



## Helen Elizabeth Selig

February 18, 2022

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no “brief candle” for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

— George Bernard Shaw

Helen Elizabeth Selig, former Mayor of Hot Springs and beloved matriarch, died Friday, February 18th after a long and valiant battle with Alzheimer’s. She was 84.

Born Helen Boyd in Siloam Springs, she was the daughter of Ryland Samuel Boyd and Catherine Elizabeth Bell Boyd and a devoted sister to Catherine Sue Devero.

She and her husband of 64 years, John David Selig, raised their four children across several states and communities - De Queen, Arkansas; Philadelphia, Mississippi; Coos Bay, Oregon; Kent, Washington; and finally Hot Springs, Arkansas. In each town, Helen brought a passion for public service and community engagement, and in Hot Springs, that led to her term as Mayor.

Serving from 1994 to 2000, Helen was proud to show off her adopted hometown and spearhead economic and civic development. During her tenure, the Hot Springs Civic and Convention Center was constructed, and through her passionate lobbying the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts opened.

Helen was a commercial realtor and founder, with her son Scott, of the longtime Selig Commercial Real Estate in Hot Springs. She was a founding member of the Arkansas Women's Leadership Forum and the Women's Foundation of Arkansas and the first female Chair of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. Helen also served on the boards of the Oaklawn Foundation, her local NAACP, the Hot Springs Music Festival, and the national St John's Mercy Health System in Springfield, Missouri, among others.

Helen will be most dearly remembered by her family. Known to her 11 grandchildren and 4 great granddaughters as "Nana", Helen led her tribe on adventures from the Uffizi in Florence, Italy to Iguazu Falls in Argentina to Gulpha Gorge in Hot Springs. She was a matriarch with high standards and even greater love, and she instilled in each the importance of leading a contributory life and of doing so together, as a family.

She was preceded in death by her father, mother, and sister, and her torch will burn on through her children: Dr. Sarah Selig Carrier (Mark) of Johnson City, Tennessee; John Mark Selig (Jeannie Fetting) of Benton; Scott Selig (Kris) of Durham, North Carolina; and Michael Selig of Big Sur, California; along with her grandchildren: First Sergeant Allister Hawkins, Dr. Evan Allie, Kevin Selig, Lacy Selig, Anna Murphy, Sam Selig, Clifford Hawkins, SarahBelle Selig, Jack Selig, Mary Catherine Selig, and Vyla J'Neva Selig, and her great

grandchildren: Elliott, Rose Elizabeth, Theodora Joyce, and Helen Ann, and of course, her devoted husband, John David Selig.

Helen, Mom, Nana - You are our sunshine.

Memorial Mass will be held at St. Mary of the Springs Catholic Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas on Thursday, February 24th, at 11:00 am followed by a reception. All are welcomed to attend.

The family asked that all in attendance wear a face covering.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to The Caring Place.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

FEB **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Springs Catholic Church  
100 Central Ave  
Hot Springs, AR 71913  
(501) 623-3233

# Tribute Wall

QH

“ *Mayor Selig was a true icon as a leader for Hot Springs ! Always kind and polite even when we could not agree on an issue . She was an absolutely wonderful person .*

*Q. Byrum Hurst*

**Q. Byrum Hurst** - February 28, 2022 at 05:10 PM



“ *We are so sorry for the loss of Mrs Selig. John and Helen have helped us tremendously over the last 15 years. Many stories and great Memories....Steve Purtle and Precious Cargo.*

**Steve Purtle** - February 25, 2022 at 01:33 PM

JB

“ *God bless and comfort John and the entire Selig family during this sad time.*

**joni Brinegar** - February 24, 2022 at 09:09 AM

JM

“ *We were so sorry to learn of Helens passing. She was a great leader for Garland county. Such a wonderful person who will be missed by many. Our sincere condolences to John and the entire Selig family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*



**John & Roseanne Mickens** - February 24, 2022 at 01:58 AM

TE

*Although it was my honor to provide staff support for Helen during her mayoral years, she was also my friend. She had a way of immediately turning her focus away from herself and on you. She was an empath who felt the pain of others and would reach out with a kind word. Years ago when my mother passed, she quietly presented me with a gift to remember my mother by, saying, "We each have just one mother, and they are precious to us."*

*At the end of today's reception, a Selig family member suggested that we take one of the wildflower arrangements home, as they had plenty of extra ones. I turned to my husband and said, "Who can we cheer up today with these flowers?" He immediately thought of an elderly friend who is at home recovering from a fall. She is delighted with the flowers. I share this with Helen's family so you can know that even after her passing, Helen was blessing someone else.*

*I also remember years ago when Helen was honored with a community roast. Many people had such high regard for her that they put together quite a presentation. I remember I laughed until I cried. It was such good fun. Somewhere, I have an old videotape copy of it.*

*Helen, your enthusiasm about life, love of family and devotion to this city are qualities I will always remember about you. Thank you for leading those countless Saturday morning hikes with women friends, facilitating memories I truly treasure. Thank you for your generosity, encouragement, compassion, business sense, vision, determination and grit. You always focused your bright light onto the needs of others, rather than yourself. Husband, family, friends, community... your heart was big enough for all. May your loved ones rejoice in your enduring legacy. 💙*

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**Terry Edens** - February 25, 2022 at 12:54 AM

JB

*“ John and family, I have so many wonderful memories of sitting and talking with Helen by the lake and watching the birds! I think of you often. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

**JULIE BOSSON**

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**Julie Bosson** - February 23, 2022 at 03:33 PM

LG

“ *Mr. Selig and family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I was always welcomed by your family and enjoyed babysitting your "children". It just so happens today I am making Mrs. Selig's famous Chicken Spaghetti recipe that she gave to our mother.  
Prayers for comfort and peace.*

*Laurie Coulter Garcia*



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**Laurie Coulter Garcia** - February 23, 2022 at 02:22 PM

BW

“ *“Mrs. Selig” helped me grow up in DeQueen, Arkansas. She created a welcoming home and family. I still have a construction paper map she helped me create to memorialize a  
Trip the Tom Coulter family took in the 60’s. Very special lady.  
Prayers of comfort to the family. Beth Ann Coulter Weast.*

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**Beth Coulter Weast** - February 23, 2022 at 10:18 AM

NL

“ *Sarah, Danielle gave me the news that your mother passed away. I never got a chance to meet Mrs. Selig, but Danielle always spoke very highly of "Nana and Pappa," as she very affectionally called them. She said your parents were very kind to her.*

*My deepest condolences to you, your father, Allister and the entire family.*

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**Nancy Lopez** - February 22, 2022 at 10:18 PM

SK

“ From the perspective of friends of Scott and Kris, we know the power of love was ever present toward Helen and surrounded the entire Selig clan. Our most vivid memory of Helen was watching her entrance and subsequently walking down the aisle during granddaughter Anna’s wedding. The visual descriptive and applicable words are: Regal. And proud, And loving. And beautiful in every sense. We hurt for our dear and close friends, but know comfort is fueled by love and in this case, love is abundantly present. What a lady, what an incredible family. Love to all.

*Shelley and Randy Kolls*

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**Shelley and Randy Kolls** - February 21, 2022 at 02:31 PM

KF

“ I greatly enjoyed knowing Helen through AWLF. She was always witty, wise and fun to be with. My condolences to John and all the family. Karen Flake

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**Karen Flake** - February 21, 2022 at 10:53 AM

NC

“ A beautiful woman whose friendship, leadership, far-reaching conversations, contributions, and smiles are forever in our hearts. Helen loved life and helped us to love it even more.

*Condolences to John, family, and Helen's friends, far and wide.  
Godspeed, dear Helen. You are so loved.*

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**Nan Cameron** - February 21, 2022 at 10:32 AM

MR

“ John and family, Helen was an inspiration to us personally and to our entire Harvard AMP class as she shared living life to the fullest. Words cannot express the impact she brought to so many reunions when she shared her love of life. You are in our prayers as we remember the precious times we were able to spend in her company. What a great life she lived! Love you. Emmy and Mike

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**Mike Robertson** - February 21, 2022 at 09:45 AM

MM

“ My deepest condolences are extended to the Selig family. You are in my prayers.

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**Mary Noel Mabry** - February 21, 2022 at 12:54 AM

RE

“ John was my manager for many years. I always said he was like working for a tornado. But Helen could run circles around him, like a never ending Energizer Bunny. But what great things they have both done for our community. She was a get things done person and has left quite a legacy. Regina Aitken, Hot Springs

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**Regina** - February 21, 2022 at 12:49 AM

LR

“ Helen was friend, mentor, music partner, community collaborator, hike leader and inspiration to me and to so many others whose lives she touched. Holding John and the Selig family close to my heart.  
- Laura Rosenberg

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**Laura Rosenberg** - February 21, 2022 at 12:39 AM

CR

“ John Mark Selig: I was so sorry to learn of your mother's passing; I have such fond memories of the one visit I had with her...I had been determined to meet her given all you had shared with me and the many wonderful things I learned about her from Hot Springs friends. It is so hard to lose a mother but I quickly learned 15 years ago it is also a matter I find every day things I would never have known except through my wonderful mother and that gives me great satisfaction and peace. May it be so for you and all your family.  
Carol Hampton Rasco  
Charlottesville, Virginia

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**Carol Hampton Rasco** - February 20, 2022 at 07:06 PM

PL

“ What a life! Such meaningful contributions to the world around her even while building a family of wonderful character, togetherness and just plain joy, at least as seen through the eyes of a good friend of Scott, Kris and their lovely family. I only met Helen once, when Scott and Kris had a large family gathering, invited me and she was there. I will never forget the kindness all showed to her, despite her illness, the love she continued to show for them and her singing Christmas carols at the piano - at Thanksgiving - and the happiness and willingness of all to join in. May she rest In peace, leaving a legacy of such joy. Peter Lange, friend, with Clare, of the Durham Seligs.

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**Petyer Lange** - February 20, 2022 at 04:57 PM

BD

“ John and family, so sorry to learn of the loss of a special friend! Many sweet memories!! Bill Dansby Philadelphia, Ms.

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**Bill Dansby** - February 20, 2022 at 03:07 PM

KA

“ *John & Family*  
*I'm so sorry for your loss. She was truly a jewel. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Kathy Allen*  
*Former United Way staff*

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**Kathy Allen** - February 20, 2022 at 01:18 PM

CT

“ *Rest in peace, Helen. John and family, take care.*

*Cherri Walton Taylor and Jim Taylor*

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**Cherri W Taylor** - February 20, 2022 at 10:40 AM

JC

“ *Rest in peace, Helen. We were friends.*

*Jerry Chambliss*

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**Jerry Chambliss** - February 20, 2022 at 10:03 AM

AN

*Our deepest sympathies. The Nelson Family Alice Terri Julie Jill and Susie of cherry Hill Dt in Kent Washington.*

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**alice Nelson** - February 20, 2022 at 02:07 PM

PH

*John and family, so sorry to hear of your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you you during this time. The Phil Hays family.*

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**Phil Hays** - February 20, 2022 at 08:50 PM

CH

*I met Helen while working with John at Weyerhaeuser. He was always so proud to talk about his wife and the accomplishments she made and her contributions to the community of Hot Springs. My thoughts and prayers are with you, John and your family. She may be gone, but she will never be forgotten!*

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**Cissy Huggs** - February 22, 2022 at 08:28 AM

DB

*A very Beautiful Family.....Thoughts and Prayers To All.....*

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**Dewanna Bean** - February 22, 2022 at 10:28 AM

KF

“ *So sorry to hear about Helen passing. She was a remarkable woman and a leader and mentor to many in Hot Springs, including me. Prayers for peace for John and the Selig family. I hope you all cherish the wonderful memories of Helen in the coming days. With love and prayers,  
Karolyn Fankhouser*

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**Karolyn Fankhouser** - February 19, 2022 at 07:33 PM

MR

*Helen was an amazing lady who had a-positive impact on every community where John and Weyerhaeuser moved her. She will be greatly missed by all . Prayers for you, John, and your family.  
Marla Ramsey*

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**Marla Ramsey** - February 21, 2022 at 10:41 AM