

She Is Gone

You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love that you shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday
You can remember her and only that she is gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes,
love and go on.

by David Harkins



In Loving Memory of

Helen Martha Bunch

July 29, 1940

April 21, 2026

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Winwood Village of Amarillo

2:00 PM

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

OFFICIANT

Pastor Bill Gehm

Helen was born on July 29, 1940, to Leslie Alfonso Lane and Mamie Martha Lilly, in Elizabeth City N.C. where she attended school and spent her early years among a large family with 5 brothers and 5 sisters, grandparents, many aunts, uncles and cousins.

After marrying and subsequently widowed with a baby, she met and married a Coast Guardsman from CA who was stationed at Base Elizabeth City. After having one child together in 1961, the newly formed family of four moved cross country to San Gabriel, CA. Here Helen dedicated herself to being a wife and mother. During these years, she became an accomplished seamstress often making her own as well as her daughters' clothing. After moving to a new home in Riverside, CA, she designed and fabricated the window treatments for it. Her creativity and attention to detail were unparalleled.

Later, as a divorcee and single mother, she began a career in retail sales, working in the finest departments stores of the day, again utilizing her creativity, love for fashion, and attention to detail. After several years, she relocated to Amarillo, TX, but eventually returned to Elizabeth City to be near her mother and siblings. During most of these years, she continued in various roles in retail. After the passing of her mother and advancing in years, she returned to Amarillo to be near a daughter. Helen lived life on her own terms and was fiercely independent. She was quick-witted and wasn't shy about letting you know what was on her mind. Her few carefully chosen friends knew her to be honorable, adventurous, fiercely loyal, and generous with her time and resources.

Helen is survived by sisters, Nellie Lane Bray, husband Billy, and Ann Seaberg, both of Elizabeth City, NC; daughters, Martha Arce, Riverside, CA and Camille Heider, husband, Mike, Amarillo, TX; grandchildren, Justin Wright, Sarah Stager, Rebekah Jacobsmeyer, Shaun Sconyers, Amanda Buranakitipinyo and Anthony Heider; 13 great-grandchildren; and her beloved dog, Zoey, who provided unconditional love and companionship.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, Leslie and Mamie; brothers, Cecil Ray, who died at birth, Leslie, Roger, J.C., Grant, and Tommy Lane; and sisters, Lessie Mae and Ruby; and great grandson Nathaniel Solomon Stager.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to Helen's aide, Jannifer Smith, of Caprock Home Health, who provided a helping hand with whatever was needed and most of all her love and friendship. As well as to the nurses and techs at BSA Hospital, who ensured their mother and GiGi was comfortable in her final days and Hospice of the Southwest for their compassionate care for them and Helen.

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