



Helen Martha Nicola

July 29, 1941 - September 15, 2019

Our hearts are shattered by the loss of our loving and devoted mom, cherished wife, loyal sister, fun grandma, and caring friend, Helen Martha Nicola. Our flower loving, Pinterest pinning, Facebook following warrior of a woman lost the 8-month battle to bile duct cancer on September 15, 2019 in Bonita Springs, Florida.

Throughout her 78 years of life, she and her husband, Bob, showed her family unconditional love, patience, humor, support and most importantly, the love of family and being there for one another. Her “go with the flow” and patient demeanor, along with her bright smile was golden and loved by her friends and family.

Her love story with her husband and best friend, Bob went beyond their 57 years of marriage. Born July 29, 1941 and raised in Detroit, they attended Kindergarten together at age 6, were high school sweethearts at age 16 and married at age 20 and 21, respectively. These 72 years of knowing each other contributed to a love and bond beyond no other. When not joined at the hip with her husband, she loved to read on the porch while looking out at Gourdeck Lake, enjoyed making crafts for her family, spending time at their beloved home they built in Florida, being a long time active member of the Portage Garden Club, Sisterhood at the Portage Senior Center and Red Hatter's Club, listening to 50's music and playing slot machines because she

never met a slot machine she didn't like. Helen lived an amazing life which started in Detroit with her parents and younger sister, Lee. She worked at Kresge to put her husband through dental school, moved to Portage, Michigan in 1968 to help her husband open his new dental practice and start their real estate hobby, all while raising four children under the age of six years old. Throughout the years, she spent countless hours working at the children's schools, chauffeuring children to freezing hockey arenas for practices, attending basketball and other sport games, watching her kids learn to swim, ski, bowl, skate and other activities which all included the words "Watch me, Mom!" and her encouraging words of " Just try your best, that's all we ask."

Her love for her family was always first and foremost and her legacy of family love will live forever. While she joined her mom and dad (Lillian and Leo Grabiasz) Aunt, Christine Grabiasz, mother and father in law, Rose and Bill Nicola and other wonderful family and friends in Heaven, her spirit lives on here on earth with her husband, Dr. Robert Nicola, children, Lisa Nicola, Linda Nicola Feehan (Greg), Bill Nicola (Amy) and Dr. Bob Nicola (Melissa), treasured grandchildren, Will, Claire, Olivia, Rylee, Sophia and Landyn, sister, Lee Giordano (Russ), niece, Roxanne Sternfeld (Michael, Jordan and Peyton), and sister in law, Carol (Ralph). She will be missed beyond words by her family but will be seen and felt every day in their surroundings and themselves.

A Celebration of Helen's Life will be held on October 20, 2019 from 12:00-3:00pm at Stuart Manor at the Celery Flats 7340 Garden Lane, Portage, MI 49002.

In lieu of flowers, donations under Helen's name would be greatly appreciated at Portage Community Outreach Center(portagecommunitycenter.org) or the Michigan Garden Clubs Scholarship Program (michigangardenclubs.org) or just plant a flower and dedicate it to Helen.

Online condolences may be offered by visiting www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **20**. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Stuart Manor at the Celery Flats
7340 Garden Lane
Portage, MI 49002

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Martha Nicola*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Bob, my sincere condolences to you and your family. I have many fond memories of Helen from the years spent together in Detroit and then those few years in Portage. Helen was a wonderful woman and I am thankful to have known her. Grace Switzer*

Grace Switzer - October 10, 2019 at 01:27 PM

LP

“ Oh, Bob...my heart truly aches for your loss, and my tears have been shed.

Though I only met your wonderful wife once, I believe, at a meeting at your property on the nw side of West Lake(?), near Portage, when I previously worked for the MI DEQ, I was impressed by her kindness, my friend.

I also want you to know that I am truly honored to have known you...truly honored.

If you ever desire to meet again, if you're ever in MI, for a breakfast-out, or whatever, I can be contacted at: 269-655-1551 (I have a "captioning phone" now, due to near complete deafness); or, via e-mail at: "poynterl@frontier.com".

I am retired for a bit over a year now, so I am basically "free" and available to do what I want...finally.

I will always consider you to be my friend, even though I only met with you a few times...I could tell you are a truly kind, and a "good" person. Can't say that about many people anymore, unfortunately. Again, so sorry for the loss of your Dear Wife, and long-time friend. Life is too short, isn't it?

I will do my best to be at the Life Celebration for your Wife on Oct. 20th.

Larry Poynter

Larry Poynter - October 07, 2019 at 09:15 PM

LE

“ My heart goes out to you Bob, Bobby, and the entire family. May your sadness and loss be tempered by the wonderful memories you hold of your Wife and Mother.

With sincere condolences,

*Leslie Eisenberg
DMORT V*

LE - October 06, 2019 at 11:56 AM

CK

“ *To Bob, Lisa, Linda, Bill and Bobby: we just got the news and are shocked and saddened by the monumental loss to you. Our memories of you and our many football games are lasting. You are iin our prayers.*

*Love,
Jack and Cindi*

cindi kindig - October 04, 2019 at 03:52 PM

“Helen was always so full of life and joy! What an honor to get to know her while she walked this earth. It was always so evident how much she cherished her family and friends. She would have her Christmas cards filled out MONTHS before Christmas so they were sure to be ready before they left for Florida for the winter months.

The pain her family is suffering right now is simply evidence of the joy she brought to their lives while she was here. My prayer for all of you is that you will reach the point (hopefully sooner than later) that memories of her will make you smile instead of the pain you're feeling now. I just heard this song for the first time today and want to share these words with you because I believe with all my heart, this is HER heart for you!

*The sun, the sun is going down.
All I see is love around me.
You know, what I believe.
Now I see it so completely.
I, I need you to know, that time, time is letting go.
Don't cry, dry your eyes.
Can't you hear the angels calling, me up? Up above?
Can't you hear the angels calling me home? Me home?
(They're) calling me home.
Take, take my hand.
Stay with me, as I surrender.
We've lived a life of happiness.
You will be in my heart forever.
I, I need you to know, that time is letting go.
Don't cry, dry your eyes.
Can't you hear the angels calling, me up? Up above?
Can't you hear the angels calling me home? Me home?
(They're) calling me home, home.
Home, home.
Home, home.
Don't cry,...*

Praying for you all.

Vicky

Vicky Pierman - October 02, 2019 at 02:09 PM