



Helen Marie Colwell

June 30, 1937 - January 25, 2026

Helen M. Colwell, wife of James F. Colwell, of Penn Hills, died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026, at Seneca Place, following a short illness. She was 88.

She and her husband were married for 61 years.

Born June 30, 1937, in Pittsburgh, she was the daughter of Helen F. Cordero and Mal Shaffer. She attended Peabody High School.

Mrs. Colwell had a multifaceted career in various businesses at a time when women had limited opportunities. Notably, she sold real estate, owned a hair salon in Penn Hills, and later worked for a division of Revlon, rising to regional manager. After that, she owned a shop selling collectible dolls and continued to market dolls online after closing the store.

She was artistically talented and often tried her hand at different types of crafts.

Her Christian faith was important to her. She was a member of First Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Colwell is survived by her husband James; three daughters: The Rev. Helen L. Adams, wife of Marvin I. Adams Jr.; Mary Elizabeth Colwell Riggleman; and Judith M. Bacon, wife of Steve Bacon, all of Pittsburgh; four grandchildren: Zachary Bacon, of Chicago; and Abby Adams, fiancée of Rochelle Wigton, Chris Riggleman, husband of Faith Riggleman, and Rose Riggleman, all of Pittsburgh; and one great-grandchild, C.J. Riggleman.

She was predeceased by a stepson, Christopher J. Colwell, Esq.

A celebration of life will be held at a future date at the convenience of the

family. Memorial contributions may be made to Forbes Hospital, where both she and James Colwell have received care, at <<http://bit.ly/4bgL1wY>> (select an AHN designation and choose Forbes Hospital).

Professional services entrusted to Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd; 930 Center Avenue Blawnox, PA, 15238; www.thomasmsmithfuneralhome.com.