



Shirley Jean Helmick

September 27, 1933 - August 18, 2021

Shirley Jean (Doty) Helmick, 87, passed away August 18, 2021, in Buckhannon WV. She was born and raised in Three Forks, MT, the youngest of four children of Rose Agnes Walbert from Willow Creek, MT and Orville William Doty from Bargersville, IN.

Shirley was a kind-hearted, gentle and humble person devoted to her husband and their six children. She spent the bulk of her adult life in Townsend, MT where she worked tirelessly to create happy memories and a warm comfortable home.

Shirley attended schools in Three Forks. After graduation, she was a telephone operator in Yellowstone Park. In Three Forks, she met Troy Helmick, a surveyor from Frenchton, WV working for the Bureau of Reclamation. They were married in 1954 and celebrated 64 years together.

In their early years, the couple lived in Northern Montana where Troy worked on Bureau of Reclamation projects in Box Elder and Tiber Dam. Eventually, the family were transferred to Canyon Ferry Dam near Helena in 1956 and then to Townsend in 1960 where they raised their children.

While running the household, Shirley was active in the community and worked full time as a grocery clerk, bank teller and later bookkeeper. Among her many

service roles were support to school events, Scouting, Home Extension Club, March of Dimes, craft fairs, fund raisers and other civic and social programs. She was a lifelong member of the Holy Cross Catholic parish in Townsend and served as Treasurer for local charities. She was a President of the American Legion Auxiliary and supported veterans, active-duty service members and their families through holiday teas honoring Gold Star Mothers, patriotic poster contests for school children and other activities. She belonged to the Townsend Jaycees Auxiliary and took an active role with the Broadwater County Historical Museum, the Military Affairs Committee, the World Atlatl Association and the Crimson Bluffs Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Association.

She retired from Lundy's Food Market in 1995 after 28 years. In retirement, she traveled throughout the region and visited family all across the country. Since 2018, she was in the loving hands of caregivers at Serenity Care Home in Buckhannon in close proximity to several family members.

She was preceded in death by her husband Troy, her parents, a brother William Doty of Sacramento, CA, a sister Virginia McViegh of San Francisco CA and her youngest daughter Char Pentecost of Helena, MT. She is survived by her brother Don Doty of Three Forks, MT and her children Rhonda Helmick, Buckhannon, WV, Brent (Lydia) Helmick, Marina, CA, Leslie (Joe) Owen, Buckhannon, WV, Dean (Pamela) Helmick, Plattsmouth, NE and Coleene (Jon) Rychalski, Alexandria, VA. Shirley had 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

A private funeral Mass for family will be held in West Virginia followed in the Spring of 2022 by a Memorial Service in Montana. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Broadwater County Museum, PO Box 614, Townsend, MT 59644, Montana State Historical Society, c/o Development, PO Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620, or American Legion Post 42 Auxiliary.

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ I was not fortunate to have met all of the family but I did want to share some memories That I have of Shirley and Troy. They were the sweethearts of Townsend, Montana. You would see them walking down The street hand and hand, which always gave you such a warm feeling seeing a couple in love. My husband and I were having lunch with them one day and I complimented Shirley on her hair, she leaned over and whispered in my ear, it's a wig. I am sure you will miss them, and you were very lucky to have had them as parents.

Janet and J.L. Jones - September 17, 2021 at 10:06 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Jean Helmick.



August 24, 2021 at 01:04 PM

MC

“ Rhonda and family, so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. May all the fond and happy memories you have help you through this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all



Miliie and Randy Calkins - August 23, 2021 at 06:17 PM

SR

“ My condolences to Leslie , Rhonda and the Helmick family. May she Rest In Peace.

Stan Rexroad - August 22, 2021 at 11:26 AM

DF

“ Dick and June Rychalski and Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Shirley Jean Helmick.



Dick and June Rychalski and Family - August 21, 2021 at 06:34 PM

BA

“ Rhonda, So sorry to read of your Mom's passing. Know that friends are thinking of you and pray for your comfort. Brenda Adams

Brenda S Adams - August 20, 2021 at 06:35 PM

SD

“ There are so many memories even though I only knew Shirley and Troy since 2003. Where Troy was, Shirley there right next to him. Both excellent role models for a good marriage, parents, and stewards for country. 💙💙💙

Sharon Doig - August 20, 2021 at 09:50 AM

LL

“ Shirley was a lady. A beautiful soft spoken lady with a wonderful smile. She was always dressed beautifully. Every thing about her was soft and feminine. Her children saw that she got the best care possible. Rhonda and Leslie saw that her hair and nails and skin were well cared for. They made sure her room was welcoming and decorated. They brought special treats for her to eat a donut or ice cream or a home cooked meal when they could. Covid came along and made everything difficult. Travel for Dean, Brent and Coleen was impossible. I hope they all find peace knowing they gave their all for mom. Bill and I are sincerely sorry for your loss.

Lynn Linger - August 19, 2021 at 09:30 PM

PT

“ Very sorry Rhonda to read of your mother's death. Tricia Tolliver

patricia tolliver - August 19, 2021 at 08:25 PM