



Helen Rutyna

July 30, 1918 - February 2, 2012

Helen Rutyna, age 93, passed away February 2, 2012 at her home in Detroit, Michigan. Helen was born July 30, 1918 in Hamtramck, Michigan to the late Joseph and Anna Kaminski. Beloved wife of the late Chester. Loving mother of Raymond, Dennis (Penny) and Sylvia (Roger) Denome. Dear grandmother of Theron and Martin Rutyna. Predeceased by three brothers and two sisters.

Previous Events

Service

FEB 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady Queen of Heaven
8200 Rolyat
Detroit, Mi

Tribute Wall



“ Today is the 40th anniversary of Helen's husband, Chester, who passed away on this date in 1983. It is one day after the birthdate for Polish scientist, Nicholas Copernicus, known for his discovery of the heliocentric order of our universe..Chester attended Copernicus High School in Hamtramck.He was a good husband and father. "Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.Amen "

Ray Rutyna - August 19, 2023 at 05:09 PM



“ July 30 every year we celebrated Mom's Birthday as one of the highlights of Summer. Dad had his vacation / layoff time from work at this time which made it more special. Happy 105th Birthday Mom! "Eternal rest grant unto her....."

Ray Rutyna - July 30, 2023 at 10:35 AM



“ On Father's Day we remember Chester, Helen's husband and our Dad. He was a good provider and always gave his best so that we had a good start in life. Handy with household skills, he improved the household by using his talents to upgrade our family's environment. Born on January 9, 1917 Chester passed away on August 19, 1983. We will always remember him as the rock of our family. Rest In Peace!

Ray Rutyna - June 18, 2023 at 07:27 AM

RR

“ A word of thanks on MEMORIAL DAY to all in the funeral and mortuary profession who make the preparations for the final 'GOOD BYE' to all who lost their lives through serving in the armed forces.

Ray Rutyna - May 29, 2023 at 07:52 PM

RR

“ On Mother's Day 2023 we remember Helen who always put forth her best efforts for our family. She was creative in many areas including the visual arts with paintings and the creative crafts of sewing that she liked so much. She also was gifted in church singing and cooking with her culinary skills. Thank You Helen for all that you did. Born on July 30, 1918, Helen passed away on February 2, 2012. Eternal Rest grant unto her oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she and all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Ray Rutyna - May 14, 2023 at 08:14 PM

RR

“ Easter Sunday, one of the big holidays, was about both the religious and secular aspects of the holiday. The Easter Triduum was the church services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Those were followed by the Sunday service and the celebrations which were all after Church services and about the traditional foods that were served. Mom excelled at preparing a feast for the occasion. My favorite was the Easter Egg Soup (Chowder) that had three meats and eggs in a creamy broth, served with a spoonful of horse radish for that special zing! When we were kids that morning was about the hunt for goodies and the Easter baskets that were filled with holiday candy. Of course the holiday ham was the focal point of the main meal. It was served with all the sides and trimmings you could imagine after filling the house with delicious aromas during the several hours that it was cooked. Fond memories of days gone by during the change from Winter to springtime in Detroit, Michigan.

Ray Rutyna - April 08, 2023 at 06:09 AM



“ This year the warm weather of summer and fall has been replaced by a very cold start to winter and the snow that everyone looked forward to falling for Christmas time. Blizzard snowfalls and 0* temperatures have delayed many travel plans. We always celebrated the holiday at home and Helen, our Mom, made the preparations including festive food, decorations and presents for all to enjoy. She began all of those when fall came around and kept them all a secret until the big day when all were astounded to see the results. After church services we all enjoyed the things that made Christmas the most special time of the year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023 Mom!

Ray Rutyna - December 24, 2022 at 05:19 AM



“ Many thanks to our Mom, Helen, for the great Thanksgiving dinners that were always our favorite holiday. She never skimped on any of the courses, making the full compliment of treats that lasted into the following week as the leftovers tasted even better then because we knew they could not last forever. The Lions football game and the parade downtown never quite matched the highlight of the day which involved a lot of work in preparing for the annual event. From the early smell of the roasting turkey, to the last snack of fixings, it was always thoughtfully prepared and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Ray Rutyna - November 21, 2022 at 09:26 AM



“ Halloween was always a fun time when we were kids and Mom took us around the neighborhood to collect our "booty" of treats. Later on we were on our own while she handed out the treats at our house. She always enjoyed it a lot and I think she lived it vicariously as folks didn't do the big celebration much during the Depression.

Ray Rutyna - October 21, 2022 at 09:47 AM



“ Remembering our Dad and Helen's husband, Chester, who passed away on August 19, 1983. Among his lifetime events was serving in the U.S. Army during World War (European theater/ Battle of the Bulge) when he attained the rank of corporal. He was a good head of the family and did many things for us which can be found in my yearly comments for that date. "Eternal rest grant unto him oh Lord....."

Ray Rutyna - August 17, 2022 at 11:14 AM



“ Happy Birthday Helen on July 30! Born in 1918 she would have been 104 years old this Saturday. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.....

Ray Rutyna - July 25, 2022 at 09:01 AM



“ FATHERS DAY 2022 comes with a heat wave that broke the record in Detroit. An early Summer to be sure. Mom's partner in life was CHESTER J. RUTYNA, father to Raymond, Dennis and Sylvia. He was a good provider, and always working around the house to improve it for his family. We were fortunate to have had his work ethic and generosity in our formative years. He worked at Champion Spark Plug Co. in Hamtramck and Detroit and took a military leave during WWII when he served in the U.S. Army and attained the rank of Corporal TEC5. He is at rest in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, next to Mom. "Eternal Rest grant unto him...."

Ray Rutyna - June 17, 2022 at 10:29 AM

RR

“ HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2022 ! The new year is always ushered in with gunfire in Detroit, and it's not a recent fad. It goes back to early years and even Dad got out his Luger once a year for the big event. Mom would always turn in early to get at least some sleep before the start of the big bangs. But she was also up early, fixing the traditional holiday meal. Holidays were times of special foods and Helen always did the menu complete with all the expected foods, including special deserts. This year we are hoping for safe gatherings of friends and relatives due to the "Pandemic". It has spiked upward in recent days which has everyone including undertakers pleading with the public to be vigilant and safe.

Ray Rutyna - December 30, 2021 at 10:28 AM

RR

“ Christmas always brings the season of shopping for gifts as well as foods of all kinds. Yesterday I was reminded of that when out for some fruits and veggies. Mom told us of a memory from her childhood in a large family growing up in near poverty in Hamtramck. She said that for many holidays all they got for gifts was one orange for each kid. And that meant a lot since those were a rare treat. So, I paid about \$5.00 for a big bag holding over a dozen oranges..... and I remembered her story. Merry Christmas Helen!

Ray Rutyna - December 15, 2021 at 12:36 PM

RR

“ Our Thanksgiving Dinner was always the best. We enjoyed a full menu of all the traditional food that was cooked to perfection! No one did it better than Mom. Thanks!

Ray Rutyna - November 19, 2021 at 09:13 AM

RR

“ The spooky time of the year returns with another Halloween, and this year a more traditional one that was missing due to the COVID-19 virus which cancelled last year's event for the most part. Memories of the "begging" for candy as kids going around the neighborhood still "haunt". (Our cry was "Help the poor!" not "trick or treat"). Memories of the costumes and decorations also return. Halloween is for kids and good to see them still doing what we once did. Mom enjoyed it as well, especially giving out the treats to all who came to our door. And she made sure that we ate only a little, saving some for later days.

Ray Rutyna - November 01, 2021 at 09:45 AM

RR

“ Today is the 38th anniversary of Dad's passing on August 19, 1983 at St. John's Hospital at about 5:00 a.m. He was a good Father to our family being very supportive and a good provider for Helen, our Mom, as well as the family's needs. Some of his history can be found by scrolling down to that date for each of the years gone by. I visited his grave at Mt. Olivet Cemetery this morning to water the flowers and relive the memories. "Eternal Rest grant unto him....."

Ray Rutyna - August 19, 2021 at 10:24 AM

RR

“ Helen would be celebrating her 103rd year on Friday, July 30. She was born on that date in 1918. Not enough room on the cake for all those candles! But she has a nice gravesite at Mt. Olivet Cemetery and the ceremony through Wasik's Funeral Home was memorable. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM!**

Ray Rutyna - July 27, 2021 at 09:08 AM

RR

“ "Happy 4th of July!" It always included a B-B-Q by Dad and special treats from Mom during the day and fun time at night watching the fireworks in the neighborhood. We also went downtown for the big show on the river where people spread out blankets to watch the displays of pyrotechnics. Those are substituted this year by TV productions.

Ray Rutyna - July 02, 2021 at 08:42 AM

RR

“ Happy Fathers Day to Chester "Barney" Rutyna, Helen's husband and our Dad. He was born in 1917, attended Copernicus High School in Hamtramck, worked his entire lifetime for Champion Spark Plug Company. and served in the Army during World War II. Dad was always a role model father, being a dependable provider, handy around the house by constantly improving it, and a family leader for all sorts of outings and vacations, attendance at sporting events, and making sure that everybody had what they needed. He passed away in August of 1983 at the age of 66. May he rest in peace.

Ray Rutyna - June 18, 2021 at 01:17 PM

RR

“ On Memorial Day we salute Helen's husband and our Dad, Chester, who served in the U.S. Army during WWII. One of the memories is of hearing war stories he told, many times during a rain storm while sitting on the front porch. His tales of the recon missions brought the conflict alive to us. He also had a stash of war items like medals, patches, ribbons, and some weapons. The multi - volumes set of a pictorial history of the war made the collection significant if not pleasant. This day was intended to remember the many conflicts and the men and women who sometimes paid the ultimate price of their lives. A visit to the cemetery or a simple remembering fits the intended intention.

Ray Rutyna - May 30, 2021 at 02:41 PM

RR

“ **HAPPY MOTHERS DAY MAY 9, 2021!**

Among my memories of Helen are the creative things that she did. Besides keeping up with all the housework and raising three kids, she found time to do sewing of all kinds, including making cross stitch, knitting, quilting, needlepoint, and making clothes. One of her most ambitious projects was to sew an entire three piece suit for me that included jacket, pants and vest. Sweaters and shirts were also among the items she made. It was one of her talents that may not have seemed like much at the time, but seen in total recall, those were very ambitious and greatly appreciated.

Ray Rutyna - May 02, 2021 at 07:50 AM

RR

“ *Spring and the full moon bring the Easter season and memories of the egg hunts, chocolate rabbits and the Polish ethnic food we enjoyed. The elaborate religious liturgies were an important part of all the festivities as well. There, on Easter Sunday, kids everywhere wore their new clothes that were bought for the occasion. This important holiday also symbolized the end of winter and the coming of summer. All these things were a part of family life as we knew it when our Mom, Helen, presided over them.*

Ray Rutyna - March 30, 2021 at 08:55 AM

RR

“ *Tonight marks the ninth anniversary of Mom's last night on earth. I found her early in the pre dawn morning of February 2nd, 2012. She would have been 103 years old this July. A rosary was with her mortal remains. Eternal Rest grant unto her.....*

Ray Rutyna - February 01, 2021 at 01:13 PM

RR

“ My earliest memory is the big build up to the most celebrated holiday of the year. We had all that the day offered with both secular and religious traditions. The decorations and presents were at the top of the list for us kids, but Mom always made sure that we also observed the religious aspects by attending services on Christmas Day and later the midnight Mass, which gave us the whole day following, for the food and presents. Christmas Day was also the quietest time outside of our house in the neighborhood as the other families enjoyed similar and private celebrations. Peace on Earth seemingly did come true for most on that day. Helen enjoyed it all, making sure that we enjoyed the things that she missed during her own childhood, having been raised in a large family of limited resources during the Great Depression. I'm thankful that we got treated to the things that she missed out on. MERRY CHRISTMAS! to our family of Helen, Chester, Dennis, and Sylvia who lived at the little house on Beland Street long ago. A child's imagination makes the stories taught very real. Mom liked to tell about me, the first one to get up and exclaim: "He was here.....He was here!" ----- Raymond

Ray Rutyna - December 21, 2020 at 07:43 AM

RR

“ The traditions of Thanksgiving food and family shared in past years are not possible this year because of the COVID-19 virus that has everybody staying safe. No parade or football crowd or dining out. But the memories of the better days are what remain. Everyone remembers being home and the best meal of the year. Mom never disappointed with the family feast. There was always enough to have seconds and more for several days after the holiday. Helen worked hard to make each year better than the last. There was always more than one of everything including the main dish, the sides and the deserts. She did more than most in the small kitchen we called home. We are eternally thankful for her efforts! HAPPY THANKSGIVING MOM!

Ray Rutyna - November 24, 2020 at 09:11 AM

RR

“ Halloween was always for kids when we were growing up and Mom made the most of it for us. From the costumes to the candy and special food it all made for a memorable occasion that included "begging" for treats in the neighborhood. Helen also took time to decorate the house with the season's colorful attractions. Thanks to her we now enjoy fond memories of those innocent and fun filled days.

Ray Rutyna - October 27, 2020 at 09:24 AM

RR

“ Helen's husband, and our Dad, passed away very early in the morning on August 19, 1983 at St. John's Hospital in Detroit. Mom, a Priest, and me were there for his last moments. Chester worked at Champion Spark Plug Co. in Hamtramck and later in Detroit. He was a dependable and good provider working to give his family all the comforts of home. Eternal Rest grant unto him, and may his soul rest in peace.

Ray Rutyna - August 18, 2020 at 07:57 AM

RR

“ Thursday, July 30, 2020 would be Helen's 102nd Birthday. Lots has happened in that century which Helen saw most of having passed on February 2, 2012. But much has also stayed the same. It's a very warm summer this time. Happy Birthday Mom!

Ray Rutyna - July 24, 2020 at 09:43 AM

RR

“ Happy Independence Day 2020! Most frequent memory is lighting sparklers on the front porch when we were kids. Flags are up in the cemetery and lots of fireworks in the neighborhoods this year due to cancellation of the big ones downtown. It's a different kind of July 4th this year, but still hot and going for a record of straight days at 90* or more.

Ray Rutyna - July 03, 2020 at 09:58 AM

RR

“ Remembering HELEN'S husband and our Dad, CHESTER RUTYNA, this MEMORIAL DAY 2020. "Barney" served in the U.S. Army during WWII gaining the rank of TEC5, (Technician, 5th Grade, or Corporal). He served in the European Theater during the Battle of the Bulge, Germany's last offensive attempt.

Ray Rutyna - May 25, 2020 at 09:22 AM

RR

Happy Fathers Day, June 21, 2020!

Ray Rutyna - June 26, 2020 at 07:43 AM

RR

“ *MOTHERS DAY 2020 is different this year due to the "Global Pandemic", or "COVID-19" virus that has infected the world. The traditional Sunday afternoon dinners at a nice restaurant are now replaced with D.I.Y. events that may involve getting a take out or cooking at home. But visits to the elderly are discouraged as they are among the most in danger of being infected. Even church services are cancelled. So, phone "visits" or enjoying memories replace the traditional day's activities for those fortunate enough to have their Moms around. Everybody had a Mother, regardless of their status in life, and they will all be remembered on this day set aside for them. Helen was exceptional in my mind for her dedication to doing all that she could to make the lives of Raymond, Dennis and Sylvia the best they could be at home and in preparing them for their lives to come.*

Ray Rutyna - May 09, 2020 at 07:57 AM

RR

“ *As the Easter Season dawns this Holy Thursday of 2020, we will observe the ceremonies at home due to the pandemic of Coronavirus that infects the globe. But memories of those years gone by will sustain us on Good Friday when we gathered to observe the Stations of the Cross and veneration; Holy Saturday with the sundown traditions of the washing of the feet, blessing the Pascal Candle, reading of the Passion and veneration time. All these preceded the liturgies of Easter Sunday and later involved holiday food and traditions from long ago like the Easter Egg hunt and dressing up in new clothes to go to church. This year we will observe them all at home through the online presence of many religions that follow the Christian faith. Those elderly like Helen who may still be among us may find comfort in their memories of days long ago before the world changed.*

Ray Rutyna - April 09, 2020 at 08:51 AM

RR

“ Although she was born during the great flu pandemic of 1918, I doubt if Helen would want to be around for the more lethal Coronavirus that is challenging us today. But she always had an upbeat attitude that served her well for all of her 93 years in this life. During these days of stress, we an only hope that some of Helen's outlook on life will be with us today as we strive to overcome this new problem of COVID-19. Rest In Peace!

Ray Rutyna - March 27, 2020 at 08:29 AM

RR

“ Helen would have been 101 years old this July. When she passed in 2012 the weather was a lot like it is today; very warm and mild. We did not need to wear our overcoats when going to the cemetery for the gravesite burial. Besides that, Sunday was also the one they call "Groundhog Day" when they arouse the sleeping critter to find out if it sees its shadow. It didn't, so according to custom we should have an early Spring. We'll see.

