a sweet friend slipped away . all we can do pray and remember their kind words and sweet smiles and friendship... GOD BLESS ALWAYS  
Robertlee, Teresa and Ellen Marie Simms [ariz]*

**robert lee & teresa evans** - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ I will always remember the wonderful way she treated me and all of your friends Meleah, when we were kids! She was always so kind and gentle. I am so sorry for your loss.

Sincerely Leslie Gutierrez Thomas

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**Leslie G. Thomas** - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AI

“ Stephens family, so sorry for your loss. Like the obituary said, Helen will be remembered by her smile, class & beauty. Those things come to mind as I grew up in the church & had pictures done at the studio. To Carmen, Nancy and Mary Helen--its a sad age we are getting when we have to say good-bye to our grandparents. But, we are lucky ladies to have gotten to enjoy them this long.

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**Abby (Short) Inglis** - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Our most heartfelt sympathies and love to all. So sorry we could not be with you.

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**Jack and Kathy Chavez** - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Dear Mike, Mark and family. I have just recently got to know you better through the lost of my wife Janet Teters-Snook who died, there in Bolivar, in January. Janet introduced me, and I have spoke with Helen a few times while at Parkview visiting with Janet's Mom, Elizabeth Teters who is there also with Alzheimer's, so very sorry for your lost and that you are having to feel the pain and hurting of this. There are no words, as I have found, to really deal with this. I truly hope that you can find peace with this loss and keep Helen forever in your hearts.

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**James** - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

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**Dan and Nancy Ellis** - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *I met Helen only once, but she was one of the sweetest people I have ever met. God bless the Stephens family.*

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**Melissa Haney** - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *My sympathy goes out to the family. I am so sorry.*

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**Judy Greer** - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Helen was a wonderful person. Jim remembers how nice she was to him when he and Mike were in school together. We both enjoyed her at the golf course and I looked forward to playing bridge with her. Brian and Teresa always said how beautiful she was and always spoke to them, and when you're a kid those are things important. Love to your family, Jim and Lindy*

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**Jim and Lindy Mitchell** - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your Mother. She was such a delightfully gracious woman and was always so kind to me and my family. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Jerald*

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**Jerald Andrews** - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Helen Marie Stephens*

Don & Linda Wollard - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time*

Derral and Brenda Cloyd - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ *So sad to hear of Helen's passing. For 19 years I had the privilege of holding her hand for an hour every week, during my time at the Gallery doing her nails. I learned so much from her! I will always remember her for her wisdom, kindness, sweet spirit, elegance and grace. My thoughts and prayers to all the family. She will be missed.*  
*Teri Vodicka*

Teri Vodicka - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ *You are in our thoughts and prayers.*  
*Harlie and Nancy Gallatin*

Gallatin - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Johnny & Patricia Roark - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mike and the rest of the family.*

Lewis and Joyce Davolt Williams - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ So sorry to lose such a nice lady. She was a joy to play golf with as she would always tidy up the T-box while waiting her turn.

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**Freeda Bilyeu** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ We would like to express our sympathy to you and your family. We appreciated the friendship she extend to mother.  
*Jane, Jim, and Jennifer Otradovec*

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**Jane Otradovec** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ I have many memories of Steve and Helen being in business over the years next to Daddy's Mobil Station. They were always faithful members of First Christian Church where I attended, too. They took all of our family's Senior pictures, and they did everything with style, and yet with fun.

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**Barbara (Blankenship) Cochran** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ To a great and beautiful lady.  
*She had such a sweet spirit.*

*Rick and Teresa Griffitts*

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**Rick and Teresa Griffitts** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ I am so sorry for your loss of Helen. I have many memories of Helen from the time I was a small child. She was such a lady, and was so loved by my Mother, Ruth King. Love and prayers go out to your family.

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**Elizabeth King Turner** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Helen had the sweetest smile and she always wore it.

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**George and Elaine Williams** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ So Sorry for your loss, you are in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless. Steve and Ronda Neill

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**steve and ronda neill** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ My sympathies are with all of the family during this sad time.  
  
Helen was a lovely lady!

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**Nancy (Fisher) Crowell** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. May God continue to bless your family and grant you peace.

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**Steve & Janet Timmerman** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ So sorry for the loss of your sweet wife, Mom and Grandmother.  
Steve and Linda Marshall

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**Linda Marshall** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Mark and family,  
So sorry to hear of the death of your mom, but so happy she is now at peace in heaven! Maybe she and my mom are visiting! Isn't that amazing to think about! May your hearts be filled with peace as you remember all the good times, and look forward to many more--for eternity!

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**Myrna Walker** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ To the Stephens Family; Our prayers are with you in this difficult time of sadness. Helen was a wonderful person and part of a blessed family. I know you will miss her deeply. As spoken to us many time by Gerald... GOD loves you and so do !!

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**Danny & Lisa Cowden** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Helen was such a lovely lady. When the studio took my engagement picture 47 years ago, Helen told me that she hoped it would help. Yes, Helen, it helped! We have been together for 47 years now. You could always count on it that she would have that lovely smile. I'm sure she will be missed in your family. May God bless and comfort your family at this time.

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**Dannie and Mary Jane Hubbert** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ You are all in our thoughts and Prayers.

*Helen was such a Beautiful lady.*

*May God give you strenth and comfort.*

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**Ralph&Texas Buckner** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Helen was such a beautiful person, I know you will miss her.* ”

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**Christy Stewart Mill** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *All my sympathy* ”

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**Rosemary Benitz** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM