



## Helen Bernice Gish

October 6, 1947 - December 6, 2024

### HELEN BERNIECE (STANDEFER) GISH (1947-2024)

Helen Gish of Adair, Oklahoma, a retired nurse and devoted family matriarch, died in Tulsa at the age of 77 on December 5, 2024 following a massive stroke.

Helen was born in Neosho, Missouri in 1947 to Forrester Leon and Dorothy Mae (Weems) Standefer. After marrying her first husband, John Morse, she moved to Kansas City and spent several years as a homemaker before becoming a long-distance operator for AT&T. They later divorced; Helen was the widow of Ronald Gish.

After operator systems were automated in her mid-40s, Helen embarked on a new path, receiving her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Pittsburg State University in 1995, and later earning her Masters as well as a Masters in Psychology via distance learning. Helen spent many years as the charge nurse in the psychiatric ward at Wagoner Community Hospital.

Helen was preceded in death by both parents and both husbands, as well as her brothers Ivan and William and her sister Barbara Benge. She is survived by her son and only child, Jon Morse of Overland Park, Kansas; her grandchildren Fiona Frazier of Adair and Don Morse of

Norfolk, Virginia, and her remaining sister Virginia Young of Adair.

A celebration of life is planned for noon on January 3 at Memorial Hall in Diamond, Missouri. Her ashes will be interred at Diamond Cemetery alongside the remains of her parents.