Ray Rutyna - February 03, 2020 at 09:19 AM

RR

“ Happy 103rd Birthday to Helen's Husband and my dad, Chester J. "Barney" Rutyna. They met while both worked at Champion Spark Plug Company in Hamtramck. Dad got drafted during WWII and came home on furlough several times, and that's when they got married. The joke was that he never knew where to go since Grandpa moved so many times. Both families finally ended up in northeast Detroit and the same area near 7 Mile Road and Hoover.

Ray Rutyna - January 09, 2020 at 09:49 AM

RR

“ Christmas and New Year's Day seem to come around faster now than when we were kids. But memories of the traditions stay. When we were young, going to church very early on Christmas morning was most commonly observed. When we got older, Midnight Mass was a challenge for staying awake. Opening of presents had to wait until we returned home, but we did get to open one on Christmas Eve. Traditional Polish cuisine kept us feeling good the whole day while Christmas music filled the house. New Year's was bit different with a quiet day and football games on TV. Two gifts for Mom stand out. One was the red dress that she wore each year following, and the other was the painting of her pet dog, Frisky. One made her happy and the other one made her sad since her pet passed away that year. The house is empty now, and the holiday traditions have passed as well. But the memories stay.

Ray Rutyna - January 01, 2020 at 10:40 AM

RR

“ THANKSGIVING brings fond memories of the day and its activities including going to the big parade, or watching it on TV, the huge dinner that took Mom a week to prepare, and having visiting friends and family over to share the day. Nothing compares to the home atmosphere provided by Mom on those special occasions. Thanks to her, everyone has something to remember for a lifetime.

Ray Rutyna - November 20, 2019 at 11:03 AM

RR

“ Honoring Helen's husband, Chester, for Veterans Day., November 11 each year paying tribute to those who were in the armed services. "Barney" (His nickname) served in the U.S. Army during WWII as a corporal in a recon unit. Chet and Helen got married while he was on furlough in 1945. Some army items are still at home as mementos of the big war. Dad used to occasionally relate some stories of combat in the Battle of the Bulge which took place near the end of the war. Thanks to him and all the brave soldiers who fought to make the world safe for Democracy.

Ray Rutyna - November 10, 2019 at 01:26 PM

RR

“ In the 1950's this was once again the time to get the Halloween stuff out of the attic to prepare for the big day. The Devil costume was for Dennis and the Skeleton was for me. We first went door to door with Mom and later on our own gathering the treats from just three blocks near home. It was a fun time for kids as it should be. Mom enjoyed the fun vicariously through our awe and excitement. Strict rules about how much we could eat and what was not allowed kept us safe. The true meaning of the holiday was lost for us, but the magic aura of those spooky nights always made them special and memorable.

Ray Rutyna - October 29, 2019 at 11:02 AM

RR

“ On this date, August 19 in 1983 at about 4:00 a.m. I got a phone call from Mom to pick her up to go to St. John's Hospital who informed her that Dad was in his final hours. When we got there a priest was attending and we could see that Chester was fighting to stay alive. After some time had passed, Mom told him that it was OK to let go. He closed his eyes and the priest said that he had left this world. But Dad fooled him and revived. A few more moments passed and then finally, Dad did as well. And so after over 40 years of marriage to Helen Kaminski, Chester J. Rutyna left this earth. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and those of all the departed rest in peace. Amen.

Ray Rutyna - August 19, 2019 at 09:13 AM

RR

“ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY HELEN!** *This would have been her 101st celebration, as she was born in Hamtramck, MI on July 30, 1918. Helen had three brothers, Frank, John, and Cass and two sisters, Sophie and Marie. Her parents, Joseph and Anna Kaminski, were from Poland and they lived on Evaline Street just one half block west of Joseph Campau. We used to have dinner out to celebrate each year until she wasn't able to do that any more. Then I would get take out to continue the tradition. Helen married Chester at the end of WWII and they lived with his parents until buying a house on Beland Street in the east side of Detroit in 1949. They had three kids, Raymond, Dennis and Sylvia, all of whom went to Our Lady Queen of Heaven Elementary School, St. Cyril High School and later on to college at Wayne State University and Michigan State University. Raymond went on to obtain a Masters Degree in Education at the University of Michigan and taught at several schools, the last being Regina High School when it was located in Harper Woods. Dennis had a career teaching in West Branch, MI and fathered two sons, Theron and Martin with his wife, Penny. Sylvia Married Roger Denome and had a career as a research assistant in genetics at several colleges, the last being Brown University in MA. When Chet or "Barney" passed away in 1983 Ray moved back home to care for Helen until her passing on February 2, 2012. Helen was a model mother and wife and her life was filled with many activities and challenges which she met successfully. All of her relatives, descendants and friends owe her a debt of gratitude for that. Happy Birthday Mom!*

Ray Rutyna - July 30, 2019 at 09:37 AM

RR

“ *MEMORIAL DAY, a time to visit those who have passed by going to the cemetery to tidy up the graves, especially if you have a military person to remember. The holiday originated through honoring those who gave their lives during the Civil War. Memories of others fit the day as well. And it's the portal to the warm summer fun to come. Helen is in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, as are most of her family and making the rounds takes a good bit of time. But honoring the dead by visiting and fixing their graves is an appropriate way to spend the day.*

Ray Rutyna - May 24, 2019 at 09:16 AM

RR

“ *MOTHERS DAY is the reminder that flowers can be safely put around the garden and cemetery without fear of a killing frost. But the weather has been so cold this Spring that it seems a little risky even now. Easter was late at the end of April, so it all seems to fit somehow. Each memory of Mom is different among siblings. One may remember how she provided all the comforts of home. Another may remember the adventures of going out to places near and far. Still another remembers the creative things that she did through the craft projects that decorated the home. And all would be thankful for the training in values from a moral or religious background. Put them all together and a tapestry of dedication to family becomes evident. It's a little sad that many of these things are recalled only after the kids have grown up and Mom has passed on. Each mother is different. Some are considered "good" and some not so good. But we all had one and the memory of either is something that never leaves.*

Ray Rutyna - May 08, 2019 at 09:48 AM

RR

“Helen's life partner, CHESTER "BARNEY" RUTYNA was born on January 9, 1917. He married Mom on leave from the army during WWII. One of his favorite things to do was working around the house, inside and out, constantly making improvements over the years. The Rutyna household was always clean and in working order. One testament is the over 60 year old gas furnace that works like a clock to this day. It replaced the coal furnace we had for the first decade at 19361 Beland. Dad had to get up in the middle of the night to add coal and stoke the fire so we could be warm all night long. The coal bin and ashes are long gone now, but warm memories remain. HAPPY 102nd BIRTHDAY DAD!

Ray Rutyna - January 10, 2019 at 11:09 AM

RR

“Christmas memories and thanks for all you did through gifts, decorations, food, etc. to make the big day special for all those years. Remembering how we got up early to find the presents that "Santa" left us overnight under the tree. And the needlework you made with the quote: "T'was the night before Christmas" captures the moments to this day. When we got older, we were allowed to open some small gifts the night before on Christmas Eve, and the remaining gifts were opened following church services the following morning. I still smell the fresh pine tree that was decorated with hand made ornaments and the Nativity scene erected below, with the electric toy train circling the entire display. Lots of work, but well worth the efforts as the decorations created the atmosphere so special to the day and the entire holiday season. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Ray Rutyna - December 19, 2018 at 09:48 AM

RR

“ Remembering the Thanksgiving dinners with all the trimmings that Mom prepared every year. It was the main event and outdid the parades and football games. We had every culinary treat and enjoyed them all. The treats were always enjoyed with gusto the rest of the week, and seemed to taste even better as the supply ran down. The real "Thanks" deserved to go to Mom who always came through with the best.

Ray Rutyna - November 21, 2018 at 10:03 AM

RR

“ Helen's life partner, and our father, Chester passed away 35 years ago on August 19, 1983. They were married during the WWII years while he was still in the service. Chester passed away in the pre-dawn hours at St. John Hospital where Helen had worked years earlier. She was there at the end with a priest, the attending doctor and myself as Chester passed into eternity.

