



Helena Ruth Gamble

August 14, 1951 - October 31, 2025

Helena Ruth (Taylor) Gamble, affectionately known as Lulu, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2025, at the age of 74. She was surrounded by her loving family in Arizona.

Born on August 14, 1951, to Anna Ruth Taylor, Helena grew up in Elizabethton, Tennessee, and graduated from Elizabethton High School, Class of 1969, where she was fondly known as “Lulu.” She later continued her education in Columbus, Ohio, earning a degree in Social Work—a reflection of her lifelong compassion for helping others. Helena retired from Franklin County Job and Family Services.

Helena was a devoted mother to her beloved daughter, Jacqueline “Jackie”, her pride and joy. Through Jackie, Helena was blessed with two grandchildren, Terrence Bridges and Helena Watkins, who affectionately called her Nanas. She often said that becoming a grandmother changed her life for the better, and her family felt that love in every hug, every laugh, and every word of encouragement she gave. In 2021, Helena was overjoyed to become a great-grandmother—her granddaughter and namesake Helena welcomed twins Brailon and Braiden Watkins, followed later that year by Terrence’s son Marcel Bridges, and in 2023, Hunttyr, completing what she fondly called “Nana’s Boys.”

Helena was preceded in death by her grandmother Annus Cunningham; her mother Anna Ruth Taylor; her aunt Virginia Cunningham; and her brothers Terry Lee Taylor and Eugene Taylor. She is also predeceased by her dear cousin Debbie Susong, who shared a special bond with her.

She is survived by her devoted daughter Jackie, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her best friend since childhood Roxanna Bowers of Bowie, Maryland, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends across the Carolinas, Georgia, Ohio, Michigan, Texas, California, and Arizona—each of whom will forever cherish her love and light.

To many, she was known by many affectionate names: Ms. Helena, Grandma Helena, Mama Get Down, Sista-Girl, Lu Lu, Nanas, Aunty, Skk, or Daisy. The daisy—a symbol of new beginnings, purity, joy, and cheerfulness—beautifully reflects her spirit.

Helena has now been received by our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ. Her love, laughter, and grace will continue to blossom in the hearts of all who knew her. She will be deeply missed by her special friends and family in Ohio, and by her God given California family, but her legacy of kindness and joy will live on forever.

Tribute Wall

CC

“ Jackie,

I am saddened to hear of your mother's passing. I'm praying for you and your family during this time of bereavement. May the love of God comfort you and give you strength to endure the days to come. Sending lots of love your way.

Mrs. Cooley

Clairessa Cooley - November 13, 2025 at 07:54 PM

JB

Thank you kindly Mrs. Cooley. We love you ❤️

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:01 AM

LI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lisa - November 07, 2025 at 09:23 PM

LI

The Leo Trio is back together again

Lisa - November 07, 2025 at 09:24 PM

JB

Reunited with her sisters 💕

Jackie B - November 08, 2025 at 02:00 PM

RJ

“ PRAISE GOD !

She was my mom friend to the end .

She was very much apart of our family

Corella Jones Samson was my mom and they love each other.

To her daughter may GOD BLESS and keep you and the rest of your family.

Randy I Jones.

Randy L Jones - November 07, 2025 at 03:48 PM

EM

Jackie it has take me this long to post about my Friend Helena.

I know you and I have talked.

I am so saddened for the passing of your Mother and my friend.

We meet at the Old Welfare Department 80 E. Fulton St Columbus Ohio. We were a unit group Pam, Helena and Myself.

I can say late year when Helena came home for her birthday, we had a ball dancing and all.

I don't question my friend's Faith and her love for the Lord and her Believe in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

MY friend I will and do miss you. I know you are in a better place., You are no longer suffering your Heavenly Father Welcome you home.

Until we meet in Glory Land.

Love you Eddrest Morton.

Jackie I am here for you in anyway I can be.

You fu

Eddrest Morton - November 22, 2025 at 11:05 PM

JB

Thanks Aunt Sis 🥺❤️

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:02 AM

EW

“ Helena Taylor Gamble (Lulu) my cousin who doing our time of growing up acted like a loving but annoying sibling. I thank God for allowing us to reconnect and reminisce during her final months here with us. Rest in Peace my sweet cousin I know you are 'absent from the body but present with the Lord'. May the Holy Spirit comfort your family during their season of mourning. In Jesus name-Amen 🙏
Min. Earl Stanley Wagner



Earl Wagner - November 07, 2025 at 08:52 AM

JB

Thank you kindly Min. Wagner

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 09:59 AM

DH

“ I met Ms. Helena years ago when I was a little girl on Hildreth Ave. She was ALWAYS so personable and STRAIGHT to the point. With a beautiful smile. She will definitely be missed. Rest Well.

Danielle Hicks - November 07, 2025 at 08:23 AM

JB

Thank you Lady 🥰

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:00 AM

AB

“ My heart was heavy to hear of the passing of Mama get down. She was so sweet and always made me laugh. Rest well lady I love you. Praying for the family!

