



## Helen Jean Dowson

July 8, 1938 - June 16, 2018

Helen Jean Dowson, 79, of Oxville passed away Saturday, June 16, 2018, at Passavant Hospital. She was born July 8, 1938, in Moweaqua the daughter of Thomas A and Edith Brown Dowson.

Surviving is sister, Joan (Laine) Comerford of Bluffs; nieces, Kristi (Terry) Allen of Oxville, Karen (Matt) Rueter of Winchester, Theresa Dowson, and Sarah Wilson; nephews, Chuck Dowson, Andrew Dowson, Jeff Dowson and Tom Dowson; great nieces, Ashley Noah of Blue Island, Mandi Dahman of Winchester and Mae and Lanie Rueter of Winchester and sister-in-law, Elizabeth "Betty" Dowson of Arenzville. She was preceded in death by brother, Thomas Edward Dowson; sister, Betty Dowson and niece, Mary Dowson.

Helen was a member of the Oxville Methodist Church. She was a former member of the Illinois Llama Association and an avid ambassador of the llama community. She was very active with the Crisis Center Foundation in Jacksonville and Bible Studies. Helen loved being on the farm and having children come out to visit the llamas.

A memorial service will be held 2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 24, 2018, at the Oxville Methodist Church. Memorials are suggested to the Oxville Methodist Church or the Southeast Llama Rescue.

# Comments

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“ Joan, Kristi, Heidi and family...

I just found out, today. It's very sad. I, as well as the entire Camp Care-A-Lot community will miss dear wonderful Helen. Helen and I met more than 25 years ago and she will always have a big place in my heart. Her generosity in bringing her llamas to camp was always special. Helen missed her calling. I always told her she should've been a teacher. Every time she talked to the campers about the llamas she made sure that she stressed the kids needed to know about science, math, and reading in order to take care of llamas and any other animals. The few years where she did not bring out the llamas, Helen did other activities with us. She came out several times for senior day and brought weaving activities to our carousel in the evenings. Everything she did, showed how much she loved and cared for children. In all of the years that I knew her, she hardly ever said no even though it was difficult sometimes for her to come out to camp. I always considered Helen a friend as well as a volunteer. That friendship was important to me. The last time I saw Helen was three summers ago when we bumped into each other at an automobile dealership in Springfield. At that time I found out that it was her birthday that week and she shared a birthday with my mother which made it even more special. They are together now and I hope they meet. Helen will be missed by all who knew her. I now have a small hole in my heart with her name. I will post this news on our former camper group and know that everyone who learned from her and were fortunate to get her hugs, will be sad.

**Eydee** - June 18, 2019 at 07:42 PM

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“ What always impressed me immediately was Helen's unerring judgement and resolve to do the best things. She spent her working years when a lot of opportunities were closed to women. Today, she'd be a CEO. If she was your boss, you'd be very happy and proud of it. Her opinions were well informed and convincing. But, she didn't offer, you had to ask.

Helen was above all, generous with her time, knowledge, wit and kindness. If I had to describe her in three words they would be smart, serene, and fearless.

**Shirley Baer** - June 24, 2018 at 09:52 PM

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“ I knew Helen from attending Christian Woman's club in Jacksonville at Hamiltons. she was on my calling list. She was a special lady, a good Christian. I know she loved the llamas; we attended your llama day one time. I will miss Helen. My prayers go out to her family. I purchased a luminiara at the Relay for Life this Friday.  
Nancy Wynn

**Nancy Wynn** - June 24, 2018 at 08:54 PM

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**S Kilver** - June 22, 2018 at 07:07 AM

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“ Helen was a very special and greatly loved woman by all who met or knew her! My favorite memory of Helen was seeing her surrounded by children learning all about llamas at Llama-O-Rama. She always had the greatest smile and a twinkle in her eye!

**Trish Purcell** - June 21, 2018 at 11:14 PM

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“ CONDOLENCES from Marc Mueller and family. Our prayers are with you in your time of sorrow.



**Marc Mueller** - June 21, 2018 at 10:34 PM

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“ I well remember the first time we met, my inquiry about llama and alpaca 4-H projects. It was a rainy day and I was late. We had hot tea and treats around Kristy's table. It was so comfortable and relaxing. From that day a friendship grew that included travels to several states and an admiration of a wonderful woman who loved Christ and lived her values. She had a tremendous influence on me. She was so giving and invited me to travel with her to deliver llamas and we could visit and drink a cup of tea anytime. My dear friend is gone but never forgotten, I consider it such a blessing to have known her and call her my friend.



**Helen Harshman-Edwards** - June 21, 2018 at 02:32 PM

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“ My condolences to your family. I enjoyed having Helen work for us and then later bringing her llamas to visit with the children. She was a very caring lady.  
Kathy Fellhauer  
Presbyterian Church Day Care Center

**Kathy Fellhauer** - June 20, 2018 at 01:14 PM

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“ Mrs. Comerford & Family, I am truly sorry for your loss. It has been a long time since I had seen or spoken to Helen. When you, Helen and Mom would get together Mom was always laughing. I remember her saying what a great time you all had together. Again, my condolences on your loss.

**Lasondra Brackett** - June 19, 2018 at 05:04 PM