

Hummingbirds open our eyes to the wonder of the world and inspire us to open our hearts to loved ones and friends. Like a hummingbird, we aspire to hover and to savor each moment as it passes, embrace all that life has to offer and to celebrate the joy of every day. The hummingbird's delicate grace reminds us that life is rich, beauty is everywhere, every personal connection has meaning and that laughter is life's sweetest creation.

Whenever we see a hummingbird and its flurry of activity, we will remember our Florida friend, Sister Helen Westmoreland, and the precious memories she brings to us on the wings of love.

Written by Michael Berry, PGP
Right Worthy Associate Grand Patron



In Memorium
Helen J. Westmoreland

Helen Jean Gordon Westmoreland peacefully transitioned from her earthly life to “that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” on Saturday, August 13, 2022, at the age of 86 years old. She was born on April 3rd, 1936, in Munson, Florida, to the late Mr. and Mrs. Dan Gordon. After graduating from Red Level High School in 1953, she met Victor Sloan Westmoreland of Charlotte, North Carolina, on a blind date. They married on October 15, 1954. Having a small ceremony and wearing a blue dress, Helen committed the next 50 years of her life to him.

Shortly after her wedding, Helen began her career as a telephone operator on Eglin AFB. However, five years later, Victor was stationed in Bovington, England; Helen joined him on their first great adventure together and she loved every minute of living overseas. They returned to Florida in 1962 and purchased their home in Valparaiso, where they lovingly raised their daughter, Karen.

Helen finished her career working as a comptroller for the Eglin Finance Office. She took great pride in her work and was highly awarded for her many professional accomplishments. Having a humble upbringing in rural Alabama as the oldest of seven siblings, she was certainly not a stranger to hard work, honesty, and perseverance; these traits were further honed during her thirty-five year civil service career.

Helen was initiated into Niceville Chapter #254, Order of the Eastern Star, on February 16, 1968, and subsequently met some of her closest friends while she served her subordinate chapter and Grand Chapter. She served as Worthy Grand Matron of Florida with Robert Fidler in 1996-97 before being elected as a member of the Board of Right Worthy Grand Trustees of the General Grand Chapter in 2000. Over the next 15 years, she progressed through the line, culminating with her election as Most Worthy Grand Matron. Serving in that exalted position was an immense responsibility which she executed with the utmost dedication. Through various benefit events, fundraisers, and charities, Helen supported a myriad of organizations with regenerative medicine and first responders being particularly near and dear to her heart. She never let an opportunity pass to tell people about the organization which meant so much to her. She and her Most Worthy Grand Patron, Robert Penoyer of Pennsylvania, welcomed the world to

Orlando, Florida, for the “Precious Memories on the Wings of Love” 49th Annual Triennial Assembly from October 25th to November 2nd, 2018.

In her private life, Helen was a voracious reader, a lover of the TV shows “JAG” and “NCIS” and would often drink black coffee by the pot. She had a gift for remembering names and details about peoples’ lives and as a result, had a Christmas card list that was a mile long. Many years, she would still be writing Christmas cards on New Year’s Eve, but Helen didn’t mind because she wanted to make sure that no one would miss getting a thoughtful handwritten note from her. Helen was a devoted member of Crosspoint Church in Niceville, and when she was in town, she rarely missed attending Sunday School.

Helen is survived by her daughter, Karen Madruga; 2 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters, and many extended family and friends.



Legend says that hummingbirds float free of time, carrying our hopes for love, joy and celebration.

