



## Helen Florence Holcomb Cowart

January 19, 1929 - December 16, 2016

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Helen Florence Holcomb Cowart passed away on December 16, 2016 in her home in San Antonio, Texas surrounded by her family. The event can be summed up in one of her many famous sayings, “Well, ain’t that a revolting development.” Those who knew her have lost a mother, sister, aunt, friend and longtime Young and the Restless viewer. The world at large has lost a one-of-a kind resident.

Helen was a proud Texan, born on January 19, 1929 and raised in Bulah, which, unless you are from those parts, have probably never heard of before. It is near Rusk in East Texas and her family has lived in and around that neck of the woods since before Texas was Texas – a fact Helen held very close to her heart. As a child, she attended the Bulah Elementary School which was, as she always carefully pointed out, not quite a one-room schoolhouse. “It had two rooms.” She went to the big city to complete her primary education and graduated early from Rusk High School in 1945. Afterwards, she went to Lon Morris Junior College in Jacksonville, Texas and completed her Associates Degree in Music in 1947. On August 29, 1948 at the ripe old age of 19 she married James E. Cowart, who had moved to Rusk a few years earlier from

Dallas. Even though she initially thought he was a uppity city slicker, she started dating him to make some of the other girls jealous and decided that he wasn't so bad after all. Theirs was a long, strong, and happy marriage.

Helen and Jim moved to Houston in 1949 where Jim attended Baylor College of Medicine. Helen used her musical training and sang with various church and choral groups in the area, including the Houston Symphony Chorale under the direction of Alfred Urbach. After medical school, Jim accepted an internship at Gorgas Hospital, so Helen moved with him to the Panama Canal Zone, which was quite a move for an East Texas girl. She enjoyed the beauty of Panama and loved to pick avocados from the tree in her backyard, until she found out certain snakes in Panama live in the trees. Then someone else had to do the picking. After Panama, Helen moved to Hawaii to join Jim as he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Helen loved absolutely everything about Hawaii, especially the fact that it has no snakes.

The Cowarts eventually settled in Bay City, Texas where Jim set up his medical practice. Helen raised five children, numerous foster children and even owned and operated her own daycare, Kids and Co. She was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority in Bay City and, along with her good friend Rose Cannon, organized the Women's Republican Club and the first Pink Ladies Association at the Matagorda General Hospital. She was active in her children's schools with the PTA and the Bay City High School Band Booster Club and she was at just about every sporting event, band concert, music recital, or dance recital her children did.

Helen was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and exemplified a life of Christian service. She loved people and took care of them. She followed the commandment to honor her parents, caring for both her own father and her mother-in-law before they passed away. She literally had an open door policy in her home where not only friends were

always welcome, but also foster children, sick people, exchange students, and she even let the pregnant cat that moved into the garage come and stay.

After 50 years in Bay City, Jim retired from his medical practice and in 2007, he and Helen moved to San Antonio to live with their daughter, Mary. In San Antonio, Helen made fast friends and spent her time serving in her church, getting her nails done, attending Reagan High School Choir concerts, cooking for family and friends, loving on grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and struggling to figure out the TV remote. And recently, she kept up her open door policy and her lifelong love of animals by taking in and bottle-feeding a stray kitten that was found on her front porch.

Helen is survived by: her children, Robert Walter Cowart II (Sandy), John Timothy Cowart (Aimee), Mary Frances Cowart, and Agatha Anne Jenkins (Mark); and two siblings, Emmett Holcomb of Bula, Texas and Mary Jane Wylie of Longview, Texas. She is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 30+ great-grandchildren (everyone has lost count), and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Helen is preceded in death by: her beloved husband and best friend, James E. Cowart; her oldest baby, James E. "Jed" Cowart Jr. and daughter-in-law, JoAnn Haws Cowart; her adored parents, Harvey and Norene Holcomb (a.k.a. Daddy Papa and Big Momma); and her sweet big sister, Mamie.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at Adams Chapel Methodist Church in Bula, Texas. Interment will follow at the Holcomb Family Cemetery, where she will be laid to rest next to her husband and five generations of her family. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 19, 2016 at the funeral home.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in San Antonio, Texas at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located at 645 Knights Cross Drive.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Florence Holcomb Cowart*

October 04, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear about your mom passing. She was a great lady and I will always remember the fun times we had going to girls camp together. She always had the best camp set up. I loved her wonderful sense of humor that kept us laughing whenever we were around her. Helen had a way about her that always made everyone feel welcome. We loved her and Dr Cowart who was our Dr and took very good care of our family from concushones to a heart attack. It was Dr Cowart who gave our 3 boys their Patriarchal Blessings. We only lived in Bay City for 4 and a half years but they will always hold a special place in our hearts. Our love to you Mary and the rest of your family. May the Lords blessings be with you always.💕*

