



Helen Ortiz

April 29, 1934 - February 13, 2017

Helen D. J. Rocha Ortiz, 82, Topeka, passed away Monday, February 13, 2017.

Helen was born April 29, 1934, in Pauline, Kansas, the daughter of Panfilo and Antonia Perez Rocha. She married Staff Sergeant John Ortiz on February 14, 1958. Helen retired from Topeka State Hospital after 32 years of service. She worked for Capper Foundation and for 20 years was the daycare provider at First Presbyterian Church. Helen was a weekend nanny for three special boys, Alex, Daniel and Benny for many years. She volunteered for Capper Foundation and was an original member of the Hayden Mother's Club. Helen was an avid sports fan, a member of the Daughters of Isabella and member of St. Joseph and Assumption Catholic Churches. Helen was Godmother to many of her nieces and nephews and held a special place in her heart for all of them.

Helen is survived her daughter, Antoinette (Jorge Colon); son, John Ortiz (Lydia); grandchildren, Juan Catarino (Kela), Elena and Elizabeth; great-grandchildren, Kyler, Keaven and Kayson; sisters, Rose Lopez (Joe), Aurora King and Rosemary Gutierrez; nephew, Tom Soza (Judy); and many nieces and nephews in Topeka and Chicago. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and siblings, Frances Soza, Pilar Soza and Rudolph Rocha and niece, Ramona Krauss.

Special thanks to Helen's hairdresser, Jan Campmire, the staff at Atria Hearthstone and Caregivers Home Health.

Helen's family will greet friends from 2 until 4 p.m. Sunday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where the Daughters of Isabella will lead a rosary at 4 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at Mater Dei Assumption Church, 8th and Jackson Street.

Burial will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Church Restoration Fund or the Athletic Department at Hayden Catholic High School, sent in care of the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 19. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Rosary

FEB 19. 4:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Assumption Church
204 SW 8th St
Topeka, KS 66603

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Ortiz*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *John & Family,*

Very sorry to hear of the passing of your mom. My thought's and prayers are coming your way.

Jim Turgeon

Jim Turgeon - February 17, 2017 at 11:49 PM



“ *John and Toni and Family... my sincerest condolences to you all!... I remember all the years stopping by your Moms and getting the burritos she made for us on the Ozark trips... we loved spending time with her before we headed out...she always make us catch her up with all that happened over last year!... she was an amazing woman!... God bless you all from the Summers Family*



Joseph Summers - February 17, 2017 at 06:26 PM

MC

“ *To the Family of Helen Ortiz -
My sympathy and prayers are with you. I knew your mother through
my children - Jimmy and John were friends. She was a lovely
person. May she rest in peace.*

Mildred Collins

Mildred Collins - February 17, 2017 at 05:59 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Helen Ortiz.*



February 17, 2017 at 01:59 PM

LM

“ *Toni, John and family - My sympathies on the loss on your mom.
She was always a joy to be around. Sending my prayers to the
whole family.*

Lori Mello - February 17, 2017 at 12:40 PM

SP

“ *John and Family, I am so sorry to learn of your Mothers passing. I
can honestly tell you from the day I met her as student at
Assumption, she cheering you on at a cold and rainy football game,
and so very proud of you! From that point on every time I saw her
she had a beautiful smile, a twinkle in her eye and always a hug for
me - she had a way to make everyone feel special. She loved to talk
sports and about how proud of her family - she will definitely be
missed.*

Sherry Petrie-Fitzgerald - February 17, 2017 at 12:27 PM

MB

“ John, Toni and Family - My condolences. I just love the picture of Helen as that is the way I will ALWAYS remember her - with one of the warmest smiles around! I am pretty sure she ran as far as we did during the cross country meets in high school, and was always an inspiration to me! And those burritos.... I will keep you all in my prayers! God Bless.

Mark and Becky Buhler - February 17, 2017 at 10:14 AM

MA

“ Toni and family...I am so sorry to learn of your Mom's passing. She was always smiling! Sending thoughts and prayers to all of you!
Mary Atchley
Rob Messinger

Mary Atchley - February 17, 2017 at 09:57 AM

JS

“ Toni, John, and family - Our sympathies on the passing of your mom. She was always such a joy to be around. Prayers and love for you all.

John and Lori Spain - February 17, 2017 at 08:34 AM

MH

“ Michael & Antonette (Tetuan) Hubble lit a candle in memory of Helen Ortiz



Michael & Antonette (Tetuan) Hubble - February 17, 2017 at 12:16 AM

TN

“Helen you were like a 2nd Mom to me for so many years.. such a special lady.. you were there for me whenever I needed somebody to talk to... I will miss you so much.. will miss your loving hugs and your beautiful smile...love you forever Helen <3

Toni, John and Juan.. my heart is broken for you and your families.... we have all lost a special person in our lives... love and hugs xoxox