Ray Rutyna - August 15, 2018 at 09:42 AM

RR

“ This will be the 100th year of Helen's birth on July 30, 1918. She was the fifth of six children born to Joseph and Anna Krupa) Kaminski. Helen's early life revolved around attending school at St. Florian in Hamtramck and working at various odd jobs to help with family expenses. Eventually Helen got a permanent job at Champion Spark Plug Company and she walked to and from the job on Miller Street about a mile south. It was there that she met Chester Rutyna. He was drafted into the army during WWII and they got married when he was on furlough towards the end of the war. They purchased a house on Beland Street in Detroit's northeast side in 1949 where they raised three kids, Raymond, Dennis, and Sylvia. Homelife was busy, and Helen got involved with the nearby parish of Our Lady Queen of Heaven with many activities that she maintained for the rest of her life. Helen had the opportunity to travel when Champion made a move to Mexico and Chester helped in setting up the operation. The couple also went to California and Montreal on other occasions. The family photo album has many pictures of those days and related activities. We always celebrated her birthday with cake and ice cream and going out for dinner. Helen almost lived a century but passed at home in 2012 at 93 years of age. Sto Lat!

Ray Rutyna - July 25, 2018 at 09:34 AM

RR

“ Happy Fathers Day to Chester Rutyna, Helen's husband and our Dad. He was a practical person, a bread winner, and transportation guy who did a lot of things to fix up the house, always giving the money earned to the family and took us anywhere we needed to go. His favorite relaxation was playing table games, especially cards in which he was either very lucky or good at. He always liked a good game of Pinochle or Cribbage. I remember him every time I look at one of the improvements he made to the house on Beland Street in Detroit, either inside or out. The end was not good as he suffered from cancer and passed at St. John Hospital in the early morning of August 19, 1983. He deserved better.

Ray Rutyna - June 18, 2018 at 08:35 AM

RR

“ Today / tomorrow (February 1,2) is the sixth anniversary of Helen's passing. I give two dates because I discovered her death at around 3:00 a.m. that night although it may have been earlier. The police and E.M.S. and even Wasik's Funeral Home all came out regardless of the time to assist in the final duties. That winter, February was unusually warm. We didn't need overcoats for the outdoor burial events, and there was no snow on the ground. Helen would have been 94 years of age that July and most of her family and friends had preceded her into eternal life. There will be a Mass of remembrance at Our Lady Queen of Heaven / Good Shepherd Church on Saturday, February 3, at 4:00 p.m. Eternal Rest grant unto her O Lord, and Let Perpetual Light shine upon her. May Her soul rest in peace!

Ray Rutyna - February 01, 2018 at 11:28 AM

RR

“ On this day, January 9, 1917, Helen's husband and our Dad, Chester (Barney), came into the world in Hamtramck, MI. That would have made him 101 years old today. Nancy (Rutyna) Shew called this morning as I asked. She would do this every year, after Dad's passing. We talked about the old days, and I pitched an idea to her about having a cemetery marker made for Dad's brother and her father, Joe, who was cremated after he died. Joe was the one who always called on the Ninth. Nancy continued the tradition after her Dad's passing. So, this Spring we may get a permanent marker made for Uncle Joe to be installed at Mt. Olivet Cemetery at the Rutyna Family plot. HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD!

Ray Rutyna - January 09, 2018 at 10:25 AM

RR

“ Happy New Year, 2018 marks the centennial of Helen's birth on July 30. The year came in quieter than many in the past with fewer gun shots, most sounding like they were across Hoover to the east in the notorious 48205 Zip Code. But the coldest weather in years may have kept the celebrations down some with temps in the single digits. Helen was an early to bed person, and was never up at midnight, but she always said that she heard the celebrations in her sleep. Yeah, 100 years is a long time.

Ray Rutyna - January 03, 2018 at 09:59 AM

RR

“ Again, the radio station was asking a holiday related question about Christmas. It was to describe the worst present you got from someone. I can't imagine that anyone could do that because all the presents I ever got had something about them to like. But I do remember Mom saying that when she was a girl at home she once got an orange. That must have been a cherished food item in those Great Depression days, and all her parents could afford to give their six kids. Maybe that's why Christmas was always very special at our house and those of countless others in the Baby Boom Generation. Much time and effort was put into the preparations for the annual holiday. And it was good every year. The food, decorations, entertainment and family, friends and ceremony all contributed to making Christmas the biggest celebration of the year. Merry Christmas to Helen and Chester!

Ray Rutyna - December 21, 2017 at 11:24 AM

RR

“ A local radio station was asking listeners to describe one Thanksgiving menu item they could do without. Some said it was the green bean casserole, some the cranberries, etc. But I have to say that there was never anything that Mom made which I didn't like. And she always made it from fresh ingredients, never packaged stuff. Recalling those feasts brings admiration for how good they were considering the small kitchen and humble culinary utensils that she had to work with. Remembering Mom on Thanksgiving for all she did for us over many years.

Ray Rutyna - November 20, 2017 at 09:14 AM

RR

“ *Life Lessons were learned from Mom from the annual scary events that included going out with her as young kids for "Trick or Treating". These included being creative in making up the scary costumes and carving the pumpkins, being safe while out walking the streets, being polite by not pushing others, being grateful by saying "Thank You" to those handing out candy, being healthy by not eating all the candy at once, and having fun through enjoying the friends, costumes and decorations all part of the big event. The Halloween traditions were first made popular through things like these among the "Baby Boom" generation. Memories of a happy childhood are all possible because of great parents like Helen and Chester Rutyna.*

Ray Rutyna - October 30, 2017 at 09:59 AM

RR

“ *Sunday, July 30, will be Helen's 99th Birthday. We always celebrated with traditional ice cream and cake and going out for a meal. Some of the venues were upscale like at Greektown, and some were less so, like at Bill Knapp's, but they were all memorable and enjoyed fully. It is also the 99th Anniversary of the last total solar eclipse which occurred in 1918, the year Mom was born. And the event will repeat later this year marking for some a double significance. Happy Birthday Helen!*

Ray Rutyna - July 27, 2017 at 10:11 AM

RR

“ Happy 4th of July - Independence Day 2017. The cemetery always has their patriotic decorations displayed for all the visitors who come to remember their first generation American relatives. The annual fireworks in downtown Detroit once again lit up the sky and across the river Canada is celebrating their 150th anniversary as well. Memories come to mind of us kids being allowed to light sparklers in front of the house as the sounds of bigger firecrackers filled the darkening twilight hours.

Ray Rutyna - June 30, 2017 at 09:58 AM

RR

“ FATHERS DAY JUNE 18, 2017
Helen's husband, Chester Rutyna would've been 100 years old this year.

He was the constant force in our family who was a good provider and made mom's plans a reality by supporting her all the way. This was done mostly by being the one who did the driving to all the events we had since mom did not drive.

He enjoyed us kids and always had something in store that would make us happy. Even after a day's or week's worth of work at Champion Spark Plug Co. he always made time for family activities and never left us to go out on his own. That dependability was probably what made it all work for the time that we were growing up.

Everything around the house may not have been the most expensive, but was always in working order. We never knew what to do for Fathers Day but it never seemed to bother him much. The small tokens for the day were received with appreciation.

Happy Fathers Day Chester!

Ray Rutyna - June 13, 2017 at 09:46 AM

RR

“ *MOTHERS' DAY MAY 14, 2017*

Traditionally, this day is observed by taking Mom out to enjoy a nice meal. We did that with some outings to Greektown and other places until Mom couldn't get around well. then we did the take out version which she always enjoyed as well.

But those never came close to making up for all the home cooked meals that were much better and served with love over many years. I still have some of her cookbooks, but the magic was in the making and I don't have that. What I do have are the memories of days and meals gone by and how much we enjoyed them.

The one thing that stands out among all mothers is how they always see the best in you and will stand behind you no matter what the case. It's easy to understand how people can go wrong if they don't have that. So, for all those who don't have it, maybe you can find a worthy substitute for a "mother figure" to get you by the rough spots in life.

Happy Mothers Day HELEN!

Ray Rutyna - May 10, 2017 at 10:03 AM

RR

“ Easter once again brings memories of the traditions we had for the holiday. These included the religious observances like Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday afternoon, taking food baskets to be blessed on Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. In other words pretty much the whole week had something going each day. Then there were the preparations of traditional Polish dishes for the meals each day which culminated in the Easter soup that nobody but us seemed to enjoy. It was made with a dairy stock and had meats and eggs as ingredients. In the early days visiting with family also took part, but in later years that faded away. Good remembrances all, including the requisite sweets and the hiding of Easter eggs. Fun times for kids and parents as well.

Ray Rutyna - April 13, 2017 at 09:01 AM

RR

“ February 2 had always been known to us, (Raymond, Dennis and Sylvia) as "Ground Hog Day". But that all changed in 2012 when Helen, our mother passed away. Today is the Five Year Anniversary of that fateful date. It was in the dark, pre-dawn hours when I checked on her as was my habit since she became less and less responsive. I discovered that she was not breathing and called "911" for the E.M.S. who arrived in minutes. Then I called Wasik Funeral Home who came right away regardless of the time of day to take her for funeral preparations. That winter was a little like this one with very little snow and mild temperatures. Helen was remembered at a funeral service at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Detroit near Seven Mile and Van Dyke and interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery at Six Mile and Van Dyke not far from where her parents are, and right next to her husband and our dad, Chester. "Eternal Rest grant unto her, O'Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace." Amen.

