



Helen Oakes Alford

April 8, 1921 - August 24, 2013

Helen Oakes Alford, 92, died Saturday at Corvallis Manor.

Helen was born April 8, 1921, in Sturgis, Miss. She was the daughter of N.C. and Mattie Hammill Oakes. She married John Alford on Nov. 6, 1944. The couple had three children, Virginia, Margaret and Edwin. Helen was an accomplished home economics teacher. One of her greatest gifts was her ability to teach. The family moved to Maryland in the late 1950s. When John retired, the couple moved to Southern Oregon in 1985 to be near their daughter, Virginia.

Helen was an ardent craftsperson, and often served as a 4-H leader and judge at state and county fairs. John died in 1990, and Helen moved to Corvallis in 2008. Throughout her life she was active in the United Methodist Church, especially in the United Methodist Women. She served at church bazaars and wedding and funeral receptions. She loved doing handiwork — she never sat down without some sort of project.

She will be remembered for her ready smile and welcoming attitude toward everyone.

Helen was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 46 years, John Alford; her parents; her son-in-law, Richard Brittsan; two sisters; and her

brother. She is survived by her daughters, Virginia Brittsan of Corvallis and Margaret Alford of Swedesboro, N.J.; her son, Edwin Alford of Ballwin, Mo.; and four grandsons, Thomas Brittsan, Gary Brittsan, Todd Alford and Brett Barth.

Memorial donations in Helen's name can be made to First United Methodist Church of Corvallis to be directed to the United Methodist Women for mission work.

Private inurnment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.