

Helena Hendrika Byron (nickname Leny) born September 25th 1937 to father Marinas August Edelman and mother Apolonia Helena Edelman maiden name Kratz.

The first two pictures you will see is a picture of Leny as a small child being held by her mother, a woman that was always smiling and showing love and concern for people even during the very hard times in Holland during World War Two! The next is a picture of Leny's father who was a real man when it came to protecting and providing for his family again during World War Two and the hardships imposed on the Dutch people! Leny's father was the equivalent to a golden gloves boxer.

Here in the USA and involved in judo training. more than once, he put his life on the line slipping out to farms to sell valuable things he had acquired in past years in order to buy food which he had to sneak back and hide to feed his family! Things he could have been shot for doing at the time!

Before sharing the extraordinary life of Leny, I knew she would want people to know about her parents and the sacrifices they made to preserve her life.

Like a lot of people in the Netherlands and Europe, Leny started ice skating at a very young age and fell in love with the challenge and beauty of it. Later at the age of nineteen, Leny went to England, passed the rigid ice skating tests there and joined the **Ice Capades**, resulting in performing all over Europe, (the Viennese show) and here in the United States as well, at one point Ice Capades performing in Russia due to performance exchanges between the United States and Russia of which Leny was a part of! After Ice Capades, Leny was put in charge of managing Ice Capades Chalets in the United States. At one point in her career, Leny was put in charge of doing what she could to save the existence and operation of the famous Wollman's rink in Central Park, New York City. The city was considering leveling Wollman's rink but together with Donald J. Trump's help, he and Leny pulled it out of the red and into a profitable enterprise in a very short time! One of the things Leny loved to do most was to work with children who found ice skating fascinating including special needs children who wanted to be involved in skating. Leny's last position in management was the old building and skating rink and then the new enlarged skating rink both in Pasadena, California. Here, Leny was able to help a lot of people learn and enjoy ice skating by hiring qualified trainers and spending time on the ice herself when possible. The one thing I learned over the years before Leny passed away is that every body who knew Leny, loved her!

When Leny finally retired there was a huge number of people calling and sending letters to tell her how much they love her and was going to miss her! It was because Leny always would show love and concern for everyone she met!

So where did I Randall Byron come into Leny's life? April 1st of 2012, now retired from St. Louis Missouri, I moved to Southern California to purchase a franchise and set it up to sign over to my youngest son who was going to get a permanent lay off from employment in Ojai, California. I rented an apartment at Tesoro senior apartments in North Hills (formerly known as Porter Ranch, Ca.) I did not realize until later that even though there were other nice places it was the good Lord's doing because this was where I was to meet Leny who would become my much, much better half! Leny's former husband (who from all indications was a good man) had passed away about two years before her and I met. I had experienced a divorce years ago and swore never to get married again. I served as a medic in the navy for four years and started getting involved in ministry work to veterans in the seventies.

Upon meeting my precious Leny who is now in heaven with Jesus, I explained that I am a born again Christian and willing to share and explain the gospel to anyone who wants to listen but that God had given me a special calling to look for vets I have never met before and to explain what it is to belong to Jesus for eternity and to do my best in helping them in this life no matter what the need is! There are no words adequate enough to explain what my precious Leny's answer was to me upon her hearing who and what I am! Leny said to me that she also was a born-again Christian, that she had come to understand what that is and how to receive it through Dr. Charles Stanley's tv ministry and that she had done so and then told me that whether I stayed there in that area or moved on she would pray for me always and do what ever she could to back me in what I do with the exception of a few women (relatives) I had known in the past, I had never met a woman like Leny, a woman with a heart of gold for others and always looking for ways to help and be a blessing to others there in the Tesoro senior apartments! It was hard to get her to stop waiting on people, a friend of hers in a wheel chair, two gentleman who had survived the holocaust, as well as others! People not just trying to be polite to Leny would say look how much

younger she looks for her age! I had to laugh a couple of times when someone would get Leny to tell her age (at that time Leny was 75), the person said, "let me see your drivers licence, you are going to have to prove you are up to 75 years old!" people would say "isn't she pretty" I would say "o yes, but that would mean very little if not for the fact that she has a beautiful heart and Leny has it both!" Not past tense but now even as I type this eulogy, God has the apostle Paul tell us that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the lord!" The scripture teaches transfiguration and Revelation chapter 20 tells us that when a Christian goes to be with Jesus that " behold all things become new. All the former things are passed away, no more pain, no more sickness, no more sorrow, not even night for Jesus is the light and that he wipes away the tears from our eyes!" In the pictures attached to this there is a picture of Leny on the ice at the ice rink in the Hague. I believe that is what Leny now looks like and will for eternity! I so look forward to seeing her again!

So! what did my savior Jesus do in my heart concerning my precious Leny! I prayed about it for quite some time and even though I had resolved to never marry again. I had fallen in love with my love angel Leny! God let me know that he wanted me to take her in my life, to love her and to protect her in this world with all it's negatives it can throw at you and to meet her every need as best as I possibly could and that he would be with me all the way to help me make it happen! I was totally honest with Leny and explained I was up against some big challenges! She let me know that she could handle whatever came our way and would always work with me to make good things happen! I ask my precious Leny to marry me and she knew it was God's will and said yes! I will never forget our first kiss outside under a full California moon! It became clear to me that we would become a match made in heaven, that Leny was definitely my soul mate! Like me, Leny had taken the time to learn and know how valuable my fellow veterans are in stopping dictators and the wicked who put no value on human life! As a small child at the time Leny and her parents barely survived the Nazi regime in Holland, barely having enough to eat to stay alive at times! While here on earth Leny was so proud to team up with me in looking to meet new vets and doing what we could to meet their needs! There was never a shy moment or fear in Leny when she saw an opportunity to reach out to someone in need!

In closing this obituary for my precious Leny, I must tell you I have always loved ice skaters! Please forgive me if you think I use too many exclamation marks but it is so hard for me not to when speaking about someone that really truly loves me like Leny does and as her husband for over thirteen years how madly in love with Leny, I will always be! I grew up in a situation where you always had to be rough and tough

and hard to bluff, being a tough guy or the bullies in life will always see you as an easy target but get this! I would come in of a night and watch the beautiful art of ice skating and would be enraptured by all the elegant, graceful moves! For me it was watching a diamond in the rough, a rose in this world of many weeds you could say! To watch the beauty and gracefulness of it was for me a great stress relief from the continual battle of life! like Leny who was never a quitter, all true ice skaters no matter what position they have in the art love what they do from the bottom of their heart and no matter how many times they may fall they get up and go for it again, no quit!!! For the last three and a half years of Leny's life here on earth her health went steadily down hill, I stuck by her like glue day and night during all our time together! even on her last day here on earth she wanted me to pick her up and take her to our home! I could have but they would not let me because it was too close to her going to be with her lord and saviour. in spite of a lot of rough down in the valley times in my it has been the hardest day of my life but I know I will see her and be with her again for eternity one day!

I must bring up one last note; in 1975 Leny and I attended the Ice Capades reunion at the Flamingo in Vegas. We registered as Randall & Helena Byron but because of Leny's previous deceased husbands most people knew her as **Helena Rochester Kane**. I met a lot of really fine people there, with most of them knowing Leny. I got to meet Scott Hamilton who had been a friend to Leny for years. Then Tom Collins and many other fine people! They where all very friendly but the thing that impressed me the most was that they all said to me "you take good care of our Leny!"

With God as my witness, I did just that because I love her so much!