Angie Brown - November 07, 2025 at 06:32 AM

JB

Thank you kindly Angie B. We love ya'll ❤️

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:00 AM

SJ

“*My family moved from Demopolis, Alabama to Columbus, Ohio when I was 12 years old. I was heartbroken because I knew that I would miss my family. Coming to Ohio from the south was a major culture shock. Later I met Jackie and we became like sisters. The day I met “Ms. Bridges” I walked through the doors and from the moment I heard her voice I was transported back home. I hadn’t heard a southern accent in years. It was as if I was sitting in one of my Auntie’s homes in Alabama. I spent so many nights at the house hanging with Jackie and my second mom. I had never met a mom that was so funny and so cool. I felt at home every time I was near her. I’m so grateful to God for the years we were gifted with her. She adored her baby girl and I’m grateful to have been a part of her world. Love you Jack. Love you forever “Ms. Bridges.”*

Sufiy James - November 07, 2025 at 05:48 AM

KM

*Growing up with Lulu was a treasure ... we kept in contact and saw each other through the years ... it was always wonderful seeing her and that smile & Laugh ... Rest in Paradise my friend ...
Kenneth(Rick)McRath*

Ken McRath - November 07, 2025 at 11:07 AM

JB

Thank you kindly.

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:03 AM

GB

“ I meet Helena through FCDJ&FS are friend grew even with my kids we kept in touch even been out of town she came home last year and what a reunion i am going two miss my friend rest in peace Helena Gamble you will never be forgotten



Gloria Patterson Burke - November 06, 2025 at 11:47 PM

JB

Thank you Ms. Gloria ❤️

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:03 AM



“ Sending my deepest condolences to Jackie, Lena and the boys! I met Ms. Helena years ago at Job and Family Services when she returned as a retiree. From day one, she brought light , compassion and joy to everyone around her.



We reconnected in a special way years later, and it felt like no time had passed at all. She always had a smile on her face, gave the best advice, and told you the truth with love.

Miss Helena's beautiful spirit and kindness will forever be remembered.

✨ We will miss you deeply love you always. 💖 Kisha Mitchell

Kisha Mitchell - November 06, 2025 at 11:26 PM


JB

Thank you Kisha ❤️

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:04 AM

LA

“ Ms. Helena was always so sweet and compassionate to me and my family. Jackie and I met in 6th grade and formed a lifelong sisterhood. Ms. Lu, was patient and kind and lots of fun. She didn't mess around though and would set you straight if need be. But she was always so nice about, it didn't feel like a scolding but rather a gentle reminder of how to act. That's love. My sincere condolences to the family and may her light shine bright Rest in Paradise Big lu 💙🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️



Love always, Lori

Lori Latham Aekins - November 06, 2025 at 09:45 PM

TI

Momma Lena (My girl) My greeting to her would be Heyyy Girl what you got going on ? She would precede to say “I got something for you every time even till the end , being a long time friend of Jackie she always made me feel like I was part of the family she would show love but get us right together if need be. I will miss seeing your beautiful face sharing laughter and stories while eating chicken salad and drinking cream soda (smile) I love you and I promise to check in on Jackie and the kids May you be free now your job here is done love always your other daughter Tiff 🍫😭🕊️🕊️🕊️

Tiffany - November 06, 2025 at 10:23 PM

JB

Thanks TiffAnn. We love ya'll ❤️🥹

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:07 AM

TB

“ Tammy Brown lit a candle in memory of
Helena Ruth Gamble



Tammy Brown - November 06, 2025 at 09:39 PM

TB

Jackie it is always a sweet & loving hug whenever I see you, sending
you lots of hugs & happy thoughts.

Tammy Brown - November 06, 2025 at 09:41 PM

JB

Thank you kindly. I love you.

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 09:58 AM

CG

“ I met Helena many years ago 1973, she was always kind and she
also had such a beautiful spirit. She was also one of the best cooks
I ever met. 😊

Cassandra Gore - November 06, 2025 at 09:33 PM

JB

Thank you Aunt Cassandra. I love you.

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:08 AM

MN

“ I grew up in Elizabethton with LuLu and always knew her as a joyful
person.
May her family be comforted during this w.

Michael Napier - November 06, 2025 at 08:15 PM

JB

Thank you kindly.

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:06 AM

JB

“ *You’re loved and truly missed. I will always remember you and cherish the memories we shared. I love you Aunt Helena* ❤️



Jazmyne Boston - November 06, 2025 at 04:22 PM

JB

Thank you kindly ❤️

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:08 AM

BH

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Becky - From the funeral home - November 06, 2025 at 02:26 PM

JB

Thank you kindly Becky. I appreciate all of your help. Continue to be blessed.

Jackie Bridges - June 05 at 10:05 AM