



## **Helen Ortega Heal**

**About Helen Ortega Heal 1940 – 2008**

After attending Easter Arizona Junior College in 1958-1959 for one year, I then transferred to ASC, now Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. In 1962 I graduated with a BS in Education and then I taught in Prescott Arizona for one year. That same year Jim and I were married in November 1962. We had met at NAU.

The following year I returned to Flagstaff where I taught at Marshall Elementary School for nine years. In 1971 I took a year's leave and dabbled in real estate for one year. I then returned to teaching at the junior high level where I taught 9<sup>th</sup> grade (Freshmen were part of the Junior high) English for 15 years.

In 1989 Sinagua High School, the third high school in Flagstaff opened, and I was hired to teach English classes, grades 9-12. The last 4-5 years before my retirement I taught English half of the day and the other half of the day I was a guidance counselor.

I loved what I did; I never got in a rut because I was always seeking something else. I never tired of going back to school or tired of working in school. I enjoyed students at the high school level the most! I taught 35 years.

Jim and I have been married for nearly 46 years. We have a son Mark and a daughter Mary Anne. Our son has blessed us with 3 grand children and our daughter has blessed us with one grandchild. We have 3 grandsons and one granddaughter.

Jim was a construction electrician for 36 years. We have had a great marriage, great children and basically a happy life. When people ask me how I am, I usually reply, "I'm blessed!"

***We love being retired!***

