



Helena A. Choko

Nature Lover, Mother, Honest and Straightforward

October 29, 1937 - July 6, 2023

Dear Friend,

I honestly only met Helena Choko a few times, but I would often hear about her beginning in 1986 when the State proposed a hazardous waste impoundment facility for a property that would someday become the preserved Holly Farm. In response her then-young sons started the Menantico Conservation League. They were talented, energetic, and cared deeply about the out-of-doors. In fact it was not so long ago that one of her sons helped us to discover pine snakes on a property within the watershed that was ultimately preserved.

It was always clear to me that she imparted a love of nature to her boys, and this legacy has been a blessing for the River. Her property abuts the Menantico Ponds and Nature Conservancy's preserves, to which she was a great neighbor and steward. Her hummingbird visitors were the envy and joy of neighbors as she attracted many to her yard.

Our condolences go to her sons Mark and John, and to John's wife Jackie and their children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane Morton Galetto'.

Jane Morton Galetto
CU Maurice River Board President

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Helena A. Choko, 85, passed away at home on July 6, 2023. Helena was raised on a farm in Vineland and then moved to Millville when she married. She retired from General Machinery (Wheatons) after 23 years as an Inventory Specialist. Prior to General Machinery, she worked several years at Chiola's Pharmacy in Millville. Helena brought a high level of efficiency, reliability and no-nonsense approach to the workforce.

As a young, dedicated mother and wife, she found the time to serve as District Supervisor of the Junior Women's Club, work with the Jaycee Youth Group, advocate for the Menantico Conservation League and was a member of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River. For several years in her later life, she served as treasurer of a local antique club.

As a mother, she was dutiful and sincere to her two sons, Mark and John Choko. Most may remember her boys putting her through her paces with many parties in their earlier years, but they also kept her close to them. Those parties brought Helena many "adopted" sons. As one of her favorite adopted sons reminisces, "she lovingly put up with a bunch of knuckleheads and was motherly to many."

Helena enjoyed taking a week off work to cook for the Edgewood Gun Club which consisted of all of her sons. She loved the beach in Stone Harbor and in her younger years spent much time transporting many of the boys to the beach, which created a life-long camaraderie among all of them and a mutual respect for her. She thoroughly enjoyed the annual Halloween parties held in the cabin that also meant celebrating her birthday. Outside the boys, she was an avid scrabble player with her neighbor, Maddie and friend, Mary. Grandkids remember her teaching them poker at an embarrassingly young age and the fact that she had a bit of a lead foot behind the wheel.

Helena touched the lives of many and will be sorely missed by her family and friends who she loved dearly.

Helena is survived by her sons: Mark Choko and John Choko (Jackie); grandchildren: Andi and Jack Choko. She is predeceased by her mother and father.

Family sharing time will be private.
Funeral arrangements by Barr Funeral Home.

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