Peg Segle - December 22, 2016 at 12:18 AM



“ *Jim and I remember Helen and Dr Cowart with sweet sweet memories and love. We never remember one of them without remembering them both. They always had beautiful testimonies and alway showed how they believed with they way they acted. They were a great strength to us and our four children. We will always love them and be glad we had a chance to have them be apart of our life's.*

*Our prayers and thought are with her family.*

*Jim and Valerie Shaw*

james p shaw - December 19, 2016 at 09:23 PM



*Dr cowart&helen were great people&friends,prayers to the family,we still miss them here in bay city.mary ashby*

**Mary Ashby** - December 20, 2016 at 06:54 PM

MB

*“ Although I did not know you well, I heard wonderful things about you. There is rejoicing in Heaven as you join with those dearly departed, especially your soul mate, Jim. My prayers are for those left behind who will miss you the most. Families are forever! Melody Bacak*

**Melody Bacak** - December 19, 2016 at 04:51 PM



*“ Majestic Heart was purchased for the family of Helen Florence Holcomb Cowart.*



December 19, 2016 at 04:01 PM

JF

*“ She is an example of kindness, service and Motherhood. My favorite saying of hers: Keep one foot in the syrup bucket!!*

**Janet French** - December 19, 2016 at 03:04 PM

VB

*“ Forever in my heart Mrs Helen!!!. Had some good times at Kids and Co. with all our kids. Will miss you and my prayers for your family.*

**VICKI BALLINGER** - December 19, 2016 at 01:51 PM

KB

“ *This world has lost a wonderful and caring mother. I will be forever grateful to Helen.*

*K. Brown*

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**K. Brown** - December 19, 2016 at 12:59 PM

GA

“ *While I am sad to be deprived of Helen's company here, I have no doubt of her reunion with Dr. Cowart. What a wonderful couple! When I graduated from BYU with Jed those many years ago, I wasn't sure what I was going to do next. I went to Texas with him, and ended up in law school there. Helen and Jim treated me like another son--just like they treated many others who came to their home. Their wonderful family is a monument to their lives. Helen's generosity and kindness are legendary, and will be greatly missed. My love and sympathy go out to her children and grandchildren. Keep up Helen's legacy. God bless you.*

*Greg Allen*

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**Gregory Allen** - December 19, 2016 at 12:59 PM

SA

“ *Toad and I will always have a special place in our hearts for Jim and Helen. They were always so good to come see us when we were at college at BYU and bring us fish from a stop in Colorado. Helen was always a good listener and I loved talking with her. I will miss her dearly! She has always been a good example to me and my family! Our prayers and thoughts are with all of you at this time. May the LORD bless and comfort you all! Love y'all, Sue*

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**Sue Ashcraft** - December 19, 2016 at 09:16 AM

JH

“ *Mamma Helen was a mother to every one who walked through her door. I loved her east Texas sayings and hope her kids have written them down. She was a real Texas lady and every one I ever met had a Helen story. I never visited with her over the past 40 years that she didn't make me laugh til I cried. She raised an amazing family and they all spoke wonderful things about their Oma. She will be missed . What a reunion there was in paradise.*

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**Janice Hurst** - December 18, 2016 at 10:40 PM

DR

“ *Helen and Dr. Cowart were 2 of the most loving, caring and wonderful people ever born ! She would light up a room just by entering. Know she is happy to be back with her love. Her family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*



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**Debbi Rye** - December 18, 2016 at 09:51 PM

 Ross  
Elkins

“ *What a wonderful woman. A huge part of the Bay City Black Cat Band she chaperoned many a band trip and always made everyone feel great. A true Representative of the word Integrity. She will be very missed.*

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**Ross Elkins** - December 18, 2016 at 09:36 PM

BG

“ I have memories of Helen Cowart at Girl's Camp, at a youth garage sale, driving us to church dances near Houston, and of teaching us how to sing in a choir. My all time favorite memory of Helen Cowart was when our youth group was asked to do a "dance show" at a stake youth dance. Helen Cowart sewed all the girls 1920s flapper dresses...my dress was yellow with black lace. (I even think Mary and Agatha sang "Charleston" that night.) It was one of my best memories growing up. I kept that dress for many, many years and wore it at many Halloweens. Also, I felt strengthened by Helen Cowart's love of the Savior. Her example really influenced me.

Bretta (Barlow) Greely - December 18, 2016 at 08:08 PM

TE

“ She was a wonderful and wise woman. We all are blessed to have known her.

Traci Ethington - December 18, 2016 at 07:54 PM



“ Helen was one of f my best friends for years and years ! I could tell stories for hours. We would laugh till we cried ! We talked at least once a week ! I will miss her so much !!! I love all of you kids !!! Ox ox the rose !



Rose Cannon - December 18, 2016 at 07:13 PM