



Helen Cresci

June 18, 1917 - August 21, 2011

Helen Elizabeth Cresci At rest on August 21, 2011, at the age of 94. Preceded in death by her beloved husband of 58 years, Lewis Cresci. Loving mother of Diana, LuAnn and Lewis Jr. Cherished grandmother of six. Mom is survived by many loving relatives and friends. A native San Franciscan, mom was a graduate of Lux High School class of 1935. Mom enjoyed being a homemaker and had a passion for sewing. She had a great interest in travel and truly enjoyed her cruises and driving down the coast with dad. She will always be in our hearts. Family and friends may visit on Mon., Aug 29th, after 9AM and are invited to attend the funeral liturgy also on Mon, at 11AM all at chapels of VALENTE MARINI PERATA & CO., 4840 Mission St., SF.

Tribute Wall

LM

“ I first met the wonderful Cresci family when I was about 7 years old. Our Dads were Navy buddies and we traveled to San Francisco from Portland to meet and reunite our Dads. The rest is history: Dad and Lew took up where they left off, Diana and I hit it off immediately, and Mom and Helen became life-long best friends. They wrote REAL letters to each other via the regular post sometimes twice a week (I could never understand how they could read each other's handwriting). They were closer than sisters. When LuAnn, Lewis Jr. and Joyce came along, they were good friends, too. We had so many wonderful visits in San Francisco, picnics in the Bay area and the best vacations in Lake Tahoe at Edwards Tahoe Lodge. I never saw my parents happier than when they were with Helen and Lew.

In the mid-70s my husband was in SF on business and I came to spend the weekend with him while he was here. Helen invited us to dinner. Of course, I was familiar with their famous hospitality and Helen's wonderful cooking but it was new for my husband Rick. Much to his delight she brought out a big pan of lasagna. But that was just the first course! Pot roast and all the trimmings followed! He was amazed. That was Helen. She loved to see her family and guests happy.

I feel like I have lost an honorary Mom. I told my husband that I am imagining a South Shore Lake Tahoe in Heaven where all the slots are winners and that the four of them are together.

Love to Diana, LuAnn and Lewis,

Linda

Linda Main - August 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Our Dads, Jim and Lew, met each other in the Navy during WWII. They became fast friends and our family couldn't wait to visit them after the war was over. From the first time that Mom and Linda met Helen in San Francisco, they were family. Helen's warm welcome to us made an enduring friendship that lasted over 55 years. Mom and Helen wrote letters at least once a week to one other and shared such a deep friendship of love and caring over the years. I remember many fun times on our family trips to California. Helen making wonderful meals around the dining room table. Helen would always get me San Francisco pizza as we didn't have that in Portland. Always lots of conversations and excitement going on. Dad and Lew being silly telling stories. Many fun picnics, outings, sightseeing in San Francisco and trips to Lake Tahoe... All of them left me with rich, lasting and precious memories. Helen was such a wonderful friend to us and she has left a big hole. My love and condolences to the Cresci families. Joyce

Joyce Henwood-Phelps - August 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Dearest Mom - It is difficult to believe that I will not be able to hear your voice or visit with you. I have so many cherished memories of you throughout the years especially the last five years when you lived in Walnut Creek and I could visit you often. You will always be in my heart and thoughts throughout the day...I will miss you so much.... Love, Diana

Diana Cresci Grannis - August 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

“Helen is my step grandmother. Lu Ann married my father when I was six, and so I suppose I was her first experience at having a grandchild. What strikes me as I sit here thinking of grandma Helen, is that she didn't have to treat me as part of her family. She didn't have to extend such love toward me. I lived on the other end of California, and was some other woman's child. And yet Helen was never anything less than absolutely adoring toward me. When I would visit her, even as a young child, she would speak to me with such enthusiasm. Her voice would change. She would ask me all sorts of questions with sincere interest. She had such a soft face, and loved to give me kisses. She was always smiling. Her house was filled with classic antiques. It smelled like wood. She had classic taste. Her food was awesome. She laughed a lot, and tried to talk to me on my level whether I was five, twenty five, or 37. She always sent me gifts in the mail for various holidays. Little, simple, sweet things that girls like, and use. She never forgot me on holidays. She was tickled when I started to call her "Grandma". She took an interest in my travels, my life, and most recently, my baby. I remember her hands, the distinctive sound of her voice, the way she pronounced my name (more like "Rashel"), her clean smell, her bright smile, her fondness for gabbing, her clip earrings, her old box of toys, her strawberry candies, and her attentiveness.

I love my granmda Helen, and I am so sorry that I could not say goodbye to her in person. I wish I could have held her hand, thanked her for always treating me so well, and whispered a prayer of peace in her ears.

She would have loved to be at the reception at Nicks, and I know she will be honored there. My family and I just can't make it, with a 14 month old and a 2 week old.

My sympathy goes out to Diana, Charlie, Michael, Jeffrey, Ryan, Lewis, Natalie, my dad, LuAnn, Ben, Steve, Karen, Desi, Linda, Bruce, Blake and Lee.

Rachel Jaeger (now Ondrak) - August 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ *Betty and I are so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother and grandmother. She was such a lovely lady and her legacy lives through you. It was an honor to have been of service to her and to your family.*

Warmest Regards,

Dena Williams and Betty Taisch, Coldwell Banker

Dena Aslanian-Williams - August 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *I will miss you dearly mom and have cherished memories of our life together as a family. I will have many more photos to view at the memorial.. To a Great life mom! It very hard to believe you are gone and I won't be able to see you again in this life. I will come to you in the future but "Not Yet"..*

Lew Cresci - August 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *I will never forget what a thoughtful aunt Helen was; I am remembering that little bon voyage party when our high school orchestra went to Japan for 1970 Worlds Fair, 41 years ago! All of us nieces and nephews loved her, and she will be missed greatly! Love from niece Linda (and Bruce loved that she asked "How's Bruce?" when I last visted her.)*

Linda Meneken - August 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *I will miss Grandma Cresci. I always enjoyed seeing her. Even when she showed-up 3 hours early. :)*

Scott Westlake - August 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Mom, You will be missed.

Who is going to call me 4 times a day to see if I got home?

Seriously though, you were a special lady with a special love for everyone that knew you.

Hugs and Kisses,

Your Little LuAnn

LuAnn Jaeger - August 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM