

Fagan-Quinn Funeral Home  
825 Boston Neck Road  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
401-295-5603

Helen Louise van Leer (Sawyer), 93, passed away Wednesday at Kent Hospital in Warwick, RI. She was the wife of the late Hans van Leer and the former wife of the late Robert E. Stuart.

Born in Newton, MA, a daughter of the late Henry C. and Nellie (Whitehouse) Sawyer, she lived in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and North Carolina before moving to Rhode Island.

Mrs. van Leer received her undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts. She was a former school teacher and worked at the University of New Hampshire in the library.

She was actively involved with the Stuart family's farm, first in Littleton, MA and later at Stratham, NH. After the death of her husband Robert, she married Hans van Leer and resided in Lincoln, MA.

She was a former member of the Grace United Methodist Church and participated in the Shepherd Center South in Monroe, NC. She was a master gardener. Mrs. van Leer was very active in her grandchildren's lives and will be greatly missed.

She leaves four sons, Robert H. Stuart of Bedford, VA, Wallace S. Stuart of Plymouth, NH, Gilbert A. Stuart of Moreno Valley, CA and Everett C.A. Stuart of North Kingstown, RI; a step-daughter, Katherine Crockett of Littleton, MA; two step-sons, Karl van Leer of Lincoln, MA and Hans van Leer of Trumensburg, NY; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A Graveside Service will be held Monday, July 21, 2008 at 2pm in the Westlawn Cemetery in Littleton, MA. Visiting hours will be Sunday from 6-8pm in the Fagan-Quinn Funeral Home, 825 Boston Neck Road, North Kingstown, RI. For information and guestbook visit: [www.FaganQuinnFuneralHome.com](http://www.FaganQuinnFuneralHome.com).