

[Bolles](#) / [Helen Bolles](#)

# Helen Bolles

[Send Flowers](#)[Follow](#)[Share](#)[Obituary](#)[Guest Book](#)

## FUNERAL HOME

Huber Funeral Home - Excelsior Chapel  
 520 2nd Street  
 Excelsior, Minnesota

## Helen Bolles Obituary

Published by Huber Funeral Home - Excelsior Chapel from Feb. 16 to Feb. 18, 2007.

Bolles, Helen a woman who gave the gifts of a chuckle and a smile to many, peacefully passed away in Excelsior on February 11, 2007, at the age of 85. In those eighty five years she demonstrated what love, selflessness, a competitive spirit, and playfulness can do to help us along our way. Helen, on October 26, 1921, was born in Hibbing as the middle child of Edna and Matt Plese. At the age of six Helen was orphaned. She and her two siblings then entered St. James Orphanage in Duluth from where Helen was lovingly accepted into the McDowell home. She was married to Robert Bolles for fifty four years. They raised two accomplished children, Barbara Bolles Popkin, Grand Rapids and Bob Bolles, Excelsior. Helen spent her life loving and giving to others. Over the years, she entertained children as a Christmas Elf at the Excelsior Christmas Pageant, and she dressed in costume at Halloween. She was also a volunteer at South-shore Senior Center. Helen was proud of her one grandchild, Nathan. She yearned for a houseful of grandchildren, so she found surrogates in many other little ones who called her Grandma Helen. Before moving to Excelsior, Helen lived in Duluth. Later, she and her husband moved to Mountain Iron and Virginia where they opened a kennel business where most of those pooches shared the comforts of her home. Helen and her husband also trained Labrador retrievers, two of which became amateur field trial champions. Helen also became an avid curler, traveling throughout the United States with her team. In 1974, she and her team won the National Senior Women Curling Championship. Surviving are her daughter, Barbara (Ken) Popkin, Grand Rapids; son, Bob "Jeff" (Diane) Bolles, Excelsior; grandson, Nathan Lee (Lisa) Popkin, Duluth; sisters, Geri Gustafson, St. Cloud and Lothaire Stewart, St. Paul; Plese, Bolles, Gonska, and McDowell nieces and nephews. Predeceasing Helen were her husband, Robert Bolles; her parents, Edna and Matt; her siblings, Edgar and Margaret; and also her parents, Mr. and Mrs. McDowell and her brother, Bob. Mass of Christian Burial 10:30 AM Tuesday at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 680 Mill Street, Excelsior. Visitation 5-8 PM Monday at Huber Funeral Home Excelsior Chapel, 520 2nd Street, and 1 hour prior to Mass at CHURCH. Huber Funeral & Cremation Services The Excelsior Chapel 952-474-9595

This obituary was originally published in the Star Tribune


[Obituary](#)[Show Support](#)[Guest Book](#)

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

## Memories and Condolences for Helen Bolles

What is your first memory of Helen?


Answer a question, share your own memory, or leave condolences

 Add Photos

Continue →

Not sure what to say?  
[See Suggestions](#)

6 Entries


 **Judy Olsen** February 22, 2007

Dear Barbara and Jeff,  
Last night was women's league at the St. Paul Curling Club. Heard about your Mom's passing from RoseMarie

[See More](#)


Two quick stories of hers that I remember fondly were:

1) "small wash" - her nickname for the lead on a curling team during a bonspiel. She always jokingly maintained that it was the responsibility of the lead curler to do the "small wash" for the whole team while out of town on a bonspiel.

 **Laura Turgeon** February 20, 2007

2) the time your Dad decided to improve the doghouse by adding a light bulb to keep the dog warm. Helen couldn't figure out why the dog would sit outside the doghouse in the winter. She checked it out and found that her husband had put in such a high-wattage bulb that it was too hot for the dog to stay in the doghouse. So he sat outside panting to cool off.

My deepest sympathy on the loss of your mother.  
What a joy she was to be with at the SouthShore Center, witty humor and bottomline common sense - a true spirit that will be surely missed.  
Bless that Helen! I'll miss her.

 **John Peterson** February 18, 2007

Bob,  
We are very sorry to hear of the passing of your Mother. She was a wonderful lady. I loved her smile that was

Obituary

Show Support

Guest Book

John & Ann Peterson



R.M. Zobenica February 18, 2007

I acknowledge with sadness Helen's passing. I had a long association with Helen and Bob as their veterinarian and as a customer of Bolles' Kennels. She brought a smile with each visit. Please accept my most sincere sympathy.  
Dr.R.M.Zobenica

## How you can show support



### Send flowers

Consider sending flowers.



### Add photos

Share their life with photo memories.



### Plant trees

Honor them by planting trees in their memory.



### Follow this page

Get email updates when changes are made.



Mary Hermann February 17, 2007

I met Helen at the Southshore Senior Center. She was a delight to work with. Happy, spirited and caring. She will be deeply missed. Sincere sympathy to her family.



Katie Goodell February 16, 2007

Grandma Helen (as we called her) Was an amazing lady. Loved by many. My family and I were so blessed to have her in our lives. I am sure she is baking cookies for my late husband Jeremy once again. And the two are talking away just like old times. She will be greatly missed.

Showing 1 - 6 of 6 results

## Memorial Events for Helen Bolles



Obituary

Show Support

Guest Book

To offer your sympathy during this difficult time, you can now have memorial trees planted in a National Forest in memory of your loved one.

 Plant Trees

**Funeral services provided by:**

[Huber Funeral Home - Excelsior Chapel](#)

520 2nd Street, Excelsior, MN 55331

 Call: (952) 474-9595

**People and places connected with Helen**



Excelsior, MN

**Huber Funeral Home - Excelsior Chapel**

[More Info](#)

**Recent Obituaries**

[LaVerne Ann Paul](#)

[William John "Bill" Tomlinson](#)

[Laurice Marianne "Marianne" Be...](#)

[Sylvia Josphine Rick](#)

[Renee Dawn Walstrom](#)

[See All Obituaries →](#)



Last name

**"Bolles" Obituaries**

[Visit this Page](#)

**Recent Obituaries**

[Donald Bolles](#)

[William Mike Bolles III](#)

[MARY M. BOLLES](#)

[Emma Bolles](#)

[Chris S Bolles](#)

[See All Obituaries →](#)

**How to support Helen's loved ones**



Honor a beloved veteran with a special tribute of 'Taps' at the National WWI Memorial in Washington, D.C.

[Read more](#)

[Obituary](#)

[Show Support](#)

[Guest Book](#)



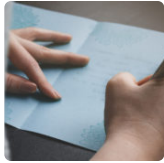
### Attending a Funeral: What to Know

[Read more](#)



### Should I Send Sympathy Flowers?

[Read more](#)



### What Should I Write in a Sympathy Card?

[Read more](#)

[View All](#)

## Resources to help you cope with loss



### Finding Connection After Loss: Exploring Family Roots with DNA Kits

The loss of a loved one is a life-altering event.. Exploring one's family heritage is one way to find comfort and a sense of connection.

[Read more](#)



### How to Write an Obituary

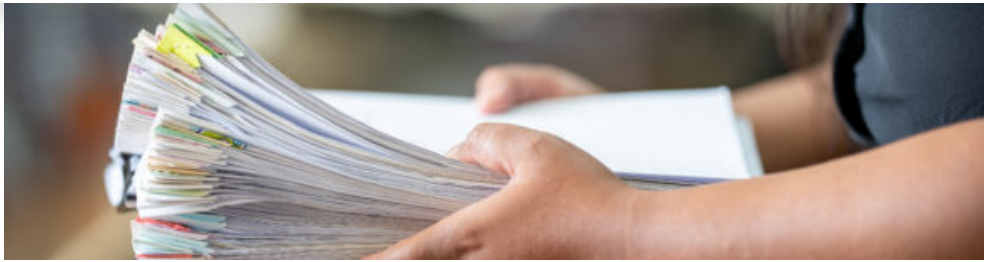
Need help writing an obituary? Here's a step-by-step guide...

[Read more](#)

[Obituary](#)

[Show Support](#)

[Guest Book](#)



### Estate Settlement Guide

If you're in charge of handling the affairs for a recently deceased loved one, this guide offers a helpful checklist.

[Read more](#)



### Obituaries, grief & privacy: Legacy's news editor on NPR podcast

Legacy's Linnea Crowther discusses how families talk about causes of death in the obituaries they write.

[Read more](#)

[View All](#)

## Ways to honor Helen Bolles's life and legacy



### Obituary Examples

[Read more](#)



### How to Write an Obituary

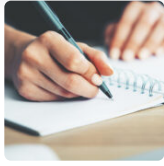
[Read more](#)



### Obituary Templates - Customizable Examples and Samples

[Read more](#)





How Do I Write a Eulogy?

[Read more](#)

[View All](#)

## Recent deaths in the news

Harry Chandler (1921–2024), Pearl Harbor survivor

[Read more](#)

Lenny Randle (1949–2024), MLB's "Most Interesting" player

[Read more](#)

Geoffrey Deuel (1943–2024), Chisum co-star

[Read more](#)

Wayne Osmond (1951–2025), founding member of The Osmonds

[Read more](#)

[View All](#)

## More ways to support the family

[Visit the Sympathy Shop](#)



Show your sympathy by sending flowers.

[Send Your Arrangement](#)



Dedicate a star in Helen's name.

[Name a Star](#)



Donate to charity in honor of Helen.

[Make a Donation](#)

 Sponsored

[Contact Us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

Legacy®

©2025 Legacy.com All rights reserved.

  
Obituary

  
Show Support

  
Guest Book