



Heli Vihavainen

December 6, 1967 - June 21, 2024

A precious wife, mother and “Mami” to her grandchildren, Heli Vihavainen, died on June 21, 2024, after a short but taxing battle with cancer. Despite the diagnosis, she remained strong in her faith and trust in God.

Heli was born and raised in Jyväskylä, Finland. She graduated from Keski-Suomen Yhteiskoulu high school in Jyväskylä, and continued her education in Helsinki where she received her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Haaga-Helia - University of Applied Sciences. She later furthered her education in Human Resources and Leadership at the University of Jyväskylä.

Heli was the heart and pillar of her big family. She was married for 38 years to her soulmate, Vesa, whom she met at the young age of 18 in Hamburg, Germany. The two of them devoted their lives to each other, working hard and traveling the world, setting roots in multiple countries in Europe and the United States. As a do-er and self-starter, she built her career as a people-oriented entrepreneur, providing HR and Payroll Services, which allowed her to work remotely and retreat to her second home in Finland once a year to enjoy a dose of serenity. She called her Finland home a place of “pure zen”.

Anyone who knew Heli, knew the kindness of her soul. She had an incredible heart for loving and serving others. She always put the needs of others before

her own and provided comfort with just her presence, while never asking anything in return. The center of her world was her husband and best friend Vesa. Anyone in the family could attest they were “the lovebirds” of the family. Their curious natures, coupled with their pioneer mindsets, led them to explore places and participate in Finland-related associations and in Finnish-Lutheran churches wherever they lived. Their shared love for others led them to open their home to many around the world such as exchange students, friends and even strangers, and they became quite the hosts along the way. Heli learned to love unexpected adventures and guests.

Heli was an incredible mother by nature - to her own children and eventually her grandchildren. She had unique and deep bonds with each of them. She truly adored all her children and grandchildren and never took a moment with them for granted. The sound of her grandchildren was music to her ears and she loved them as her own. She was always the one on the floor playing with the little ones. Her ability to make each of her children and grandchildren feel special and loved was impeccable.

Heli was crafty with her hands. She had a love for making her ideas come to life from scratch. Whether it was bookbinding, baking or sewing stuffed animals for her grandchildren, her works were one of a kind. Heli was also passionate about the environment - clean water, healthy food, recycling, a proponent for second-hand shopping and natural fiber composite materials.

Though our time with our sweet Heli was cut short, she gifted each one of us with a relationship that one could only imagine to have in a lifetime. Her compassion, loyalty, and unconditional love have imprinted in each of our hearts, encouraging us to live our lives focused on love.

Heli is survived by her husband Vesa, her four children Joonas, Hanna, Saara and Johannes, her daughter-in-law Aija, her sons-in-law Matt and Michael, six

grandchildren and two on the way, her sister Johanna with family, her father Tarmo and mother-in-law Hilikka. She is preceded in death by her mother Marjatta and grandmother Hilikka "Mummu". She also leaves behind a multitude of friends around the globe.

The impact Heli made on our lives will forever remain. May she rest in eternal peace in the arms of Jesus.

We sincerely thank you for your prayers and support during this time. Your shared memories, comforting condolences, and gestures of love are truly appreciated.

The Vihavainen Family

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **26.** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (cst)

Distinctive Life and Dallas Jewish funerals
1611 N Central Expy
Plano, TX 75075

Tribute Wall

JP

“ *First time we met Heli and Vesa was years ago at Finnish Messiah Lutheran Church in Portland Oregon where Jouko was volunteering as a retired pastor. Last time was at their beautiful Finnish home in Orimattila where Jouko baptized their granddaughter. Occasion was very relaxed and simple. Heli was there barefoot! It was warm and sunny day. God bless her delightful memory and her family! Rev. Jouko & Marja-Liisa Paukkunen*

