



Helen Payne Humes

June 24, 1935 - July 28, 2018

Helen Humes

She loved shoes. Dozens of pairs adorned her closet. Her children lovingly called her “Imelda”, as in Imelda Marcos, the shoe queen.

But for Helen Payne Humes, who passed away July 28th at age 83, the love of shoes was just a small slice of her full life. As anyone who knew her would attest, Helen was always put together, proper and professional.

Helen was raised in Nolin, Kentucky; graduated from Sonora, KY High School in 1953; became the second person hired at Hardin Memorial Hospital in 1953; got married and raised four children. Helen was a proud graduate of the University of Louisville and the first in her family to root for the Cardinals.

Helen had a remarkable career, helping bring hundreds of jobs to Kentucky and Indiana. She may have been proudest of her work as Executive Director of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce and President of the Elizabethtown/Hardin County Industrial Foundation. She helped attract the first wave of Japanese investment to Kentucky and became the first woman to be named president of the Kentucky Industrial Development Corporation. Helen helped establish the Heartland Festival; was in the inaugural class of Leadership Kentucky; helped form Leadership Elizabethtown and became the first female member of the E-town Rotary Club.

She won numerous awards for her success in luring jobs not just to Kentucky but Indiana as well, where she worked for the IN Dept of Commerce then led the economic development effort in Mooresville and Morgan County. Helen’s smile, outgoing personality and power of persuasion convinced company executives around the world to trust her and bring their businesses to her towns.

Helen was a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother who shared her generous gifts and heart with family and friends. Helen was preceded in death by her parents John H. and Maime Washer Payne, her brother Harold Payne and her longtime pet and companion, Misty.

She is survived by her children: John Humes of Louisville; Ronny (Pam) Humes of Franklin, Tn.; Melinda (Marc) Roberts of Elizabethtown and Lisa (Mark) Hebert of Louisville. Helen also had five grandchildren: Ashley (Dustin Stanley) Roberts; Laurel

(Wes Groth) Humes; Ethan Roberts; and Allison and Andrew Hebert. Emmi Groth was her only great grandchild. She was also close to several nieces and nephews and blessed with dozens of close friends who loved and laughed with her as much as she did with them.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, August 5th from 2-4 pm at the Thurman-Phillips House, 101 Broadway St, Sonora, KY. A graveside service will be held immediately following at Sonora Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any gifts be made to Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville or Hurstbourne Christian Church.

Cemetery

Sonora Cemetery

1440 Sonora Hardinsprings Rd. P. O.

Box 303

Sonora, KY, 42776

Events

AUG 5 **Celebration of Life Service** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

Thurman Phillips House

101 Broadway St., Sonora, KY, US, 42776

AUG 5 **Graveside Service** 04:30PM

Sonora Cemetery

1440 Sonora Hardinsprings Rd., Sonora, KY,
US, 42776

Comments



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen Payne Humes.



August 02, 2018 at 09:51 PM



“ I was privileged to serve a one year term as both Vice President and President of the Elizabethtown-Hardin County Chamber of Commerce while Helen was the Executive Director. She was indeed a ball of fire, working tirelessly for the betterment of the community she loved so much.

It was a great honor to work alongside her as we established the Heartland Festival and put the first parade on the street that last Saturday of August - 10 AM - right on time, just as she promised the Police Chief it would be. It was a pleasure to work with her as we planned the Leadership Elizabethtown program. And it was a huge feather in her cap, when working with Governor Martha Lane Collins and the Kentucky State Industrial Development folks, to convince the Japanese industrialists to bring Akebono Brake Systems to Elizabethtown. What a world of jobs that made possible for Elizabethtown-Hardin County residents! Her positive, can-do attitude, and her sincere power of persuasion helped bring other automotive related businesses to our area as well.

Working with Mayor Pritchard, Mr. Sam Dibble, Judge R R "Babe" Thomas and many others, she indeed helped pave the way for the commercial development and industrial growth this community continues to experience to this very day.

Her labors clearly made this world better than it was the day she came into this world. As her family, you have her legacy to be proud of. May God grant her a peaceful rest, and may He bless and keep all of you.

Frank D Bryan

Frank D Bryan - July 31, 2018 at 08:38 PM



“ Here is a Lady with warm smile and big heart, love by many, we are sorry for the lost of a friend.

Lamonte and Mimi Hornback - July 31, 2018 at 09:21 AM