

*James R. Duke  
1925 ~ 2011*

James Royal Duke, 86, of Peoria, Arizona, died Thursday, August 4, 2011. Jim was born on July 30, 1925, in Chicago, Illinois to Royal and Edith Duke. In 1930 he moved to Shenandoah, Iowa, where he lived until he graduated from Shenandoah High School in 1943.

Upon graduation, he enlisted into the United States Marine Corps, where he served proudly with the Fourth Division and fought in the battles of Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

On December 14, 1945, Jim married Helen L. Richey in Shenandoah, Iowa. In 1947, after living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he began his career as a sign painter, he and Helen relocated to Phoenix, Arizona where Jim continued to work in the sign business for Meyers-Leiber Sign Company.

In 1964, Jim and his good friend, Charlie Bootz, began their own sign company, Bootz and Duke Sign Company. It was said he was one of the best gold leaf men this side of the Mississippi.

1980 found Jim retired and he began filling his time working on the side as sign painter for friends, playing golf and pool, line dancing, spending time in their cabin in Munds Park and enjoying his family.

*Helen L. Duke  
1924 ~ 2022*

Helen Louise (Richey) Duke passed away August 6, 2022, at the age of 98 years in Peoria, AZ. Helen was born in Sharpsburg, Iowa to Maggie Richey and L. T. Richey on June 11, 1924. Before attending elementary, junior high school and high school in Shenandoah, Iowa where she graduated in 1942, she attended country school.

After graduating from high school, instead of accepting a scholarship to Drake University, Helen moved to Portland, Oregon where she worked in the shipyards until the end of WWII. After the war, on December 14, 1945, in the Methodist Church in Shenandoah, Iowa, Helen married Jim Duke of Shenandoah, Iowa, and the two of them began their nearly 66-year marriage in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A year later Helen and Jim found themselves in the Phoenix, Arizona area where they would spend their remaining years. Helen worked at home for several years as a typist for the Arizona Highway Department which allowed her to volunteer at Robert E. Simpson Elementary School where her children Ed and Karen attended. Later she ran the front office of a family practitioner, participated in Beta Sigma Phi, and worked for the Arizona Department of Corrections. Upon retirement, Helen and Jim moved to Westbrook Village where they took up line dancing, golf and hosted many Iowa parties. Helen never forgot her hometown, as whenever she was asked where she was from, she proudly said Shenandoah, Iowa.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Duke, her parents L.T. and Maggie Richey, her brother Ivan Richey, her in-laws Royal and Edith Duke and her daughter-in-law Karen Duke. She is survived by her son Ed, her daughter and son-in-law Karen and Bruce Combe, grandchildren Brian and wife Susie Duke, Kim and husband Tom Brandt, Jim and wife Tawnya Combe, Jennifer and husband Doug Dwiggins and great grandchildren Kendyll and Annistyn Duke, Grace, Callie and Jack Combe and Tatum and Luke Dwiggins.



In  
Loving Memory

*James (Jim) R. Duke*

July 30, 1925 ~ August 4, 2011

*Helen L. Duke*

June 11, 1924 ~ August 6, 2022

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
GRAVESIDE**

Saturday October 15, 2022

10:30 am

Word of Comfort - Carl Phillips

Rose Hill Cemetery

Shenandoah, Iowa



NISHNA VALLEY FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE  
SHENANDOAH, IOWA



In  
Loving Memory

*James and Helen Duke*