Jouko & Marja-Liisa Paukkunen - July 31, 2024 at 04:43 PM

JB

“ *I only met Heli one time when we spent a day going wine tasting. Vesa and I knew each other through business and we decided to take a trip to a few local wineries with our wives. Heli was so nice and kind and we had a great day. We went to their home and Heli made a fantastic salmon dinner and cake. It is still the best tasting salmon I have ever eaten. That day felt like we had all known one another for years. She was so positive about life and really enjoyed being around people. Our conversations were so easy and funny. My wife and I could tell the Heli and Vesa were made for each other and had a special relationship. Vesa, Susanne and I are so sorry for your loss. She was a very special person.*

Joe Barrer - July 29, 2024 at 02:47 PM

IH

“ *Heli was one of a kind. We will gratefully remember and cherish her genuine kindness and positivity.*
Ilari and family

Ilari Hurmekoski - July 29, 2024 at 12:42 AM

HI

“ *Heli and Vesa Vihavainen family was our first family friend and local support when we moved to Flower Mound, TX in 2001. Heli was the warmest and most helpful friend when settling to the new country with our family.*

Along the years we met many times, even if our families moved to different locations and countries - the Friendship always stayed .

We said farewell to Heli before Easter 2024 in Finland during her and Vesa's visit - although we did not understand at that time, that it was the last time we met Heli.

We will always remember Heli's kindness, friendly smile and happiness in our hearts!

Päivi and Hannu Impola

Hannu Impola - July 28, 2024 at 01:57 AM

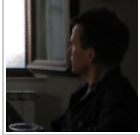
HH

“ *Heli was kind and helpful towards me when I was working on obtaining Finnish citizenship for my kids. I was impressed with her service to others and to the Messiah Lutheran church. May she rest in God's peace.*

Jumalan rauhaa koko perheelle. Otan osaa suruunne.

-Hanna Heddy

Hanna Heddy - July 27, 2024 at 03:29 PM



“ *The heart of the party... and the family. Juhlan... ja perheen sydän. Muistot elävät. Osanottomme. Ilkka & Erja Pollari*



Ilkka Pollari - July 27, 2024 at 05:42 AM

EC

“ *2 files added to the album Heli Meeting People*



Eila Chisholm - July 27, 2024 at 05:07 AM

EC

“ *Heli had a gentle way about her, a sweet quietness and a selfless demeanor.*

The few years living in Oregon, she diligently served on the Portland Finnish Church council and made many friends. She was considerate and caring, taking time to visit members of our congregation, particularly the elderly.

She had a gift of being a true friend to many. Heli cared so much about her friends that even as she was facing the possibility of a serious medical condition, she let her friends know. She continued to share her struggle, to remain optimistic and to enjoy every moment until the end. She expressed how grateful she was for friendship and to have her big family by her side.

Heli generously shared her love and her happy life with her friends. Craig and I have wonderful memories of happy celebrations in Orimattila, Finland, with much music and laughter.

*I miss her tremendously,
Eila Chisholm*

Eila Chisholm - July 27, 2024 at 05:06 AM

ES

“ *Erpo S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Heli Vihavainen.*

Erpo S. - July 26, 2024 at 01:05 PM

CA

“ Heli was so devoted to her family and friends. We have so many happy memories of her. May her memory live on forever. We prayer strength to her family.
Cary & Tracy

Cary - July 26, 2024 at 11:15 AM

VJ

“ Et ole ikiunessa, et ole poissa, olet tuhat tuulta puistikoissa,
olet valon välke aallokoissa, olet timantti hankien loistossa.

Et ole jättänyt meitä, et ole vaiti, olet lintujen laulu taivaalla,
olet kuiskaus viljapellolla, olet henkäys rakkaasi poskella.

Heliä muistaen ja Vihavaisen perheen surussa myötäeläen.

Leila ja Vesa Jaamuru.



