

## Helen Marie Rupp Eaton



Helen Marie Eaton (née Rupp), mother of two children, former wife of George Theodore Eaton (divorced 1999), passed away peacefully in her own bed on Sunday, January 8, 2023, in Charlottesville, Virginia, at the age of 90 with her daughter by her side. She had a several year diagnosis of Dementia, and Covid the week before her death.

Helen was born in Baltimore, MD on January 28, 1932 and grew up in the Anneslie neighborhood of Towson, MD. In 1953 she received a B.A. in Education and Business Administration from St. Joseph College, Emmitsburg. She subsequently worked as Administrative Assistant to the Chief Industrial Engineer of Armco Steel Corporation. Heeding President Kennedy's call to join the Peace Corps, she served in Nsukka, Nigeria from 1961-63 as faculty in the Secretarial Studies College of UNN. Upon her return, Helen was Administrative Secretary to the Head of the Public Relations Department of McCormick Spice Company. On November 2, 1964, Helen married George, a former fellow PCV. They then moved to Prairie View A. and M. College in Texas for his one-year faculty position. A subsequent move to Washington D.C. heralded the birth of their baby boy in 1967.

Spanning the years 1969 to 1992, Helen enthusiastically fulfilled her diplomatic spousal duties as a USAID Foreign Service Officer's wife in Kenya, Tanzania, Eswatini, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Over a four-year interlude in Virginia, Helen earned her M.A. in Linguistics at George Mason University, awarded in 1985. She also took classes in ESL for her subsequent return to volunteer teaching in Africa. Helen and George retired to Falls Church, VA. Thereafter they enjoyed the weddings of both of their children, Timothy to Anne, and Natasha to Dale.

In retirement Helen painted extensively in watercolor and played bridge. She wrote her unpublished memoir: *Living with Mr. Spock for 32 Years and Loving It*. She enjoyed visiting with her friends, children and grandchildren, as well as traveling throughout the United States and Europe. In 2008 she moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, to live near her daughter's family. There she met and spent five years in the company of her special friend, Addison Hobbs.

Helen is survived by her son, Timothy Theodore Eaton, her daughter, Valerie Natasha Copeland; and her grandchildren, Henry, Li-Yen, Liam and Katya. Services were private. Donations may be made in honor of Helen Marie Eaton to The Black Scholar Fund (HBCU) at [Theblackscholarfund.org](https://Theblackscholarfund.org)

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