



Helen (Smitty) E. Lerash, age 95, of Bad Axe, passed away peacefully on April 30, 2016 at her home. Helen was born in Bad Axe on September 2, 1920, daughter of the late Hugh and Kate (McClellan) Smith. She married Frank Lerash on January 2, 1946 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. They were married 60 years when Frank passed away November 8, 2006.

Helen attended the Bad Axe Schools and graduated in the class of 1939. She was a lifetime member of Sacred Heart (St. Hubert Parish) Catholic Church. She had many accomplishments in her life. She worked at Millick's Bakery, Cole's Market and Henny's Florist. After she married Frank, they opened a small market. Later, they built Lerash Country Market and Pigeon Grocery and Bakery in Elkton, Bad Axe and Caseville. In 1969, they bought the Franklin Inn. Helen was a pillar of the community and a smart business woman. She was a volunteer for many programs, a fantastic mother and grandmother and homemaker who loved to entertain and will be sorely missed by all.

Helen is survived by: 2 Sons- Pat (Holly) Lerash of Bad Axe and Paul (Cathy) Lerash of Bad Axe. 2 Daughters- Lora (Richard) Humbarger of St. Clair and Susan (Bruce) Smith of Kalamazoo.

7 Grandchildren- Amy (Jim) Evans, Frank Lerash, Morgan (Joe) Drossos, Alec Lerash, Tricia (Bill) VanderPloeg, Cheryl Alassane, Amber (Mike) Kleekamp.

9 Great-Grandchildren-Jacklyn, Zachary, Audrey VanderPloeg.
Lilliana Alassane.

James and Chris Kleekamp.

Nolan, Gordan, and Cooper Drossos.

Sister-in-law- Alice Gottschalk.

Brother-in-law- Carl Byarski.

Special Niece- Kay White.

Many nieces and nephews.

Helen was preceded in death by: Husband-Frank Lerash.

2 Sisters- June (Bill) Healy and Betty Smith.

Mother and Father-in-law- Frank and Hattie Lerash.

Brothers and Sisters-in-law- John and Gertie Lerash.

Tony and Vi Lerash.

Rosie and Fred Meagher.

Joe and Martha Lerash.

Tillie and Toby White.

Maggie Byarski.

Eddie Lerash.

Don Gottschalk.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 am. on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at St. Hubert Parish-Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bad Axe. Officiating will be Fr. Rob Howe, pastor. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 from 1 – 8 pm. or Wednesday at the church from 10 am until the time of service at 11 am. A scripture service will be offered on Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Sacred Heart Food Pantry, the Humane Society or to the charity of your choice.

The family would like to thank our round the clock care-givers, Jane, Connie and Janis for your wonderful compassion and care.