Vesa Jäämuru - July 26, 2024 at 03:41 AM

JL

“ Heli, rakas ystävä Teksasin vuosilta 2001 alkaen. Kun palasimme Suomeen ystävyys ja yhteydenpito jatkui, tapasimme aina kesäisin Suomessa. Heli oli maailman kiltein, lempein ja hyväsydämisin ihminen, samalla päättäväinen, osaava ja niin aikaansaava. Hän laitto aina muut edelle, huolehti kaikista ja kaikesta. Perhe oli hänelle kaikki kaikessa. Helin ajatukset, tiedot ja taidot jatkuvat teissä hänelle niin rakkaissa lapsissa ja lapsenlapsissa. Toivon teille voimia ja lohtua suuressa surussa ja kaipauksessa. Ihanat ja lämpöiset muistot Helistä elävät ikuisesti. Rakasta ystävää on valtava ikävä ❤️

Johanna Lipponen - July 25, 2024 at 11:33 PM

CP

“ Carol Perry purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Heli Vihavainen.



Carol Perry - July 25, 2024 at 07:14 PM

CP

“ Carol Perry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Heli Vihavainen.

Carol Perry - July 25, 2024 at 07:14 PM

DS

“ Heli was inspirational and a valued part of the Sheldon family business. She was always happy with a bubbly personality; Heli treated everyone with kindness and patience. Her warmth and positivity will be deeply missed.

Dan Sheldon - July 25, 2024 at 04:45 PM

MH

“ *Matti H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Heli Vihavainen.*

Matti H. - July 25, 2024 at 03:48 PM

CF

“ *2 files added to the album Mit Liebe*



Christian Fritz - July 25, 2024 at 03:44 PM

VI

“ *Kultaisen Helin muistoa kunnioittaen, kaipauksella: Annikki - äiti, Virve perheineen, Marjut perheineen, Markku perheineen*

Virve - July 25, 2024 at 03:10 PM

JS

“ *Josh, Natalie, and Sammy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Heli Vihavainen.*



Josh, Natalie, and Sammy - July 25, 2024 at 09:03 AM

BD

“ Wenn wir an Heli denken, empfinden wir Ihre starke, grosse und freundliche Persönlichkeit. Sie ist der zentrale Anker und die Wurzel in Eurer Familie und auch wenn Sie hier nicht mehr bei Euch ist, hat sie viel Kraft und Fähigkeiten an Euch Kinder, Enkelkinder und Dir lieber Vesa weitergegeben.

Wir erinnern uns gerne an unser letztes Zusammentreffen bei Euch in Finnland. Perfekte Gastgeberin und Familienfrau, so viele Talente waren in Ihr vereint.

Auch wenn wir uns wenig gesehen haben, ist es für uns so, das die Welt einen wichtigen Menschen verloren hat, aber in Euren und unseren Herzen wird sie immer weiterleben.

Stephan erinnert sich gerne auch an die schönen Tage in der finnischen Sauna und dem Baden im See, auch da war Heli mit Landschaft und Natur immer Eins.

In Gedanken sind wir bei Euch und wünschen viel Kraft und Zuversicht, herzliche anteilnehmende Grüße aus Deutschland
Stephan, Birgit, Annika und Mervi

Birgit Demski - July 25, 2024 at 06:56 AM

PB

“ As a member of Portland Messiah Lutheran Church I will always remember our plan to visit Israel. We did not have time to visit the Holy Land together but now you Heli are in a better place with our Savior. Thank you for your volunteer work at Messiah. You were an example of a devoted wife, a caring mother and a loving congregation member. Your legacy will continue in your children.
Shalom! Näkemiin, toivon mukaan tavataan taivaassa! Pirjo Brooks

Pirjo Brooks - July 25, 2024 at 12:18 AM

NS

“ *Nina S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Heli Vihavainen.*

Nina S. - July 24, 2024 at 03:43 PM

BL

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Bernd Lühr - July 24, 2024 at 03:36 PM

BL

In memory of one of the best moments in our life together with Heli. We will keep her in our hearts forever as a person with the greatest kindness ever.