Ray Rutyna - February 02, 2017 at 09:08 AM

RR

“ Monday, January 9, 2017 would have been the 100th birthday of Chester "Barney" Rutyna husband to Helen and dad to Ray, Dennis and Sylvia. He got the nickname for his driving skills , emulating the great race car driver from the early days of Detroit automotive history. The original Barney actually performed races on the frozen Detroit River that included Henry Ford behind the wheels of his own cars. Stolat!

Ray Rutyna - January 11, 2017 at 10:20 AM

RR

“ Many fond memories of Christmas Past come from the decorations brought out again. This year a cold preliminary has led to a very warm week and most of the snow gotten earlier has gone. Dennis remembered the sled that was hid behind the sofa having us kids guessing that Santa forgot to bring it. I remembered sitting on the chair where a broken tree ornament cut my foot. Sylvia is always into the flowers and cookies. You never grow up when it comes to Christmas Time. But the most outstanding memory this year is my memory of taking the bus and street car to Hudson's downtown and going up to the 12th Floor to see Toy Land and Santa with Christmas Carol and Rudolph. I had my story recorded and broadcast on the radio for all to hear. Thanks for the memories!

Ray Rutyna - December 27, 2016 at 10:23 AM

RR

“ Happy thanksgiving Mom! Thanks for all those years of preparing the delicious meals for us to enjoy even though we didn't realize how much work it took to get it done. You missed the parades and lots of T.V. to do them, but the results were a testament to your culinary skills. The memories lasted a lifetime.

Ray Rutyna - November 23, 2016 at 10:25 AM

RR

“ Halloween is here again. Memories of the "begging" we kids did in the neighborhood return. The two costumes Dennis and I shared were a "Devil" and a "Skeleton" which we alternated each year. Never going too far, it still seemed like a long journey at the time. We returned home to sort the "loot" which lasted well into the following weeks. In 2016 the kids now go to group gatherings instead in Detroit to keep them safer. And of course, the "Haunted Houses" in the suburbs now cater to grown-ups as well. But those days in the 1950's are fondly remembered as the seasons passed from summer to the winter months. I think that Mom and Dad lived the experiences through us kids, as a way of doing what they never could when they were young. "Help the poor!" not "Trick or Treat" was our call as we made the rounds. Somehow that was more appropriate although we never noticed.

Ray Rutyna - October 28, 2016 at 10:09 AM

RR

“ On this date, August 19, 1983, Helen's husband, Chester, passed into eternal life at around 5a;00 a.m. at St. John's Hospital in Detroit. He was dependable provider and head of our family and is remembered for his skills in the upkeep of the household. Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him Oh Lord!

Ray Rutyna - August 19, 2016 at 08:18 AM

RR

“ I announced Helen's 98th Birthday, July 30, 1918, Sunday in church during the prayers at Offertory. Dennis, Penny and Martin came to Detroit Friday and we celebrated by going to the Tigers game which they won by a score of 14 to 6 in a very action-packed game. Mom often listened to the games on the radio when they were played during the daytime. This Summer has been one of the warmer ones with many days near or over 90 degrees. In 2012 when mom died there were 30 days with 90 degrees or more.
Happy Birthday Helen!

Ray Rutyna - August 04, 2016 at 09:58 AM

RR

“ Independence Day 2016 had the best run of perfect weather that I remember. Although we could have used some rain for the plants it was otherwise sunny and dry with low humidity. The neighborhood fireworks were not as wild as in the past and memories of how we did them in front of the house came to mind. I visited the cemetery to water the flowers and took a bike ride downtown to see the new constructions along the river and up Woodward. They are building a new rail line that reminds of he old street cars Mom used to take us on when we were kids in the 1950's. Detroit is changing for the better, but it will take a long time before it's all realized.

Ray Rutyna - July 05, 2016 at 10:48 AM

RR

“ Happy Father's Day to Helen's husband, Chester Rutyna, dad to Raymond, Dennis and Sylvia. This year's celebration comes with a heat wave across the country with temperatures reaching 120 degrees out west. But not so bad in Detroit only going to the mid nineties. However the lack of rain has been the main problem since very little has come our way and the plants are hurting. When calling Dennis I asked him what were his favorite memories of dad, and he remembered lots of things that I totally forgot. Like bugging him to take us to see the lake, which he finally did one day after a full shift at work. Dennis remembered the weekly Saturday morning shopping trips to various places on the east side. It seems that in families each kid has their own relationship with their parents and the memories follow. One of mine is sitting out on the front porch during rain storms with dad who recalled stories from WWII because the thunder and lightening reminded him of the battles. He also taught us boys practical skills around the house about how things worked and how to take care of them that came in handy later in life Chester was a good father who always took care of the family's needs and even though we were not rich, we always got what was needed in life. I visited his grave on Sunday along with mom who is buried next to him and had many more memories along the way.

Ray Rutyna - June 20, 2016 at 08:20 AM

RR

“ A beautiful weather MOTHERS DAY this year, perfect for planting flowers at the gravesite. The cemetery was very active as usual for this day. Special acknowledgements for moms at the church services and many family visitors in the neighborhood on this special day. Dennis called and he was serving grilled kebobs to his family in Wisconsin. Martin sent flowers to Penny from Europe. Somebody said that it's the second most busy day for those going out for dinner. St. Florian in Hamtramck (Mom's original parish) was having their annual Strawberry Festival, timing it just right this year.

Ray Rutyna - May 09, 2016 at 01:02 PM

RR

“ Easter Sunday was a beautiful sunny day reminding of those days of youth when it was seemingly always so. Phone calls to Dennis and Sylvia made the day special. And they both asked about the traditional Easter Soup. I made it again with all the old-time ingredients plus added vegetables for a more healthy updated version. Services at O;L.Q.H. church on Holy Thursday and Saturday were done by the new clergy and parishioners and something new for me since I rarely used to attend those in favor of going on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Everything turned out well. This week a visit to the cemetery to make sure the plots are ready for Springtime which is fast approaching.

Ray Rutyna - March 29, 2016 at 10:52 AM

RR

“ Ash Wednesday has passed this week and now we are into the season of Lent. But as the calendar changes each year so do the movable liturgical seasons. We get a bit of a reprieve this Sunday with ST. VALENTINE'S DAY. It was always about the candy and flowers, and not much has changed over the years. Always a way to recognize the special people in your life. Happy St. Val's Day
Chester & Helen Rutyna!

Ray Rutyna - February 12, 2016 at 10:36 AM

RR

“ Tuesday, February 2, 2016 marks the fourth anniversary of Mom's passing. It seems like months, not years. May perpetual light shine upon her and may eternal rest be granted unto her soul. Amen!

Ray Rutyna - January 28, 2016 at 10:19 AM

RR

“ *The busy holiday Christmas and New Year's have morphed into the annual January Birthdays when Dad, Sylvia and Ray all celebrated in what seemed like a never ending party, extending the festivities into February. These days are much less hectic than they used to be, but memories of all the preparations made by Mom to do us proud still remain. We fondly remember them through those loving efforts that made them special.*

Ray Rutyna - January 14, 2016 at 01:42 PM

RR

“ *Another Thanksgiving brings memories of one of our most enjoyed holidays because of all the feasting on treats Mom made. After doing it for myself I'm amazed at how she did it all with the limited space available in our kitchen. But we never wanted for anything because the menu was very complete from appetizers to the entree to the deserts. Now it seems like magic was performed to make it all turn out so good. Thanks to Mom for the very best memories on this special day!*

Ray Rutyna - November 24, 2015 at 10:47 AM

RR

“ *Veterans Day, November 11, 2015. Remembering my dad, Chet "Barney" Rutyna who served during WWII at the Battle of the Bulge" in Europe. Mom visited him at Fort Riley in Kansas before he was sent over. He has a military headstone in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.*

Ray Rutyna - November 10, 2015 at 01:56 PM

RR

“ HALLOWEEN always meant fun and treats for us kids in the 1950's when we went begging from door to door in the neighborhood. Mom accompanied us in the early years and she always had a great time enjoying the event with us. She also taught us how to carve a pumpkin and roast the seeds for eating later. The house was always decorated with seasonal items and we enjoyed the scary T.V. shows with her as well. The Feast of ALL SAINTS on the following day found us in church "repenting" after the celebrations. Today, when visiting the cemetery, I never think of it as a spooky experience. But around Halloween I do recall some of these moments.

