



Obituary

Born: Tuesday, November 11, 1919

Died: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

HELEN (GILHAM) GRESHAM

1919 - 2017

Helen Gresham, 97, a 70-year resident of Springfield, MA and wife of the late Jimmy Gresham Sr. peacefully entered eternal rest on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 while surrounded by her loving children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was born in Oglethorpe, GA on November 11, 1919, a beloved daughter of the late Tommy Gilham Sr. and Hester Ann Gilham.

Service Summary

Interment following funeral service

Visitation

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Fri Mar 10, 2017

NEW HOPE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

364 CENTRAL STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105

Funeral Service

11:00 AM Fri Mar 10, 2017

NEW HOPE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

364 CENTRAL STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105

Helen was predeceased by her parents Tommy Gilham Sr. and Hester Ann Gilham and her

two sons Jimmy Gresham Jr. and Thomas Gresham. She is survived by her children Raymond Gresham Sr. and daughter-in-law Marie Gresham, Ora-Lee (Gresham) Finch, Annie (Gresham) Stovall and son-in-law Warren Stovall, Paula Goolsby and her special daughter and son Minister Mary Crenshaw and Deacon Early Dennis Crenshaw Sr., and Lucielle Merriman who has dedicated many years lovingly caring for her.

Helen also leaves 19 grandchildren including Jo-ann (Stovall) Wallace and Karen (Stovall) Mitchell who lovingly cared for her daily, 49 great-grandchildren including Tavaughan J. Stovall who devoted much of his time caring for his great-grandmother, 56 great-great grandchildren and 5 great-great-great grandchildren and her special grandchildren Linda Major and family, Marvin Carr and family, Craig Higgs and Olive Wheatly who will forever cherish her memory.

Although Helen was predeceased by her 10 greatly cherished siblings: Sisters: Mary Eliza Parks, Lizzie Smith, Susie Smith, Emma Lou Royal, Mae Bell Moody and Annie Mae Crowley and Brothers: Jonnie Gilham, Clifford Gilham, Tommy Gilham Jr. and Bennie Gilham. She leaves behind a great many treasured nieces, nephews, cousins and friends to

celebrate her memory.

Helen had a very intense and compassionate love for her family and friends and eagerly anticipated every visit, phone call, card and gift. She continually treated everyone she encountered with Christ-like compassion. She had strong faith and devotion and served as faithfully committed member of New Hope Pentecostal Church for over 30 years.

Helen also had a love for gardening with her great-grandchildren, crocheting and was the greatest cook. She spent so much time cooking big Sunday dinners, baking her especially famous pound cakes, pickling delicious peach pickles and canning her great jellies, jam and cha-cha. All of which are greatly missed.

For 97 years Helen ran her race and fought the good fight. She was a praying daughter, wife mother, grandmother and friend. Things were not always easy and oftentimes there were many obstacles in her path, yet she always had the strength and conviction to stay faithful and keep fighting until the Lord peacefully called her home. Even though our tears flow because she is so dearly missed, we will always walk with thankfulness for the life she lived. Forever in our hearts is where she will stay as we each remember the special impact she had on each of our lives.

A Visiting Hour will be held on Fri., 3/10/17 from 10-11AM at New Hope Pentecostal Church, 364 Central Street, Springfield, MA and followed by the Funeral service at 11AM. The Burial will be in Oak Grove Cemetery, Springfield, MA.