Bernd Lühr - July 24, 2024 at 04:00 PM

CF

Ich habe Vesa und Heli Anfang der 80er Jahre in Ost-Berlin kennengelernt. Das letzte Mal haben wir uns im Juli 2019 gesehen. Wir werden Heli als lebensbejahenden, freundlichen und zuversichtlichen Menschen in Erinnerung behalten. Unser Mitgefühl und Gedanken sind bei der gesamten Familie und Freunden. Du wirst immer in unserem Herzen bleiben.

Christian und Maria

Christian Fritz - July 25, 2024 at 03:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Heli Vihavainen.



July 24, 2024 at 02:52 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Heli Vihavainen.



July 24, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ The Wallace Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Heli Vihavainen.

The Wallace Family - July 24, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Heli Vihavainen.



July 24, 2024 at 02:49 PM

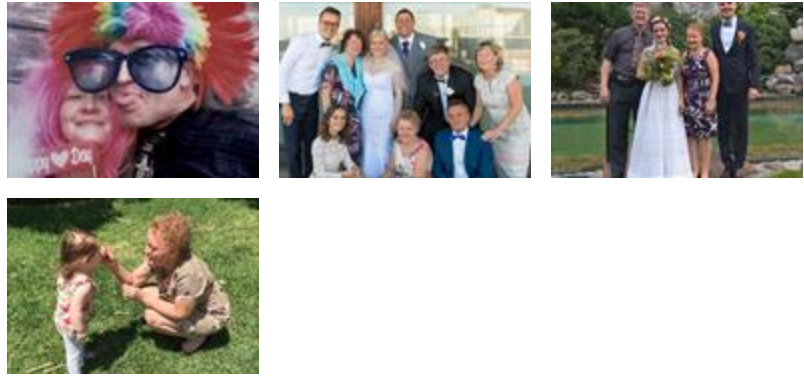


“ Family Luehr planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Heli Vihavainen.

Family Luehr - July 24, 2024 at 02:49 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Heli Meeting People*



Vesa Vihavainen - July 24, 2024 at 02:03 PM



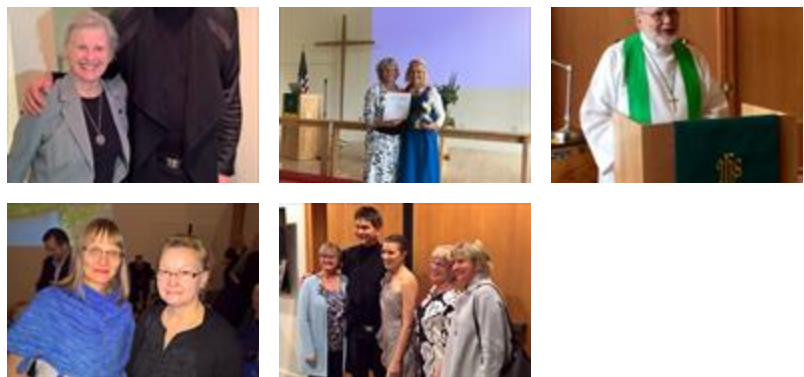
“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Heli Vihavainen.



July 24, 2024 at 07:19 AM



“ 20 files added to the album *Heli Meeting People*



Vesa Vihavainen - July 24, 2024 at 12:30 AM

VV

“ *Heli was a package of LOVE and the best person one could wish to have as a spouse, mother and grandmother. She always put others before herself. She was an example for all of us how to love your neighbor. She was a true servant of Jesus. Vesa*

Vesa Vihavainen - July 24, 2024 at 12:26 AM

HG

“ *MY STAR IN HEAVEN*
I am sending a dove to heaven with a parcel on its wings
be careful when you open it
It's full of beautiful things
inside are a million kisses
wrapped up in a million hugs
to say how much I miss you and to send you all my love.
I hold you close within my heart and there you will remain
to walk with me throughout my life
until we meet again.

Missing you forever mom. Besties forever.

Hanna

Hanna G - July 21, 2024 at 11:44 PM