Ray Rutyna - October 29, 2015 at 09:43 AM

RR

“ R.I.P. CHESTER RUTYNA at 5:00 a.m. August 19, 1983 at St. John Hospital in Detroit. Dad was 66 years of age when he passed. Mom had been visiting him every day by taking the 7 Mile bus to the hospital. But on that morning she got a call that the end was near, so after phoning me to pick her up we went to share his last moments with the priest. There was a point when the priest thought that dad had expired and was ready to go. But dad hung on for a while longer until mom leaned over and whispered that it was O.K. to let go. And within moments it was over.

Ray Rutyna - August 19, 2015 at 10:16 AM

RR

“ *HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM! JULY 30, 1918 ---- 97 Years ago. The hottest days of Summer always arrive around this time. Stories that Helen told come to mind of the days when her family slept outside during the extreme heatwaves of the the 1930's and even going to Belle Isle overnight to escape the heat. In our family the birthday celebrations always came when dad was on vacation from Champion Spark Plug Co. for the last week in July and first two weeks of August. That allowed for vacations, visiting and parties which were more difficult to do otherwise. Another fond memory was when we celebrated by meeting Dennis and his family in Frankenmuth. Mom enjoyed the side trip to Bronner's since Christmas was her favorite holiday. It was like a dream come true for her. "Sto Lat", the Polish wish for a long life was realized, even coming close to the wished-for 100 years.*

Ray Rutyna - July 28, 2015 at 09:55 AM

RR

“ *Summer is now in full bloom with lots of wildflowers that mom planted via seeds years ago. Trumpet lilies that came from the Easter ceremonies in church have just opened as well. All these were supplemented with the planting of annuals. This year brings plenty of rain to keep things green. Memories of mom using the garden hose to provide water for flowers and grass seem distant and odd in these days of high water rates. But back in those earlier days the expense and labor needed to maintain a fresh looking yard was something that mom always thought to be a necessary part of the quality of life in our house on Beland Street in Detroit. I also remember mom hanging laundry outside whenever the weather permitted. She kept it up for as long as she could make the trips up the stairs and out to the yard. The wash always smelled a lot fresher after doing that. Funny how some of those simple things in life come back to you later on.*

Ray Rutyna - July 14, 2015 at 10:28 AM

RR

“ Sunday, May 10 is Mothers Day. Always a special time to remember the one who brought you into the world by doing something special for her even if it's just to visit her grave for a nice clean-up and decoration. Interesting how in families with more than one child, Mom serves in different roles for each one. Each one's memories will be a little different. And there are also women who serve as surrogate mothers, even if they don't have kids of their own. Not to mention the new forms of marriages that are out there in the modern world. Any way it's celebrated will be O.K.. That's how it works.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY TO ALL!

RAY RUTYNA - May 06, 2015 at 01:53 PM

RR

“ The new year has gotten off to another start with a very cold and snowy winter and we are still in the grip of it with a colder than normal Springtime. Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, Lent and Easter have all come and gone. But hope springs eternal with the Detroit Tigers and Opening Day, today! Mom was a fan and liked to watch them whenever they were on TV. Those days are gone now since you have to subscribe to cable in order to see them. But there's still the radio for every game which mom also enjoyed from time to time. The Easter holiday was observed with trying to make our traditional menu of Polish food. We gave it our best shot, but it's never the same. i sent mom's old cookbooks to Sylvia and Roger so that they can see what we enjoyed and maybe try some of them out for themselves. I've started to clean up the flower garden as mom did every Spring. Some of the new growth is even peeking through the ground. Soon we will have another look at those colorful flowers that mom planted years ago.

Ray Rutyna - April 06, 2015 at 09:48 AM

RR

“ *HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015! The midnight celebrations always woke Mom who liked to go to bed early, to usher in another new year. Resolutions had an interesting twist. She had an old saying that said whatever you do on the first day of the year will be what you will be doing the rest of the year in some way or another. So we always tried to make the best of it. Just resolving to be a better person for others would go a long way.*

Ray Rutyna - December 30, 2014 at 02:12 PM

RR

“ *No snow for Christmas this year, but memories are always a good way to celebrate the holiday. Decorating the church for Christmas Day is always done after the last Sunday Mass in Advent. All is now ready for the big day. One of Helen's most vivid memories of her childhood was not getting much for Christmas. In fact, she said one year it was only an orange. That was during the Great Depression when many had similar experiences. I think that was the reason why she celebrated with such elaborate preparations with the decorations and the food. She tried and succeeded at giving her family what she didn't have as a young girl. And those wonderful treats are what are still remembered every year along with the faith based traditions passed down by generations like the sharing of the Christmas Eve Wafer, caroling, and Midnight Mass. The holidays signify the changing of the seasons as well, and the coming of longer days which hold the promise of a new Spring to come. Merry Christmas Mom and Dad!*

Ray Rutyna - December 22, 2014 at 09:43 AM

RR

“ *Thanksgiving here again with memories of one of the best holidays for being at home to enjoy the family, food and fun. There never could be any better preparations than those that Mom made for the big event. So much work to make it special for the family. Thank You always, Mom!*

Ray Rutyna - November 26, 2014 at 10:29 AM

RR

“ *HALLOWEEN'S spooky time returns with all the memories of decorations, eery music and begging for treats. HELEN actually had a real life experience with begging when she was asked by a Felician nun to accompany her on her rounds of begging money around the community during the Great Depression. It was an all day affair, but mom still had fond memories of being able to help out with something that she faithfully believed in. I think her reward came later in life with the sharing in all the holiday make-believe fun with us kids.*

Ray Rutyna - October 30, 2014 at 10:30 AM

RR

“ August 19, 2014 The 31st anniversary of Chester's passing. I hadn't thought about why I got up at 3 a.m. until late in the day when the weather brought a thunderstorm to bring back memories. When we were kids a storm would get dad out on the porch. He used to say that the thunder reminded him of the artillery shelling in WWII where he served in the Battle of the Bulge in Germany. Stories of adventures in battle would follow which kept us fascinated until the rain left.

On that fateful morning, we got a call from the hospital that he was expected to pass soon, so we got ready and arrived at the hospital around 5 a.m. He struggled to the end and it took reassuring from mom that it would be alright and to just let go. A priest who was attending thought that the moment had come, but dad fooled him because he had not gone to his eternal reward just yet. A few more prayers later all was quiet and we knew that he had slipped into another world.

So now I know that these hidden memories were keeping me from sleeping until the following night.

Ray Rutyna - August 20, 2014 at 08:26 AM

RR

“ July 30, 2014 HELEN'S 96th Birthday! Always ice cream and cake for the big day. Memories were shared with cousin Pearl this year. I took her our collection of family photos in order to identify some of the unfamiliar faces in them. She has a nice house in central Warren where she lives with husband Frank.

Early this morning heavy equipment rolled down Beland Street and tore down the house where "Russian Pat" lived. Much more to go. They started deconstructing houses on Albion and Runyon earlier. The plan is to re-use as much of the materials as possible instead of just scrapping it all. So, changes in the neighborhood will be the big event for this upcoming year. It may end up like it looked in some of those old photos when the houses were first built back in the 1940's.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM!

Ray Rutyna - July 30, 2014 at 12:52 PM

RR

“ Another Fathers Day with people remembering the most significant man in their lives. This year the radio station even had a three hour tribute to dads through music. Nicely done it showed how there are a lot of different ways to celebrate them. Chester loved music and enjoyed collecting LP's which he played on his Olympic "Hi - Fi". We sometimes made a trip to the original Harmony House record store in Hazel Park to find such treasures as Mantovani or "The Sounds of Spain". Music filled the house usually on Sundays in the afternoons. I still have some of the records but the stereo quit working a few years ago. Nothing like an old vinyl LP record to bring back memories.

Ray Rutyna - June 17, 2014 at 09:59 AM

RR

“ A house is just a building until it contains the memories of the person who made it a home. Remembering all the things that a Mother put into it makes it much more. everything in it becomes connected to events from long ago, and they tell stories that have significance to those who shared life there. Remembering Helen this Mothers Day through all our house still contains to this day. Thank You!

Ray Rutyna - May 08, 2014 at 09:47 AM

RR

“ Easter is once again here, a little later this year but after a harsh winter the plantings that mom put in the garden are once again returning to life. Church services for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Saturday Vigil and Easter Sunday will be observed at Our Lady Queen of Heaven in our Detroit neighborhood. And I have fond memories of the holiday Polish food that I cannot recreate like I remember them. Happy Easter to all!

