



HELEN J. YLITALO

April 8, 2009

HELEN JULIA HARJU YLITALO ,88, of Baraga, MI., passed away Monday, April 6, 2009 at Bayside Village, L'Anse, where she had been a resident for a month. She was born in Pelkie, MI. on March 30, 1921 the daughter of the late Manna and Emma (Parkila) Oja. Helen attended Pelkie Grade and Agricultural School. She was employed as a house keeper until she was hired as a matrons helper at Baraga County jail under Sheriff Seavoy. Helen married J. Ralph Harju on February 8, 1941 in Calumet, MI. She worked for Pelkie Dairy Bottling Dept. until moving to Superior, WI. where she worked doing day work and baby sitting until she was hired by Black and White Cab Co. as a dispatcher and bookkeeper. She also worked as a nurses aide at Southdale Terrace in Superior, WI. until the birth of her son, Jon. They moved back to Pelkie in 1972 . Her husband passed away in November of 1974. Helen moved to Baraga in May 1985 and married Bill Ylitalo in June of 1992. He preceded her in death in December 1996. Helen was a member of L'Anse Baptist Church, the womens missionary group and had worked with the Awana Club. Mrs. Ylitalo is survived by her loving son, Roy (Marvis) Harju, 4 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, step-children, Myra (George) Keyser of Casper, WY., and Bill (Merilee) Ylitalo of Yuma, AZ., 7 step-grandchildren, and numerous step great grandchildren, special nephew Melvin "Buddy" (Mildred) Hill of Baraga and special niece, Jean Perala of Marquette, and special friend Mark Erwin of Pelkie. Several nieces and nephews also survive. She was preceded in death by her son, Jon, stepson, Jack, brothers, Arthur, Matti, and George, and sisters, Hilda Smith, Esther Maki, and Pearl Waara. Funeral services for Mrs. Ylitalo were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at the Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L'Anse with Pastor Jerry Bishop officiating. Interment took place in the Pelkie Cemetery. The family received friends at the funeral chapel Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Memorials in Mrs. Ylitalo's honor may be directed to the L'Anse Baptist Ladies Missionary Group or the Copper Country Humane Society. Envelopes are available at the funeral home. Following the service the family invited friends to join them for fellowship and a luncheon in the Harrington Gathering room, located at the funeral home.

Comments



“ My thoughts and prayers are with Jean and Mark. Helen was fortunate to have you with her during the last weeks of her life. It was a privledge to care for her.

Carla Engle - April 18, 2009 at 10:00 PM



“ Helen is now in heaven with The Lord Jesus whom she loved. She was always able to smile and keep a positive outlook through everything and I saw this everytime I visited her. As her pastor for many years she was an inspiration. She epitomized the spirit of so many of the Finnish people who knew how to laugh, how to love, and how to live a hearty life. I will miss her like I do so many of the folks in L'Anse and Baraga. She was a blessing to me and never failed to send me a card or note with a small gift out of her love for Christ and His church. What a blessing.

Pastor Larry Saunders & Wife Beverly - April 15, 2009 at 02:03 PM



“ I had never met Helen until her son Jon (who was a friend of mine and Bruces) passed away. At that time, I was 8 months pregnant. Two days after Jons funeral, Helen made a trip to my house to give me a gift for my baby. She and I sat and drank tea and talked about our memories of her son. She told me how Jon was so happy and excited about being able to see my baby. Through her immense heartache over just losing her child, she smiled and made me feel so special (even never having met me before) I was so touched by her strength, kindness and sincerity. I felt blessed by having met her.

Janet Ross - April 09, 2009 at 06:29 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Helens passing. She will be greatly missed. Our sympathy is extened to her family.

Tim and Sue Ylitalo - April 08, 2009 at 08:48 AM



“ Helen was one of the most giving women I ever met. She became just like family. I will never forget her laugh or her smile. For all the people she touched, my heart goes out to you. She always had time to listen. She was loved by many. We will never forget this special woman who touched so many.

Lori & John LaPointe & family

Lori LaPointe - April 07, 2009 at 08:22 PM



“ Aunt Helen you will be greatly missed by all of our family.
Your nephew John Paul Wahtola and family.

John Paul & Elaine Wahtola - April 06, 2009 at 05:51 PM



“ We wish to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Helen. "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, but love leaves a lifetime of memories that no one can steal."

Hartley & Laura Collins - April 06, 2009 at 11:58 AM