



Helen M. Derasmo

February 2, 1943 - March 23, 2025

Helen M. (Bodnar) Derasmo, 82, of Eatontown NJ, peacefully passed away at her home on Sunday, March 23, 2025. Helen was born in Perth Amboy, she grew up in Keasby and attended schools in Woodbridge Township, NJ.

Helen was preceded by her late parents John and Helen Bodnar and her three brothers Richard Bodnar (2018), John Bodnar (2019), Robert Bodnar (2025) and nephew Sean Bodnar. She is survived by her sister in laws, Rose Ann Bodnar (Richard), Patricia Bodnar (John) and Ursula Bodnar (Robert), her nephew, Shayne Bodnar, her niece, Jennie (Bodnar) Piperi and her spouse Brian Piperi, her great niece and nephews, Kyle, Sean and Amber, Cousins Steve, Joyce and Stephen Angyal and their children Cheryl and Matthew Angyal and and her lovely friends and neighbors.

Helen worked most her entire career at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey with various positions until her retirement. Helen enjoyed traveling and cooking traditional Hungarian dishes and would share her food and recipes with all that asked. Helen always sent cards to celebrate all occasions and always ensured that Santa mailed cards during Christmas with reindeer food. She was a very kind and generous soul to everyone that she met and will be greatly missed by many.

A memorial gathering will be held at the Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400

Shafto Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07712 on Friday, March 28, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. with a service starting at 12 noon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Helen's memory to St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, <https://www.stjude.org/>

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR **28**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home
2400 Shafto Road
Tinton Falls, NJ

Tribute Wall

AK

“Helen and I shared a love for baking/cooking. Her cranberry muffins were wonderful, as were all her cookies. And as much as I tried, I just can't replicate her cabbage roll recipe. But I'm going to keep making it, and toast to Helen when Joseph and I eat it. ~Amy Kormann

Amy Kormann - March 28, 2025 at 06:53 PM

PF

“Dear family of Helen, on behalf of the Berger family we are so sad to hear of Helen's passing. I was 10 when Helen came into our lives. My parents were very close to Helen and her then husband who work along side my Father at Asplundh. They traveled together and dinners together. Helen was my second mom. Helen was there for me when my mom passed and we enjoyed phone calls for hours. Helen will always hold a very special place in my heart. Fly free Helen and I really hope you find my parents to catch up on all things in heaven. Please accept my deepest sympathy. She really was a special person.

Peggy Berger and family - March 28, 2025 at 10:43 AM

BC

“Helen cherished her friends and friendships. I am fortunate to have been one of those friendships that spanned 40+ years. Our most recent friends lunch took place on March 4th and little did I know it would be our last. Rest in peace Helen.

Bob Calvello - March 28, 2025 at 06:39 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Helen M. Derasmo.

March 27, 2025 at 06:27 PM

“ I’m extremely saddened to hear of the passing of my dear friend Helen Derasmo.

I met Helen at Fort Monmouth in the late 1980s when we were selected by our separate organizations to work on a unique project that placed the many Project Manager Offices into two distinct organizations. The project was a significant undertaking, and it was there I witnessed Helen’s exceptional problem-solving skills, which allowed her to address many challenges and develop the best solutions.

A few years later I had the opportunity to hire Helen into the organization I was in, and we worked on many projects together. Working alongside Helen was not only a privilege but a profound learning experience. Her intelligence showed in every task she was given, demonstrating a commitment and dedication that was inspiring. She put 100% into her work.

Beyond her professional abilities, Helen exemplified kindness and generosity. She was always willing to extend a helping hand to her colleagues, offering her extensive knowledge and support without hesitation.

I will always cherish the memories we created together and the adventures which especially now are bittersweet. I remember one time when we were at the Pentagon, and our meeting ran quite late. We were driving home, and I took a wrong turn. We were on some dark road in Washington DC, not sure which way to go, (way before GPS). Helen had me pull over, and she rolled down her window and looked up at the sky. I asked, “Are you looking for the North Star?” Helen’s reply, “No I’m looking at the directions of the planes. I know we’re not far from Washington National Airport and if we go in that direction, I know our way from there.” Sure enough, Helen got us on the right road home. It’s memories like these I will cherish forever.

Helen, I love you and will always remember you.

Cathy Heyn - March 26, 2025 at 08:00 PM

JA

“ To Helen’s Family, Friends and Neighbors,

I am so sad to hear about Helen’s passing. My heart goes out to all of you.

I was privileged to work with Helen at Fort Monmouth for many years. We met in the 1980’s and had been good friends ever since. Helen was very smart, kind, generous, hardworking and honest. We worked on many projects together. She was a very sharp analyst who was always thinking and questioning to come up with the best solutions to problems.

Helen taught me so much in my professional and personal life. We were friends for 40 years and shared lots of stories on late night phone calls. I am very grateful I got to see Helen a couple of times in the last month.

RIP Helen. You were a dear friend. Thanks for everything. I will never forget all that you did for me.

*With my deepest sympathy and love,
Janice Askinazi*

Janice Askinazi - March 26, 2025 at 11:23 AM

LC

“ I met Helen back in the late '70s or early 80s when we both worked at Fort Monmouth. I had the privilege of being her boss in at least 2 different positions. She was a joy to work with. We shared many laughs as well as some difficult times through which we persevered together. I will always remember the kindness that she displayed to my young son when he was enthralled by tree service men, something she knew about. We didn't socialize much after we each retired, but whenever we did, we again shared some good times. A quality person who is remembered fondly.

Lou Catalano - March 25, 2025 at 10:06 AM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Helen M. Derasmo



Bongarzone Funeral Home - March 24, 2025 at 09:29 PM

LA

“ Dearest Helen, I am saddened by your sudden passing. You were my sister in laws neighbor- yet you touched my own family's hearts more than any 'neighbor' I have known. You are one of the kindest people I have ever met, I mean that sincerely. My fondest memory of you is when my children received a letter from Santa with confetti and sparkles from Santa's reindeer! Not only did you give my children the spirit of Christmas, but you touched myself and my husband as well. You were there for us at birthdays, celebrations-- I remember your presence at many happy events !!
You were also there during the worst of times for our family. My last memory of you was just a few weeks ago at my father-in- laws funeral.
Knowing how much impact you've had on my little family- as my sister-in-laws neighbor- I can only imagine how many other hearts you have touched and are now broken hearing this devastating news.
We Love you Helen, may you rest in peace,
- Lauren, Vito, Geno, & Sophia Inghilleri

lauren - March 24, 2025 at 03:24 PM

BL

Dear Helen,
Who knew that when I met you 33 years ago, you would become my best friend. We shared many happy times together as well as many sad times together. I am forever grateful for you. You've touched my heart and soul with your kindness and understanding.

Rest in peace my dear friend,
Love your BFF - Bina La Rosa

Benedetta Larosa - March 24, 2025 at 04:31 PM

JK

Oh Helen. We had many good times talking and kibbitzing about people. You were a great neighbor and friend.

Rest in piece. I know you're giving someone up there the side-eye and looking to chat with someone.

Joseph K.

Joseph K - March 27, 2025 at 07:08 PM