Ray Rutyna - April 17, 2014 at 09:49 AM

RR

“ The annual end of winter holidays like St. Valentine's, St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's and Ash Wednesday/Lent come again and thankfully this hard winter is on the way out. Memories of the renewal in Springtime through all these and more with Mom making the house decorations and mealtime menus match, are on my mind these days.

Ray Rutyna - March 18, 2014 at 10:15 AM

RR

“ On January 9, 1917 Chester J. Rutyna entered the world in Hamtramck, MI and was destined to be mom's husband. He graduated from Copernicus H.S., then worked at Champion Spark Plug Co.. served in WWII, and was the steady provider for our family of five. He passed away on August 19, 1983. Happy Birthday to you Dad!

Ray Rutyna - January 09, 2014 at 09:12 AM

RR

“ Christmas once again brings memories of that special day that Mom loved above all others. Special foods marked the day beginning with the Christmas Eve menu which was always meatless. Usually we had some type of fish on that day following the traditional custom. A great deal of preparation with gift wrapping gifts, decorating, and all the other things that most families enjoyed were always accomplished by mom in her own subtle way, and we never gave much thought to how much effort it took to get it all done. There is no way that it could be repaid except to recall it all fondly now and realize how lucky we were to have such a great mother. Merry Christmas Mom!

Ray Rutyna - December 19, 2013 at 10:10 AM

RR

“ A recent visit to Hamtramck included a drive by the house that Helen was born and raised in on Evaline Street. Happy to see that it is still in good condition as are most properties in the city. And Joseph Campeau Avenue still has many stores open with new businesses like the Polish Market doing well. I remember the days when mom would take us small kids on a day trip to visit. We always took the bus via 7 Mile to Mt. Elliot, ending on Holbrook and Campeau. After visiting with grandparents we would always go to several of the stores before returning home. It hasn't changed in many ways, but now the bells of St. Florian are complimented by the call to prayer from the new mosques.

Ray Rutyna - September 17, 2013 at 09:49 AM

RR

“ **HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY MOM!**
It's a perfect weather day, sunny and warm. Just right for taking a drive out for lunch at Bill Knapp's complete with their complementary cake. Then down to Belle Isle to re-live some memories of years gone by. And returning through Hamtramck for a look at the old neighborhood and maybe a stop at the deli and bakery for some fresh Polish food. Then back home for phone calls and cards from friends and family.....and more birthday cake and ice cream. Those plans will be just memories since a visit to the cemetery takes their places now.

Ray Rutyna - July 30, 2013 at 08:38 AM

RR

“ *A hotter than usual summer this year brings to mind the stories mom would tell about hot days when she was young. Detroiters back then would sleep outside to cool off at night. And occasionally some would go to sleep overnight at Belle Isle to take advantage of the river breezes. Can't imagine doing that these days, it's a different world out there today. But it's nice to know that once upon a time it was possible to enjoy the city without worries.*

Ray Rutyna - July 24, 2013 at 09:04 AM

RR

“ *MOTHERS DAY comes around again, with all the commercial stuff that goes with it. But after all the flowers have faded, the candy and food has been eaten, and the phone calls and cards have been sent, what really sticks are the memories that never fade away, but only get better as life's events are recalled with fondness. Happy Mothers Day on May 12, 2013.*

Ray Rutyna - May 10, 2013 at 08:44 AM

RR

“ Easter came earlier this year on March 31, 2013. And the unusually cold Spring weather was still with us. Dennis and wife Penny came to Detroit for an Easter dinner. They brought a lot of the Polish food that was an annual tradition for the holiday. Mom would always have a ham, roast pork, kielbasa, hard boiled eggs decorated appropriately, and the rest of the fixings that made the soup that we called borsch. Penny's brother in law, Ralph also contributed some roast turkey, so we were all well fortified by the time it came for desert which was home made pie. As always the dining table was the focal point for the holiday and many memories of days gone by were shared during the feast.

The early years with decorated egg hunts, baskets filled with Easter candy, and all the rest were all preceded by the hours spent in church on Holy Thursday, and Good Friday along with the blessing of the food baskets on Saturday afternoon. Easter Sunday's services were made more vibrant with the special church decorations that included a life sized tomb in simulated rock where Christ was laid after His crucifixion. On Easter morning the corpse was missing and replaced with an angel announcing His resurrection. And lots and lots of flowers everywhere. Now there are only a few who still attend all the services, but the traditions remain.

Looking at the outdoor scenery you can see that the new growth in the plant world is now slowly replacing the dried remnants from the past year and life begins the eternal cycle of nature on earth once again.

Raymond Rutyna - April 09, 2013 at 08:55 AM

RR

“ On Saturday, February 2, 2013 the first anniversary of mom's passing was observed in a Memorial Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church. Rev. Tom Puzio who did the funeral was the celebrant. The day was also the observance of Candlemas Day and the blessing of throats for St. Blaise Day. (Not to forget Groundhog Day.) This year's cold, snowy winter is the opposite of last year's unusually warm temperatures and the lack of snow. But the one thing that hasn't changed is the emptiness in the house without mom's familiar voice and cheerful laugh throughout the day. Warm memories of her do help to get by throughout the long winter.

Ray Rutyna - February 05, 2013 at 12:19 PM

RR

“ With January comes a new year, usually with a bang! Our neighborhood is one of those with the dubious "tradition" of ringing in the new year with gunfire. It is a long established practice which I think goes back to the WWII veterans like my dad who from earliest memories always fired his German Luger at the midnight hour on New Years Eve. Mom would try to discourage him from doing that and finally in his later years he relented.

The following morning mom had us preparing to go to church even though we were still tired from the late night celebrating.

January also had a "trifecta" of birthdays. Dad's on the 9th, Sylvia's on the 6th, and mine on the 13th. Being that they were so close to Christmas, we never celebrated with presents too much. But there were parties when we were young shared with friends and relatives. Mom prepared the festivities well and provided lasting memories with her attention to the decorations and food. One of the most memorable was when we all got firemen's hats just before the candles on the cake were lit. The photos that mom took of the festivities are a lasting tribute to her thoughtfulness in caring for her family.

Ray Rutyna - January 13, 2013 at 03:02 PM

RR

“ Christmas was of course the biggest holiday of the year. Preparations for the big day were always done well ahead of time and the amount of effort that went into it is still amazing to me. I remember singing Carols around the tree on Christmas Eve. Midnight Mass was often on the agenda when we got to be a little older. We usually had a real tree in the early days and one of mom's favorite stories was how the dropping needles would be heard in the middle of the night especially when the wind blew hard since it was placed near a drafty window. It must have been one of those that me and Dennis got at a reduced cost at the neighborhood tree lot on Christmas Eve. Her real thrill was the surprised expressions we always gave when discovering that "Santa" appeared and left a pile of presents under the tree on Christmas Eve. On my part I'll never forget (or regret) the picture I painted and gave her of our recently deceased dog Frisky which made her break down in tears. The food again was always special to the occasion with Polish items being favored. Mom's collection of little ornaments is truly amazing and they could not all be put out together at one time. The decorating, shopping, cooking, and finally the clean-up took a lot of energy but we never had a Christmas that was wanting for anything and that made it the most special day of the year, thanks to mom.

Raymond Rutyna - December 17, 2012 at 02:05 PM

RR

“ *Thanksgiving Day always was the most work for mom with all the preparations of food that made the day so special. Getting up early that day, she was in the kitchen from dawn to dusk creating all the items from scratch as they say. The turkey, sides, salads, desserts and drinks were being produced while dad took us kids downtown for the big parade. Mom did not get to go, choosing to stay home attending to the holiday meal. When I think about it all now, I realize how much work it was and how she sacrificed to make things right for the family. And that work and the resulting happy memories are what I am most thankful for today.*

Ray Rutyna - November 20, 2012 at 10:52 AM

RR

“ *The holidays of Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day were celebrated this week. Memories of the traditional "begging" for candy returned, with scenes of Raymond and Dennis dressed as a skeleton and a devil. We were only allowed a limited amount of "feasting" after the loot was brought home, but it lasted longer that way. Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church this year had special remembrances for the departed on each of the three days, ending with a Memorial Candles ceremony on Sunday. An easel was displayed with cards for each individual who died this past year.*

Raymond Rutyna - November 06, 2012 at 12:06 PM

RR

“ October 3, 1948 was the day son number two, Dennis was born. The poor health of a child is one of the major challenges a mother can encounter. Dennis had his share of difficulties early in life. Many trips to the doctor, hospital and home care were needed. But mom hung in there for him and eventually everything was made right. Ironically his growth, entry into adulthood and marriage to Penny produced her only two grandsons, Theron and Martin. The old saying about whatever doesn't kill you will make you stronger must have applied here. HAPPY BIRTHDAY DENNIS! From the family and from mom to be sure.

