



## Helen Clara Burgess

December 9, 1921 - May 5, 2020

Helen C Burgess, age 98, formerly of Dixon died Tuesday May 5, 2020 at the home of her daughter in Princeton where she was cared for by Paula. Helen was born in Dixon on Dec. 9, 1921 to George and Clara (Rudolph) Walker. She graduated from Dixon High School in 1940, and graduated from KSB Nursing School in 1943. Becoming a Registered Nurse, she worked in Chicago for one year in the Pediatric Unit at the Illinois Research Hospital. In 1944 she joined the US Army and served as an Army Nurse. She served in France, England, and Germany during the Battle of the Bulge. Helen and her daughter Paula went on the Honor Flight to Washington DC, in which she was honored as a World War II veteran. This meant the world to her. Helen was so proud of her service in the Army

She worked at the Dixon Developmental Center for 18 years. She loved her job at Heritage Square, which was her last job. She worked as a nurse for 51 years and retired at age 75.

In 1950 she was united in marriage to Herbert J Burgess at St Patrick Church with the late Msgr. Father Green officiating. He preceded her in death on Nov. 5, 2009.

Helen enjoyed knitting small dish clothes which she would give to relatives and friends. She also enjoyed word search books, walking, and riding her recumbent bike. Helen loved to bowl with the seniors and loved aqua exercise. She was a Red Hat Lady and a member of the American Legion. As Helen's health declined, she moved to Princeton, where her daughter

cared for her in her home for the last eleven years. Helen was so kind to everyone. She never knew a stranger. Helen's friends were Paula's friends and Paula's friends were Helen's.

She is survived by two children Michael (Linda) Burgess of Dixon and Paula (David) Nield of Princeton; grandchildren Lindsie (Dale) Doran, Kaitlin Thompson, Connor Thompson, Jamie Saracino, Danielle Collingsworth and Tyler Burgess; 15 great grandchildren and 2 great, great grandchildren. She enjoyed and loved all of her grandchildren as well as her Golden Doodle, Zoe, who was always by her side.

She was preceded in death by her parents, infant daughter Diane Louise, one son Thomas Burgess, one grandson Jeremy Burgess, one brother Ferris Walker, and two sisters Fredda Hoffman and Betty Phillips.

We never want to forget all the love and care Rachel - her caretaker- gave to Helen while Paula was at work. Sometimes friends are family too.

A private family visitation will be held on Friday May 8th at the Jones Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday at St Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon.

The family will hold a mass and celebration of life luncheon for others to attend sometime this summer. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to the Wounded Warrior Project.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood

416 S Dement Ave  
Dixon, IL 61021

## Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Clara Burgess*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Helen Clara Burgess*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Paula,  
Thinking of you and remembering all the wonderful memories I have of your beautiful mother. She was one of my 1st mentors as I began my nursing career at Heritage Square. I loved when I had a chance to visit with her over the recent years and thank you for that. Her smile will be in my memory always. What a beautiful soul.  
Jan Pistole*

**Jan Pistole** - May 12, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ *I'm very sorry for your loss Paula, your mom was a wonderful person. I enjoyed our visits while she got her massage, I was a lucky recipient of one of her dish towels as well. God Bless  
Judy Grubb*

**judy** - May 09, 2020 at 12:30 PM



“ *So very sorry for your loss. Helen was a very special lady.  
Steve and Denise Smith*

**Denise Smith** - May 09, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ Paula, Im so sorry to hear about the loss of your sweet momma. Sending "air hugs" and of course prayers for you. You were blessed to have her with you for these last 11 years and may those memories bring a smile to your face. Blessings, Randy and Sara Ortgiesen

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**Sara Ortgiesen** - May 08, 2020 at 05:22 PM

AF

“ I'm fortunate enough to have several of those knit dish clothes. A heavy heart follows the hearing of the news of your loss. Heartfelt condolences to Paula and the family, prayers for perpetual peace for Helen, a nod of gratitude for her life of service, and a congratulatory salute for an extraordinary and exemplary life so fully and well lived.  
God rest her soul.

*Fischer family.*

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**Anthony Fischer** - May 08, 2020 at 04:56 PM

CC

“ Helen's obituary and a picture publish in the Telegraph when she went on the Honor Flight has been posted on a Facebook site called KSB friends reunite.

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**Connie Smothers Cross** - May 08, 2020 at 01:56 PM

CC

“ I got to visit with Helen a few years ago when she came to visit her sister Fredda at her apartment. Fredda kept telling me things about Helen....she had no idea I had know Helen as a nurse for many years. So we let her know 😊 We all enrich our lives by the people we meet.

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**connie smothers cross** - May 08, 2020 at 01:49 PM

JS

“ Mike and Paula, I am sorry for your loss. She was such a nice lady.

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**Jack Schrauth** - May 07, 2020 at 12:59 PM