



Helen Usedalo

May 20, 1915 - July 10, 2007

Helen was born May 20, 1915 in New York City as Helen Plachinski. She had a very difficult and ever changing childhood. Her older sister, Clara, died at the age of 8 and her mother died in the Great Influenza epidemic of 1920. Her father remarried and soon Helen had 3 half brothers: Alfred, Billy and Stanley. Helen remained in NYC and at the age of 18, she married Walter Usedalo. She birthed three daughters: Helene, Joan and Hope. Sadly, Helene died at age 3 from a genetic renal condition. Like many other families, they moved to a town in the suburbs, Seaford, Long Island. Life was good for a while. Unfortunately, the marriage of 12 years was dissolved and Helen began her life as a single mother of two children.

In order to take care of her small family, Helen knew she had to be resourceful and develop marketable skills. Over a period of years, she became a Fanny Farmer Candy store manager of both the Bayshore and Plainview locations. She received many accolades for her superior management skills. When the times changed, so did Helen. She sought employment in the booming electronics field and worked for a variety of companies such as Sperry Gyroscope and Grumman Aerospace. At Grumman Aerospace she worked on NASA space projects including building the LEM, lunar module. As a member of the Grumman crew, she was particularly excited to see the USA astronauts walk on the moon. She was proud to share many stories with her grandchildren about building the LEMs and all the precautions that were necessary. After all, she was born when horses pulled trolley cars up 5th Avenue and now she was able to participate in this great scientific event of the century.

After living 49 years in Seaford, Helen moved to Cary, North Carolina to be with her daughter, Hope and her family. Her other daughter, Joan, lived in Florida and Helen visited for major grandchildren events such as graduations and weddings. Helen insisted in maintaining her own home. She fixed everything herself with her tool box and plenty of ingenuity. She loved her gardens and spent many hours working outside among her flowers. Helen was also a wonderful neighbor. She watched over the older ladies on the block and shared her kitchen treats.

On July 10, 2007 Helen went to be with our Lord. We know she is very contented to be in that very happy place. Yet, we still miss seeing her by the kitchen window and miss hearing her unique solutions to the world problems.

We love you Mother, Grandma, Great Grandma, "Lamie" and dearest Friend.

Cemetery

Wake Memorial Park Cemetery

7002 Green Hope School Rd

Cary, NC, 27519