



Helen Hedwig Riemer

July 17, 1929 – October 26, 2017

On October 26, 2017, Helen Hedwig Petzold Riemer passed away at age 88 in Bellingham, Washington, after living a full life blessed with abundant rose gardens and enriched by her loving family and many friends she so adored.

Helen, daughter of Elisabeth Amanda Rohr and Wilhelm Kurt Petzold, was born on July 17, 1929 in New York City. She and her older sister Elizabeth Johanna grew up in Brooklyn, New York and Germany. At age 13, during the war, she and her family were detained for two years in Crystal City, Texas internment camp where she helped teach kindergarten students. Near the end of WWII the family was released and traveled to Glauchau, Germany, surviving the bombings in nearby Dresden. Helen and her sister worked as English translators for the military before returning to New York where they had been sponsored by her uncle. Helen worked as a secretary in New York, then moved to Salt Lake City, Utah to be closer to her only sister Elizabeth. Her parents joined them later.

While working in Salt Lake, she met Emil Franz Riemer "Sandy" and they were married for 57 years. They had three beautiful children before moving to the Northwest in 1963, first living in Issaquah and then settling in Brush Prairie, Washington, raising their family on a beautiful 15 acre country home.

In 1975, Helen and Sandy opened a small grocery and gas station called the "The Grocery" where many lifelong friendships and memories were made. Helen never failed to ask each new person about their heritage and history.

Helen loved her Bethel Lutheran Church community and maintained many lifelong friendships. Helen became a certified Master Gardener where

she spent many volunteer hours over the years. She was a beautiful quilter and seamstress. Helen and Sandy filled their lives together with family travel adventures, such as skiing, flying, the Utah mountains, trips to visit family in Germany and enjoyed Mexico as a special destination.

Helen was devoted to her beloved children, daughters Ingrid Elizabeth (Griffin), Karin Lee (Mahugh) and son Emil F. Riemer (Joan). Helen cherished her grandchildren, Madeline, Paul, Phillip, Fiona, Alexander, Andrea and Max and was the proudest Oma, sharing stories of their successes and achievements. Helen so loved her daughter-in-law Joan Riemer as a daughter and treasured her loving care and friendship. Her son-in-law, Chuck Griffin, was well-fed and cherished. She was a loving and special aunt to nieces and nephews Merrilee, Vicki, Bill and Timothy in Utah. She is survived by cousin Christine and family in Glauchau, Germany. She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents, her sister Elizabeth (Lizzie) and infant sister Johanna.

May we all remember the beautiful "Helen Riemer Smile" and think of her spending mornings sitting in her Brush Prairie kitchen nook, enjoying her coffee and chocolate donuts, and her cherished gardens and birds. Memorials may be made to the WSU Clark County Extension Master Gardener Endowment (<https://secure.wsu.edu/give/default.aspx?fund=234>), the Bethel Lutheran Memorial Fund, or flowers may be sent to Bethel Lutheran for the service.

A service with a reception following, will be held on Saturday, November 11th, 2017, 11:00 a.m. at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Brush Prairie.