

Helen Y. Hamling

08.10.1930 - 05.02.2018



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Helen Yvonne (Haugen, Weber, Wettestad) Hamling was born on August 10, 1930, to Nora and Rupert Haugen. She was the fourth of four children, siblings Corrine, Arnold, and Lester.

Helen was raised on a farm in Marshall County near Thief Lake. She credited her mom in teaching her honesty, cooking, canning, baking, and sewing, and how to be conservative in the Depression era. She attended grade school in a one-room schoolhouse. She went to Our Saviors Lutheran Church with the whole family, plus Sunday school, Ladies Aid and Sewing Circle with her mother. When she was a little older she got to go to Bible Camp at Lake of the Woods Camp in Warroad.

Growing up, Helen was only allowed out of her parents' sight if she was escorted by one of her older brothers. From her childhood she remembered neighbors' get-togethers and playing games like Anti I over, and Star Light Moon Light. Once in a rare while the family would go to a movie in Thief River Falls.

Helen graduated from the University of Minnesota Agricultural College in Crookston, MN. It was there she met her first love, she was 19 and Walt was 21. They married on May 14, 1950, and 13 months later their son Allan was born. Shortly after Helen brought Allan home from the hospital, Walt was killed in a work accident.

In 1952 Helen's brother Les encouraged her to remarry a farmer/hunting buddy who he thought would be a good father to her son. Les was right! Helen became Mrs. Henry Wettestad, and together they had three more children- Mary, Kay, and Laurel. They sold the farm and moved to Pengilly so that Hank could have regular work and a steady paycheck. Shortly after, they moved to Monticello for the nuclear power plant.

In 1967 Hank and Helen became foster parents and Elizabeth joined the family at only 18 months of age. They fostered many children for over 20 years, an important part of Helen's compassionate life.

In 1993, Helen retired from her career as a Volunteer Coordinator and Therapeutic Recreation assistant at the Monticello Big Lake Nursing Home. They sold their home



and bought a new house in Babbitt. They moved in on April 23, 1993. Four days later, Hank had a massive coronary and passed away.

Helen focused on family, on her children and grandchildren, and life did go on. She loved her extended "family" at the Babbitt Baptist Church, and her life was full and busier than ever. She didn't know at the time her neighbor was a widower who had lost his wife to cancer. Ray started helping her with things like mowing the lawn and blowing snow. Soon they were going out for dinner and enjoying each other's company. In November they knew they were in love, but Helen told Ray she couldn't become involved with someone who wouldn't support her religious beliefs. The next Sunday he was at her door ready to go to church. She became Mrs. Raymond Hamling in 1994, and Helen and Ray spent four wonderful years together before he, too, passed away.

In 1994 Helen went to Japan as a missionary in the conversational reading program through the Baptist Church. At the time she was president of Babbitt Senior Citizens, she formed The Babbitt Senior Travelers. She helped organize many adventures over the years to places like Branson, Cape Cod, and the Grand Canyon.

Helen loved spending the past eight years wintering in Florida with her friend Max Zoretix. They enjoyed activities at the Colony Hills clubhouse, and always encouraged family and friends to come visit and, "Spend the night!"

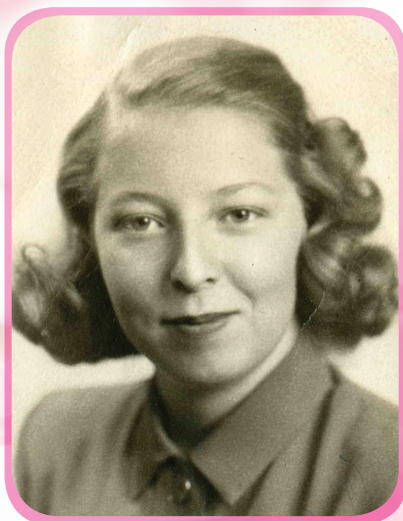
Shortly before a planned return to Babbitt, MN for the summer of 2018, Helen's health declined rapidly. She passed away peacefully on Wednesday evening the 2nd of May, at the Florida Hospital in Zephyrhills. She was surrounded by family and aware of our presence.

Helen is survived by her children, Al (Cindy) Weber, Mary Springborg, Kay Wettestad, Laurel (Doug) Poppler, and Elizabeth Poire, 11 grandchildren, 19+ great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Corrine, her two brothers Arnold and Lester, and her grandson Jayson Fyle.

Helen Yvonne Hamling. Mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and dearest friend. You're always in our hearts.



Celebrations of Helen's life



Babbitt Senior Center

Babbitt, MN

Thursday, June 14 at 4 p.m.

Pastor Ryan Denzer-Johnson

Thief Lake Church

Middle River, MN

Saturday, June 16 at 11 a.m.

Pastor Bob Dahlin

Music was very much an integral part of Helen's life.
She performed, recorded, and produced the songs played today.

*Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in Thy sight,
O Lord, my strength
and my redeemer.*

-Psalm 19