Tara Merkel Nicholas - February 16, 2017 at 07:47 PM

ME

“Our deepest sympathy on Helen's passing. Our love for Helen goes deep what a ray of sunshine everytime she entered a room. Her smile, laughter, kindness and love for everyone and everything. God knew how special his daughter is so, he needed her to come home..... another angel was needed. Oh I know how glorious that was when he welcomed her home with open arms. Our blessing to the family. Prayers and Love always and forever heart and soul. David/Dolores Martinez and Merci

Merci - February 16, 2017 at 03:34 PM

DG

“Toni and John so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She was always so sweet and welcoming every time we were lucky enough to see her. Smiles and great hugs she shared will be missed. May she rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon her. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time. Love, Danny & Margaret Garcia

Danny & Margaret Garcia - February 16, 2017 at 03:06 PM

BT

“ Toni and John,
So sorry to hear about your mom. Mrs. Ortiz was a special lady and I always remember her being at the basketball games with that smile on her face. Even when I might have been a little hard on John she always had that smile and a hug for me. She will be missed. Coach Taul

Bobby Taul - February 16, 2017 at 01:33 PM

BT

“ Dear John and Toni and Family,
Your Mom's smile lit up every room she ever walked into. She was always such a joy to be around, and she shared that joy with everyone. Memories of time spent with her and your family are something I'll always treasure. She was such a great friend to my parents, too. Sincerest sympathy and prayers to you and yours. -
Bob Tinsley

Bob Tinsley - February 16, 2017 at 08:13 AM

MB

“ Mrs. Ortiz, thank you for all of the times that you did babysitting for Michael and Ashley when they were at grade school age. You are a joyful person to be around and you will always be in our hearts. May peace be with your family

Mark Brown - February 16, 2017 at 12:28 AM

IA

“ To the family of Helen Ortiz.....Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We are so very sorry for your loss. I will remember Helen with a smile...no matter when and where I saw her she always greeted us with a beautiful smile. May she rest in peace.....and peace be with all of family.



*Keith & Isabel Adams
Tecumseh, KS*

Isabel adams - February 15, 2017 at 10:24 PM

MM

“ Mickey Munoz lit a candle in memory of Helen Ortiz



Mickey Munoz - February 15, 2017 at 06:06 PM

CF

“ I so sorry to hear about your mom. She was awesome Woman. The Frank & Molly Cervantez Family will truly miss her & our prays are with uou all. God rest her soul. The Cervantez Family.



Carol Cervantez-Martindale & Family - February 15, 2017 at 03:08 PM

TS

“ So sorry to hear about Helen's sudden passing. Will certainly miss Helen smiling face. She was very active in our women organization, the Daughters of Isabella. Picked her up occasionally for other functions like the Passion Play. She was always so pleasant, friendly, and outgoing. I grew up in Alexandria, Louisiana and she shared some of her military experiences when they were stationed in that area. Also her love for sports. My son attended Hayden and played basketball so we talked quite a bit about Hayden. She is with our eternal father in heaven.

Theresa M. Smith-Lawton - February 15, 2017 at 10:50 AM

MR

May she RIP , she was a good friend , we shared a lot being widows of Vietnam vets We attended exercise classes at SV rehab center. She will be missed as an active member of Dof I , past treasurer. also we shared a love of sports . She loved to talk about her children and grandchildren .I believe Helen is at Peace and reunited with your DAD . My condolences ,Mary Rovaris

mary rovaris - February 15, 2017 at 11:37 AM

NW

So sorry to hear of your loss. She was a beautiful woman inside and out. Always had a ready smile and a positive attitude about everything and everyone. She will always remain in our thoughts and prayers. Larry Nancy and Jason White I

nancy white - February 15, 2017 at 05:30 PM

TM

our deepest sympathy. May she rest in peace. Wayne and Theresa McNary

Theresa McNary - February 15, 2017 at 07:59 PM

RH

Helen had a million dollar smile that lit up the world and brightened the day of those around her. We talked with her at church every chance we got. She will be missed! May she rest in peace! Larry and Rose Herman

Rose Herman - February 15, 2017 at 09:25 PM

JL

*Helen knew and lived the message of loving God and loving others everywhere she was and in everything she did. Helen and her life of service is what love looks like. We will miss her smile, her laugh and her caring, sharing heart. Well done our dear friend! May she rest in the light, love, peace and presence of our Lord forever.
Jim & Maureen Leiker & family*

Jim Leiker - February 16, 2017 at 05:06 PM

BD

Toni and John and family, So sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was a wonderful soul who had an infectious smile. May she rest in peace and may you have peace knowing she is with the Lord. Barb (Tinsley) DeWalt

Barbara DeWalt - February 16, 2017 at 06:49 PM

JC

Tony and John I have felt honored to have gotten to know your mom and to be considered a friend of hers. While doing her hair each week she shared so many family stories with me of her life, you two kids, and grandchildren. Her family was everything to her. She had many friends at the hair salon. Oh and of course we always had to discuss all the high school scores from the night before both in basketball, and football. May her soul rest in peace. She will be waiting for all us to join her one day. Love and peace to you Tony and John and hold onto the memories of this wonderful lady you called MOM.

Janet Campmire - February 18, 2017 at 03:46 PM