

Obituary Helmi Irene Gawboy (aka Helmi Andrews)

Helmi Irene Gawboy passed away on July 9, 2018 after spending a week enjoying life; music, songs, telling stories, laughter and love with her children and grandchildren in Juneau, Alaska.

Helmi was born April 23, 1935 to Robert Gawboy, Sr and Helmi Jarvinen in the Cloquet Indian Hospital in Knife Falls Township on the Fond du lac Reservation in Minnesota. Helmi was number five of eight children and is survived by her two younger brothers, James Gawboy (spouse: Rebecca) of Tower, MN and Carl Gawboy (spouse: Cynthia) of Superior, WI. Helmi has four surviving children, Marie Messing (spouse: Brian) of Juneau, AK, Tom Anspach of Canton, NC, Jeff Anspach (spouse: Linda) of Terrebonne, OR and Bruce Anspach (spouse: Ruth) of Bemidji, MN. Helmi has 11 grandchildren, David Anspach, Chris Anspach, Kiera Messing, Casey Anspach, Nathan Messing, Dylan Anspach, Tayte Anspach, Chase Anspach, Quinn Anspach, Eden Anspach and Beck Anspach. Helmi has two Great Grandchildren, Charisma Anspach and Canaan Anspach and numerous neices and nephews including Roger who is her favorite.

Helmi graduated from Milwaukee Downer College and her Ely High School senior photo describes her as a “Champion of Free Speech” and “Self-reliant” If you asked Helmi she would say that means sarcastic which describes her notable sense of humor.

Helmi has fond memories growing up in Minnesota spending time with her grandparents blueberry picking, wild rice making, and camping. After college Helmi moved to New Jersey and finished raising her family initially in Clearwater, FL and then Largo, FL. She worked for US Home Corporation in FL and returned to Vermillion, MN and then to Cass Lake, MN where she was fulfilled working for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in education as a financial aid counselor. She ended up retiring to a homestead in Gemmel, MN where she worked on building a house, chopping wood, shoveling snow and gardening. She had fun living her final years in Nett Lake, Cook and Virginia Senior independent living communities.

Helmi's children had a pre-memorial service July 7, 2018, at Helmi's bedside laughing, sharing memories, and telling stories before she flew away to her “home on God's celestial shore” Her children and grandchildren will have a camping memorial service on July 13, 2018 at Auke Recreation Campground, Juneau, AK. Another memorial service will be planned in Minnesota later in the year.