

Helen Botsch

April 10, 1925 - May 11, 2016

Helen Botsch was born at her parents' home in Bernie, Missouri, April 10, 1925, the second daughter of Edith Ramsey Harmon and Cleo Harmon. She graduated from Bernie High School in 1942, then attended Cape College and Central Michigan University, where she studied for a degree in music. Administrators at Bernie High School then persuaded her to leave college and come back to Bernie to teach music to all 12 grades and 9th grade English.



Born: April 10, 1925
Place of Birth: Bernie, MO
Death: May 11, 2016
Place of Death: Jefferson City, MO
Occupation: Music Teacher, Homemaker

Helen was united in marriage to Dennis Robert Botsch on Christmas Day, 1947, in Piggott, Arkansas. Together they operated a farm east of Bernie until illness forced Dennis to retire. He preceded her in death on March 27, 2005.

Helen was a member of the Bernie Jayceettes and convinced members to bring the Girl Scout program to Bernie in 1955. She helped plan the Bernie School reunions through their first 10 reunions. She volunteered weekly at the Poplar Bluff Veterans Hospital's Auxiliary for 29 years. A lifetime member of the Bernie United Methodist Church, she served as pianist then organist for 62 years. She organized the "Holy Week" services for the youth at the church and continued to plan them for 49 years. She also organized the "Chrismon Tree" program in 1981; the gold and white ornaments are still used today in the church sanctuary during the Christmas holidays.

Survivors include her daughter, Nancy Botsch Wilson, Jefferson City, and her son, Don Botsch, Bernie; three grandchildren: Dr. Tim Wilson and wife Dr. Lindsay Wilson, Evergreen, Colorado; Brad Wilson, Dallas, Texas and Libby Wilson, Jefferson City; and a great-grandson, Winter Joseph Wilson, Evergreen, Colorado; a brother, Bill Harmon and wife Ann, Swartz Creek, Michigan; two brothers-in-law, Erwin Botsch and Orlando Botsch, both of Bernie; and one sister-in-law, Virginia Harmon of Allen Park, Michigan; many nieces and nephews and their families.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Edith and Cleo Harmon, Her mother and father-in-law, Flora Winter Botsch and Christian Botsch; a sister & brother-in-law, Dorothy and Ralph Beckman; a brother, Robert Harmon; her brother-in-law, Ernest Botsch and his wife Dorothy; her sisters-in-law, Dorothy Botsch and Vivian Botsch; and her son-in-law, Dick Wilson.

Visitation will be held at 10:00 A.M. Saturday, May 14, 2016. Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 A.M. at Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home, Bernie, Missouri, with Rev. Dave Fowler and Rev. Susan Marner-Sides officiating.

Interment will follow in the Bernie Cemetery. Helen requested no flowers; she just wants everyone to do a good deed for someone!

Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home and Freeman Mortuary, Jefferson City, in charge of arrangements.

