



Helen Tait

July 26, 1931 - April 29, 2024

Nella Helen Steele Tait, age 92, was born in Wharton Creek, Arkansas and died at her farm in Wharton Creek on April 29, 2024, with her family by her side.

Helen was the middle child of five children born to Samuel Webster Steele and Pearl Bolinger Steele. Helen maintained she had unique strengths due to growing up on the family farm with her four brothers: Dwight, Duane, Arthur and Leon Steele.

Helen attended a one-room school through 8th grade (Upper Wharton) and graduated from Huntsville High School in 1947 at the age of 16. After getting a two-year teaching degree at Arkansas Tech in Russellville, she returned at the age of 18 to Upper Wharton School to teach for one year to save enough money to finish college. Helen then attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education. While at U of A, she met her husband, George Robert Tait, Jr. Helen was voted engineering queen, St. Patricia, in the School of Engineering the year she graduated.

Helen and George were married for 60 years, and had three children, two sons and a daughter: Stacy, Layne and Alison. When her children were small, Helen taught kindergarten and worked as a substitute teacher. She returned

to college in her late 30's and obtained a PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. The family then moved to Los Altos, CA where Helen lived for 46 years and was a member of Foothills Congregational Church. Helen started a private practice, Counseling Psychologists, Inc in Cupertino, CA. She greatly enjoyed her work as a psychologist, helping many people in their mental health journey. Helen retired at the age of 85.

Helen and George always maintained that having a good education would lead to happiness and satisfaction in life, and paid for their children to attend college through graduate professional degrees. Helen was proud of coming from a humble and wholesome family farm in Huntsville. In 2019, she restored the farmstead and home she grew up in for future generations to enjoy the beauty of Wharton Creek. Helen and George loved their extended family, and built the Steele Cemetery on their farmland to provide a beautiful setting for loved ones.

Helen returned to live in Arkansas at the age of 90. In her later years, she established the Steele Tait Family Foundation to help provide assistance, education and mental health care to women and children in Northwest Arkansas. More recently, the foundation has supported the work of the Children's Safety Center of Washington County.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, George; her parents, Sam and Pearl Steele, and three brothers, John Dwight Steele, Frank Duane Steele, and Austin Leon Steele.

Helen leaves behind her three children: Stacy Tait (Lesa), Layne Tait, and Alison Tait (Marty Witucki). Helen is survived by her treasured grandchildren: Amber Tyndal, Justin Tait, Heather Tait, Warren Tait, Sean Tait, Kelly Witucki and Sam Witucki, and step-grandchild Sara Greene (Todd). She has one

great-grandchild, Madeleine Koulavong and four step great-grandchildren, Emma, Brian, Harrison and Edward Greene. She is also survived by her brother, Samuel Arthur Steele (Lou) and sisters-in-law Donna Steele and Janie Steele. In addition, she is survived by her nieces and nephews: Patsy Scott, Linda McChristian, Robin Thomas, Rocky Steele, Ginger Staff, Doug Steele and Haley Steele.

Burial will be at Steele Cemetery in Huntsville, AR under the direction of Brashears Funeral Home on May 2nd at 2 pm. The family will host a celebration of life service for family and friends at the Pavilion at Steele Cemetery on Saturday, May 18 th at 11 am. To leave a tribute online, please visit: brashearsfuneralhome.net The family requests in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Children's Safety Center of Washington County, 3242 Gene George Boulevard, Springdale, AR, 72762.

Cemetery Details

Steele Cemetery

180 MADISON 2761
Huntsville, AR 72740

Previous Events

Burial

MAY 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

Steele Cemetery
180 MADISON 2761
Huntsville, AR 72740

Celebration of Life

MAY 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (cst)

Steele Cemetery
180 MADISON 2761
Huntsville, AR 72740

Tribute Wall

BP

“Helen was a valued colleague and friend. For many years we learned together as members of a group consultation. Her wisdom and generous compassion consistently graced her work and all her relationships.

Bonnie Payne

Bonnie Payne - May 08, 2024 at 12:03 AM

KN

“Helen was a member of our book club in California for almost 20 years. We miss her thoughtful presence at our monthly meetings. She was a kind, gracious lady.

Karen Neier - May 07, 2024 at 04:45 PM

SC

“Helen was my counselor during a very difficult time in my life. With her calm and wise help, I was able to get through that time, raise my sons into fine men, and return to my career as a high school teacher. What a wonderful counselor and friend she was! I think of her often and send a prayer of thanks that she was a part of my life.

Susan Camp - May 06, 2024 at 10:54 PM

CA

“Helen was my next door neighbor, we shared a serendipitous garden between our homes where flowers and plants could go in or come out without a plan or complaint, and many a laugh happened along the way . We shared a career, both being psychologists and she was always a wise counsel to me when I was needing some space from my large family. I will never forget Helen and always cherish her as a very good friend and a wise woman.

Cheryl Ambler - May 06, 2024 at 08:12 PM

PF

“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. Your mother obviously led an extraordinary life filled with love, dedication, and achievements. Her contributions to education, mental health care, and community support have left an indelible mark. Her legacy will continue to inspire many, and her memory will always be cherished. My thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.



Patti Langwell Fellerman - May 05, 2024 at 11:18 PM

CW

“ I met and started seeing Helen at a very difficult time in my life. It was 1977 and she counseled me three times a week for a year and then I relied on her knowledge, compassion and tools to understand my dreams on and off for 20 some years. I can honestly say that she saved my life and I always wondered what I would do if I ever needed her and she wasn't there to call. I know she and my late husband are talking about the old days and how much she meant to us. May God Bless her.

Claudia Weist - May 05, 2024 at 06:22 PM

SF

“ Helen blessed my life in countless ways. Anyone who knew her will miss her greatly. What a privilege to have known her. Scott Fisher

Scott Fisher - May 05, 2024 at 02:21 PM

MF

“ McCool family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Helen Tait.



McCool family - May 04, 2024 at 11:08 AM

MF

“ McCool family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen Tait.

McCool family - May 04, 2024 at 11:08 AM

PT

“ Pamala Tait purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Helen Tait.



Pamala Tait - May 02, 2024 at 05:35 PM

CR

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family.

Charlinda Reeves - May 02, 2024 at 01:35 AM

BP

“ Bloomington Anesthesiologists, PC purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Helen Tait.



Bloomington Anesthesiologists, PC - May 01, 2024 at 09:59 AM