



## Helen Marie Murphy

June 5, 1951 - January 31, 2025

Helen Murphy, 73, of Eagan, MN, formerly of Larimore, ND and East Grand Forks, MN, passed away peacefully at her home on January 31, 2025.

Helen Marie Rowerdink was born on June 5th, 1951, to Cornelius and Winnie Rowerdink in Strasburg, ND. After graduating from Strasburg High School, she continued her studies at the University of North Dakota where she earned both her undergraduate degree (early childhood, elementary education, and speech pathology/audiology) and master's degrees (early childhood special education) from UND. It was there that she met Charlie Murphy of Larimore, ND; they were married December 20, 1970.

Helen and Charlie moved to the Murphy family farm in 1974 where they raised their two sons, Jake and Matt. Helen taught kindergarten in Michigan, ND before working for many years in Crookston, MN teaching kindergarten & early childhood special education until her retirement after more than 40 years of teaching. In 2017, Helen and Charlie moved to the Twin Cities to be closer to their three grandchildren.

Helen adored her childhood with her siblings in Strasburg and spoke frequently of her summers as a lifeguard at the local pool. Her passion for teaching kindergarten and special education was a driving force in her life; she made an impact in many young lives. Helen always had food ready for

Jake and Matt's friends in Larimore and loved having all their friends over at the house.

Helen and Charlie were married for 49 years before Charlie passed in 2020. Helen missed Charlie deeply.

In retirement, Helen's hobbies centered around being a superfan at her grandchildren's sports and events. She especially loved making gingerbread houses with Maggie during the holidays, watching Timberwolves and Twins games with Kelton, and cooking with Merritt.

Helen is survived by her sons, Jake Murphy of Eagan, MN, and Matthew (Laura) Murphy of Minneapolis; sister Nyla (Sid) Herrick of Litchfield, MN, brother John Rowerdink of Pinehurst, NC, and twin sister Susan Rowerdink of New London, MN; grandchildren Maggie, Kelton, and Merritt Murphy; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Charlie and her parents.

Visitation will be held Thursday the 13th of February from 4-6p.m. at Washburn-McReavy's Bloomington Chapel at 2300 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN.

Funeral services will be held at University Lutheran in Grand Forks, ND on Saturday the 8th of March at 1p.m.

If so desired memorials may be directed to University Lutheran Church.

Arrangements by Washburn-McReavy  
[www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

FEB 13. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Bloomington Chapel  
2300 W. Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
(952) 884-8145  
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

## Memorial Service

MAR 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

University Lutheran Church  
2122 University Ave  
Grand Forks, ND 58203

# Tribute Wall

WF

“ With love, Jerry and Lori Murphy family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Helen Marie Murphy.



With love, Jerry and Lori Murphy family - February 13, 2025 at 11:31 AM

MO

“ Dear Laura, Matt, and Merritt, we are so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother / grandmother. Thinking of you and sending you lots of love. - The board and staff at Chops, Inc.

Megan OLeary - February 10, 2025 at 03:16 PM

CS

“ Chops, Inc. Board and Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen Marie Murphy.

Chops, Inc. Board and Staff - February 10, 2025 at 03:14 PM

CS

“ Chops, Inc. Board and Staff purchased the *Florist Choice Bouquet* for the family of Helen Marie Murphy.



Chops, Inc. Board and Staff - February 10, 2025 at 03:14 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Helen Marie Murphy.*



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February 10, 2025 at 01:49 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen Marie Murphy.*



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February 09, 2025 at 04:43 PM



“ *Dropping in to express my deepest sympathy to Helen's family. I was part of her early life in Strasburg, ND. Met her in the fourth grade thru high school. I was Blessed enough to meet Charlie and catch up with Helen at our 50th class reunion in 2019. Very grateful for that.*

*Later, Helen shared a photo with me of our graduation. I was thrilled as cameras weren't quite so readily available during that era.*

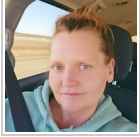
*Thanks Helen.*

*Lori (Lorraine) Scherr Day, part of the 1969 Strasburg High graduating class.*



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**Lori Scherr Day** - February 08, 2025 at 11:41 AM



“ *My favorite teacher of all time! She was the best! Caring and loving person. RIP Mrs. Murphy 🙏 thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. She has touched my life's over her years....*

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**Ashley Parsons** - February 04, 2025 at 04:19 PM



“ *Mrs. Murphy was my kindergarten teacher in 1977-78. I believe this was her first class. Details are a bit fuzzy from that long ago, but I do remember really liking her. I remember her being very kind and making our introduction to school fun. I'm glad to read that over 40 other classes got to experience her joy and kindness.*

*My deepest condolences to her family. Enjoy the memories from spending time with such a beautiful soul.*

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**Mike Schmidt** - February 04, 2025 at 02:08 PM