Raymond Paul Rutyna - October 03, 2012 at 08:23 AM

RR

“ Labor Day, the unofficial end to Summer always brought preparations for the new school year and we kids never had to worry about clothes, supplies or the lunches that we took with us for each day. The early kindergarten and first grade started with a walk of about a mile each day to Pulaski School. Then a transfer to Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic grade school had us walking another mile in the opposite direction. The start of each day with a breakfast that was always ready and the end with a dinner that was always well planned and complete made the school work easier to manage. Labor comes in many forms, none more important than that of a good mom.

Ray Rutyna - August 31, 2012 at 10:19 AM

RR

“Helen's husband Chester, was born on January 9, 1917. They met while working for Champion Spark Plug Co. in Hamtramck and got married in 1945 after he returned from serving in the army during World War II in Europe. They lived with my grandparents for a short time, then moved to what was then a new subdivision on Beland Street in northeast Detroit about the time that I was one year old. Mom was the typical housewife of the 1950's except for short periods when she had to go to work during strikes at Champion's to provide income because in those days not much assistance was available otherwise. So working in sales at J.L.Hudson's and as an orderly at St. John Hospital paid the bills and filled our stomachs in those difficult days. We returned to St. John's many years later when dad got sick and it was there where he passed away at around 5:00 a.m. on August 19, 1983. I moved back home shortly after to take care of mom.

Raymond Paul Rutyna - August 15, 2012 at 08:53 AM

RR

“July 30, 1918 Helen was born in a little house on Evaline street in Hamtramck. Her early life included attending St. Florian Elementary School. She never finished high school because she went to work to supplement the family income. Domestic work was followed by a job at Champion Spark Plug Company on Butler where she met my dad. After he served in the army during WWII they got married.

Raymond Paul Francis Rutyna - July 31, 2012 at 08:33 AM

RR

“ July 30, 1918 HAPPY BIRTHDAY #94 MOM!

We always had the traditional B-Day cake and ice cream which was your favorite part.

Flowers from Dennis and Sylvia always sent, and a special meal were also included. Many cards from friends and family filled our mailbox.

But memories of the parties staged on our big days also come to mind. The photos of one with all the guests having firemen's hats to put out the candles on the cake is a favorite.

The years go by with each being different in some way. None more different than the first one without Mother.

Ray Rutyna - July 30, 2012 at 08:15 AM

RR

“ *I was on TV and the radio recently. The TV show was Channel 4 News on the sports segment with Katrina Hancock for a Detroit clean up event she sponsored. The radio show was Essential Music with Ann Delisi on WDET.*

These reminded me of one of mom's favorite memories. She had the chance to audition for a radio show in the New Center area in Detroit. It was with Amos Jacobs who is also known as Danny Thomas. Mom had a great singing voice and she passed the audition to be on his show. But it required up front money which she didn't have because my grandfather had all he could do to support six kids by working in a scrap yard. There was no money to spare for frivolities. So a dream was unrealized.

But mom did eventually sing in other ways, especially for the church as part of several choirs, and solo as well.

Ray Rutyna - July 24, 2012 at 09:39 AM

RR

“ *The 4th of July fireworks display at the river was a highlight of the summer. We would drive down and park on the street within a short walk of the gathering place at the foot of Woodward Avenue where they also docked the Bob-Lo boats. People brought blankets to sit on and most brought their own refreshments. You didn't have to get there early in the day for a good spot. The tradition continues with many improvements having been made along the way, but the memories of those first years of fireworks shows are still the best.*

Raymond Rutyna - June 26, 2012 at 10:17 AM

RR

“ Summer has brought the backyard garden into full bloom with many of the flowers Helen planted over the years making their annual appearance. Wildflowers share the stage with perennials and even some annuals that have managed to escape the ravages of the winter.

Other summer memories of the early years return with the most fond ones being the times we would take a day to travel by bus to either Hamtramck or to downtown Detroit for a day of shopping. Public transportation in those days was more reliable and we got to see a lot of the east side in that way. In the mid 50's there were also the street cars on major routes which always seemed to be quieter and cleaner than the bus.

Our wardrobes were changed to the lighter outfits for hot weather and summertime foods were on the menu. Ice cream, Iced tea, and home made lemonade always cooled us on the hottest days.

But just being outside for the majority of the day either in the backyard or down the street out front was an exciting way t pass the time for little kids when life was not only a lot slower but also a lot more enjoyable. We knew each day was coming to an end when we heard the call from a familiar voice: "Raymond.....! Dennis.....! Sylvia.....! Time to come in now!

Ray Rutyna - June 19, 2012 at 08:46 AM

RR

“ It's Memorial Day, a time for remembering those who have gone before us whether in the armed forces like dad or taking care of the home front as mom did. Looking back on our family history, I remember the early days on Beland Street in Detroit. I remember brother Dennis and sister Sylvia and Chester or "Barney" as some called our dad. I remember the little house where we all grew up "on the wrong side of the tracks". I remember lots of the people, places and things we used to do...."....but most of all I remember Mama." (With apologies to the opening lines from the 1950's TV show by the same name.) Thinking about all it took to keep up a home and family back in those days when she didn't have much of a bank account or even a driver's license, it's amazing that things turned out OK. In the end we all know it's not the stuff that makes the difference, but how we look at life and deal with what we have that brings success. That was her greatest lesson to us.

Raymond Paul Rutyna - May 25, 2012 at 08:42 AM



“ Mothers Day always brought flowers from Dennis and Sylvia and, of course, a special meal from me. Mom didn't drive, although she often got around on her own by bus when they had reliable service. So the usual Mothers Day plan was to take an afternoon ride to destinations unknown and find a venue for the food just by chance. It always seemed more adventurous that way. Only two pre-planned occasions come to mind. One was at a hall in Warren with a very nice buffet, but the crowd was huge and dining with strangers usually seems odd at best. The other was truly memorable because I took her to Greek Town in Detroit. We first attended Mass at St. Mary's, then went to the New Hellas for lunch. And to top it off, the day's weather was perfect, so the ride around downtown was the best that it could be for seeing the sights. It would not seem like much of a trip to many, but she really enjoyed that one as well as the others we took around town from time to time.##imported-begin##Ray Rutyna##imported-end##

May 11, 2012 at 09:34 AM



“ Flowers for Mother's Day were planted at the cemetery last Thursday, May 3. The day was summer-like with temperatures in the 80's. That night there were thunder and lightening storms. And a light in mom's bedroom that was NOT left on came on around midnight, as if to signal "Thank You". There is no other explanation for the event.##imported-begin##Ray Rutyna##imported-end##

May 08, 2012 at 11:18 AM



“ Another Mass of Remembrance was offered by Frances Plawinski on Saturday April 21, 2012 at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church. The celebrant was Fr. Bob Kotlarz. The spring rain is finally here and the new grass seed on the grave is sprouting.##imported-begin##Raymond Rutyna##imported-end##

April 30, 2012 at 11:19 AM



“ The headstone for the grave was delivered and installed during Holy Week, so it was ready for Easter Sunday. The inscription reads:

"Forever In Our Hearts"

Dear Wife - Mother - Grandmother

Helen Rutyna

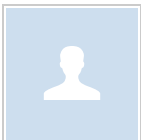
July 30, 1918 - February 2, 2012

"He who believes in Me..... Will Live Forever"

An engraved picture of Mary, the Blessed Mother is

included.##imported-begin##Raymond Rutyna##imported-end##

April 10, 2012 at 10:10 AM



“ A mass of remembrance from the OLQH Social Club was offered on Tuesday, March 27, by celebrant Fr. Tom Puzio.##imported-begin##Raymond Rutyna##imported-end##

March 27, 2012 at 11:03 AM



“ A Mass of remembrance from Andy Konwerski was offered at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. The celebrant was Fr. Bob Kotlarz.##imported-begin##Raymond Rutyna##imported-end##

March 15, 2012 at 10:15 AM



“ Remembering you in the backyard garden as I clean up for another growing season on these early warm days of Spring. The day lillies and a few others are showing signs of regrowth.##imported-begin##Raymond Rutyna##imported-end##

March 14, 2012 at 11:11 AM



“ Time to go home Mom. Time to sleep. I'll always remember the bedtime prayers you taught us to say each night. May you rest in the peace of the Lord forever.##imported-begin##Raymond Rutyna##imported-end##

February 07, 2012 at 10:09 AM