



Helena Mirjami Ponkanen Andelin

April 7, 1949 - June 22, 2013

Our beautiful, faithful mother Helena Mirjami Ponkanen Andelin passed away in Salt Lake City at the age of sixty-four on June 22, 2013 of an unexpected stroke. She was born in Joensuu, Finland on April 7, 1949 to Finnish Karelian parents, Antti Olavi Ponkanen and Alina Halonen, the fifth of six children. At age 13 Helena joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She immigrated to the U.S. to attend BYU, where she fell in love with Brian Berry Andelin. They married on January 25, 1972 in the Los Angeles Temple and had seven children. As a young girl, Helena loved playing in the forests near her home, picking berries and flowers, and playing in the snow. She spent her life surrounding herself with beautiful things while seeking to enrich the lives of others through love and service. She loved the landscape and people of each place she lived: Finland, CA, MO, OR, TX, AZ, VA, and UT. She graduated from LDS Business College in Interior Design and loved learning and reading. She had been a member of the Utah Opera Guild. Her life work was that of a mother and a disciple of Jesus Christ. She loved serving her family and serving in the church. She was a modern pioneer who loved her family and made great sacrifices so they could enjoy the blessings of the gospel. She was eternally grateful to the LDS missionaries in Finland who taught her family. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Preceded in death by Brian B. Andelin, parents, brother Martti Ponkanen. Survived by children Karina (Karl) Brown of Nibley, UT; Tami (David) Owen of Draper, UT; Clark (Jessica) Andelin of Mexico, MO; Tanya (Dave) Gibson of Baltimore, MD; Joseph (Ivonne) of Draper, UT; Todd Andelin of Salt Lake City, UT, Brian Andelin of Provo, UT; twenty grandchildren, sisters Pirjo (Tero) Tarma of Finland; Raija Maddock (Bob) of Salt Lake City, UT; Liisa Higginbotham (Val) of South Jordan, UT; and brother Matti Ponkanen of Finland. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, July 1, 2013 in Salt Lake City, UT at the Emigration 21st Ward on 2nd Avenue (100 North) between J (650 East) and K (700 East) Streets. From Temple Square, go east on South Temple and turn north on K street to 2nd Avenue. Viewings will be at the same location on Sunday, June 30 from 6-8 p.m. and Monday at 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. prior to funeral. Interment at the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

CG

“ I just came across this obituary today, as I found a 1999 diary that I spent a blessed & hospitable time and dinner with the Andelin family (and her sister Raija playing the piano with Bob) around Christmas. I was so grateful to be invited before I left for Canada shortly. Helena was a warm, hospitable and caring person. I came to know her through Tami. You have a very lovely family. My sincere and deep condolences to the Andelins. I am sorry to learn your mum passed on three years ago, but she is in a better place with the Lord now. I was an international student at the UoU until 1999. May God bless you all abundantly. Chengsee Audrey Goh, Edmonton, Canada. Originally from Malaysia.

Chengsee Audrey Goh - December 01, 2016 at 01:50 AM

TO

Chengsee! I just read this! Thank you for your kind words! I would love to hear how you are doing!

Tami Andelin Owen - May 12, 2021 at 01:11 AM

JL

“ Dear Family of Helena Andelin, I was so sorry to read of Helena's passing. My cousin Don Wright, was one of those missionaries who came to their home in Finland and began to teach their family in the 1950's. She was always so grateful to him and kind. I saw her many times in the Temple. She was so faithful. Lots of Love, Paul & Jewel. P.S. Note from Paul. My deceased wife, Doris Armstrong Lefevor, I sure was a shirt tail relative to the Andelin Family. We visited with them several times in St. George. I was and still am impressed with your family. Sincerest regards and condolences. Paul

Jewel North Lefevor - July 25, 2013 at 02:04 PM

LO

“ I am sorry that I never met Helena. she sounds like a wonderful person. I love my Andelin heritage and am glad to know that Helena is in our family. My daughter, Debbie Orullian Skousen served her LDS mission in Finland. love to all, Linda

Linda L. Andelin Orullian - July 06, 2013 at 05:47 PM

JG

“ Dear Andelin Family, We became well acquainted with your mother at the Salt Lake Temple. She faithfully attended. Our caring to your family and especially to Tammy. John and I served with her in the Norway Mission. Stor Klem fra John og Elizabeth Gundersen

John & Elizabeth Gundersen - July 01, 2013 at 12:11 AM

CB

“ We loved Helena very much. From the first time we came to know her in the Stratford Ward, we were impressed with her faithfulness and her testimony. Her words strengthened me many times, and her example is one that we have talked about to others. The sterling family she raised is a testament to her goodness and faith. She was ever kind, and always had a compliment to give and an encouraging word. Our family joins yours in mourning her passing, and also in gratitude for her life.

Cara Buehner - June 30, 2013 at 02:09 PM

CA

“ To Helena's family: our family feels your loss. Our lives were blessed by all of you while we lived in Stratford ward. Helena was an unfailing light for the Gospel. I saw her a few weeks ago while visiting Salt Lake City and she told me she was happy, peaceful and grateful. God bless you. With love, Cathy Doot

CathyDoot - June 30, 2013 at 08:58 AM

DK

“ My heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Helena. I was blessed to know her for a short time as her home teacher. Helena loved the Lord, His Church, her family and her friends. While there will be a void in our lives here on earth I am certain Heaven and those who awaited her return are grateful to be reunited. Until we are reunited may we honor Helena by living and loving as she did. Brother William R Klinger, Home Teacher

Dr William R Klinger - June 29, 2013 at 12:25 PM