



Helena Ritchie Arel

March 10, 1918 - January 1, 2016

Helena "Honey" M. Ritchie Arel, 97, of New Britain, widow of George R. Arel, passed away peacefully Friday January 1, 2016 at Jerome Home in New Britain. Born March 10, 1918 and was native and lifelong New Britain resident, she was the daughter of the late Frank J. and Odna Lagasse Ritchie. She was a graduate of New Britain High School, class of 1936, and of the New Britain General Hospital School of Nursing in 1939. Helena was a registered nurse at New Britain General Hospital followed by working for Doctors Kaplan, LaCava and then Dr. Harold Bosco. During her tenure at NBGH, she attended to a young man who turned out to be the love of her life George R. Arel and they married in November of 1939. She later was an industrial nurse for 17 years at Fafnir Bearing Company, retiring in 1981. Helena was a member of St. Maurice Church in New Britain.

Surviving are three sons, Roger Arel and his wife Dorothy of McKinney, TX; William Arel and his wife Judith of Unionville; and George Arel Jr. of Hebron; 2 daughters, Judith Grasso and her husband Louis of Plainville and Janice Melechinsky and her husband Mark of New Britain. She also leaves behind her loving grandchildren, Audrey Duncan, Cindy Coats, Gary Grasso, Joseph Grasso, Andrew Arel, Nathan Arel, Jocelyn Hall, Timothy Melechinsky, Robyn Melechinsky, Allison Arel, Sarah Arel, Jessica Arel; beloved great grandchildren Brandon McDonnell, Nick McDonnell and Dylan Duncan; and several nieces and nephews. Besides her husband George, she was predeceased by two sisters, Irene Varhol of Bristol and Doris Decker of

Southington; three brothers, Francis Ritchie of Bristol; and William and Robert Ritchie, both who lost their lives in WWII.

The family would like to express their thanks for the excellent care that Jerome Home had provided Helena over the past seven years. A special thanks to the day staff of the North Wing.

Calling hours are Tuesday morning 8:30 to 9:30AM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain followed by a Mass of Christian Burial 10 AM at St. Maurice Church, 100 Wightman Rd., New Britain, CT 06052. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Maurice Church or to a charity of the donor's choice. Please share a memory or note of sympathy by "clicking" SEND CONDOLENCES at the bottom of the page.

Tribute Wall

AW

“ Dearest Aunt Helen was an amazing and wonderful person. I loved her smile and laugh. The Arel family has an incredible sense of humor that we all enjoyed, especially Aunt Helen. I've always been honored to be a part of this family and even more honored to be Mrs. George Arel also. I wanted so much to be with all of you today but couldn't. Please know that I'm thinking of you and praying for comfort for each of you. Much love, Addie

Addie Whitman-Arel - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PV

“ I will always remember our visits and your dog Augie and George's drums. Good times. Please say hello to my wife Margaret. I already know you are having dinner with your sisters, sister in-law and parents. God Bless. Love Never Ends.

Paul Varhol - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ My sweet Honey. She was the nurse at the hospital where I was born and gave me my first bath and shot over 51 years ago! I remember her telling me years ago that she still dreamed of Grandpa every night. While I am sad that she is gone, I know she is with Grandpa now, and is happy and at peace.

Audrey Duncan - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ We love you Honey, rest in peace and go find Grandpa!❤️❤️❤️
One of my last memories was when you came to Texas to visit and
you loved my dog, piglet so much. She would stay at moms with
you while you were visiting. Wish we could have seen you more.
You'll be missed and always loved!

Cindy Coats - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM