



Helen Vann Browning Obituary

November 23, 1919 - July 17, 2006

Helen Vann Eckler Browning, 86 of Albany died Monday July 17, 2006 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. Her funeral service will be 10 AM Thursday, at Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors. The entombment will follow later in Crown Hill Mausoleum. Rev. Stephen O'Neal will officiate. A native of Grady County, Mrs. Browning had lived in Albany most of her life. She was a dedicated employee of Phoebe Putney for 49 years and considered her laboratory co-workers part of her extended family. She achieved 50 years as a member of American Medical Technologist. Her co-workers found her an inspiration as she worked the last few years confined to a wheelchair, the result of an injury suffered 55 years earlier; caused by drag racing teenagers. She refused to allow her physical disability to limit her and took great delight in travel. Around Mother's Day every spring, a grandson provided a trip for her, her daughters and a granddaughter. She took a helicopter ride over a volcano in Hawaii and visited Rome and Paris. Inspired by the recommendation of a beloved great nephew, Josh Barronton, Las Vegas became one of her favorite destinations. She loved the beautiful Hotel lobbies and the wonderful shows. As a Baptist, she expressed her faith by many acts of kindness toward others. She had a special love for her family, especially children. She raised several grandchildren; Donald Hammock Jr. (Hobo), Joeanna and Garner Eckler, and her great granddaughter, Darian Eckler, all of whom brought her special joy. She was lovingly cared for in her home by her oldest son, Joe Eckler, who drove her to work every day and tended to her every need. She was preceded

in death by her parents, Irvin and Mabel Hobby Vann, a sister Frances Vann, 3 brothers: Irvin Vann Jr., Harold Vann, and Carl Vann. Survivors include: 2 daughters, Phyllis Eckler Saylor (Jerry) of Bradenton FL., and Joy Eckler Ballard of Orange Park, FL, 2 sons: Joe Mack Eckler Sr., of Albany and Jimmie Lee Eckler (Wendy) of Pasadena TX, 14 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild., 2 brothers: Alvin Vann (Hilda) of Sasser, and Sherman Vann (Eleanor), of Virginia Beach, VA, her favorite sister, Nancy Vann Barronton (Tom) of Valley Grande, AL, 3 sisters-in-law: Earline Vann of Edison, Anita Vann of Columbus, Deanie Holland of Albany and a host of nieces and nephews.

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Vann Browning Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Helen Vann Browning Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Helen Vann Browning Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Helen Vann Browning Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *She was not only my Grandmother but my Only Mother. Never has any mother loved as much as her. Since I was the only one of my siblings to have her mother me, while our real mother let them. ship, the rest of them suffered much because Ma Helen did not get to raise them. The only and biggest fight I had with Ma Helen was naming my child! I wanted her first name to be Helen but my mother told me to use the first name of Mackayla. Ma Helen, as usual, won that argument :).*

Joe Mack Eckler, Jr. - Jonesboro, GA - Grandson - April 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Well Grandma, it has been 12weeks& 6days (90 days)(2160 hours) since you went away and honestly, I miss you so much that it hurts. This is the longest period of time in my 32 years (that I can remember) that I have not been able to talk to you or see you. I love you so much. I miss spending the afternoons with you. The children miss you greatly! I can only thank GOD for the time that we did have together. You have and will always be my rock. I look forward to the day when we are together again. I love you Ma. Joeanna

Joeanna Eckler - October 14, 2006 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ So sorry to hear about Helen. My husband and I worked at Hospital in Bainbridge when she was injured. Helen was one of the bravest, most determined patients we had ever had. She was certainly 'one of a kind.'

Elsie Stewart (Mrs. John C.) - July 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LQ

“ Helen,
I will miss you and you loving smile.

Lois

Lois Dollar Quattlebaum - July 25, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.I'LL MISS MRS HELEN VERY MUCH.WE USE TO SIT AN TALK ABOUT HER TRIPS SHE USE TO TAKE WITH HER DAUGHTER TO DIFFERENT CITIES.OH HOW SHE LOOKED FORWARD TO THESE TRIPS EVERY TIME,AND SHE WAS SO PROUD OF HER GRANDSON THAT ALOUD HER TO GO ON THESE TRIPS.SHE WAS ONE SPECIAL PERSON.MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

SHEILA BARFIELD - July 21, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *To all family and friends: Mrs. Browning was one of the sweetest people I've ever met. I will remember her always. My thoughts are with you. Chris*

Chris Koch - July 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ *I am saddened to learn of Mrs. Browning's death. She was a lovely lady. I enjoyed getting to know her. My thoughts are with her family during this sad hour.*

Wayne W. Daniel - July 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ *God please give this family strength in their time of need*

Annie Bray - July 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ In meeting Ms. Helen and hearing her recall her travels around the world, I believe she has never met a stranger. Before leaving her presence everyone became a friend. Thank you Ms. Helen. I love you JoeAnna.

Annie Bray - July 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ Hello Phyllis.
About an hour before your mom`s funeral we found out your relation to Mrs. Vann Browning. Sorry for your loss and wish it had been where we could have been with you. Love to you and all the family.
Pat & Peggy

Pat & Peggy Kaney - July 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ I just wanted to tell you what a special lady she was.
Helen loved my son Paul Jackson who works in Supply Dist. Helen would come and put her arms around his neck and tell him she loved him.
Paul is in a wheelchair, he has Myscular Distrophy, I am his morthor and just wanted to let you know how special she was.
God be with your family.

Joan Anderson - July 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Dear Darian,
Colby, Jetta and I are thinking of and praying for you, sweet child. Miss Helen sounds like a very special lady. Now I know where you get it from! Remember, you'll see her again in glory! Love you!

Kelly Moore - July 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *Ms. Helen,
You have touched my life in ways you will never know. I will miss you greatly, but God needed another angel, and you already had the experience from your years here - guiding and loving all, from your family to your extended family here in the lab.
Thank you for being a part of my life. I will take comfort in the memories we have shared. You will always be a part of my life.*

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.
-Mary Frye*

Tammy Moore - July 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Mrs. Browning was an inspiration and blessing to all who new her.
My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Her good doings will always be remembered.
Jennifer & Family*

Lit' Jennifer Mulford Coulter - July 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ *Hi Helen's Family:
I read in the Albany Herald Obits today about Helen's passing. As she was one of my favorite people it really saddened me to hear such news. It has been such a pleasure knowing her over many years. Seems that she has had a very interesting life. Thanks to all you kids for taking good care of her. I'll miss seeing her in Atlanta at the Hall of Fame.
My sympathy to all of you.
Glenn*

Glenn Watkins - July 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ *Ms. Browning
The path you had taken in life has touched so many in such a positive way. Your gentle words and guidance will forever be missed. With respect I thank you for being the legend you are. Your memories will always linger.*

Trudy Duke Kelley - July 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ *Ms. Helen I will always remeber our talks regarding your wonderful vacations. I have and will continue to miss you since my departure from Phoebe. May God look over your family and help them through this difficult time. Til we meet again dear friend. Love Wm Ross Arrowood*

Ross Arrowood - July 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ I will miss seeing Ms. Helen every afternoon when I come to work. We would always check on each other. She always smile and said she was fine. Never complaining and always cheerful. My mother is the same age and lives in another state. I would always call her and tell her about Ms. Helen. My thoughts and prayers are with her family now. I know if there is a lab in heaven, she is already on the job. I just hope they don't have a computer system. She will be missed by all. She was such a special person and a inspiration not only in her work life but in everything she did.

Sue Davenport - July 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ To the Eckler family: Sue and I are saddened by the news about Helen. When we first met about six years ago, Helen immediately made us feel like family. She was a joy and we always looked forward to our visits and phone conversations. I am especially grateful for her kindness in sharing many stories about my dad and his early days in the music business. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Phil and Sue Collins - July 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Miss Helen was one of the most loving and kindly friends anyone could ever ask to be apart of their lives

Danny Lambert - July 18, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Aunt Helen,
Thanks for being a part of my life. I am going to miss you and I will
always remember you.*

With love,

Dr. Scooter

Irvin Vann III - July 18, 2006 at 12:00 AM