



Helen Massey

March 10, 1935 - January 4, 2026

Mary Helen Burt Massey, age 90, of Fort Payne, passed away Sunday, January 4, 2026, at Crowne Health.

Helen was born March 10, 1935, on Lookout Mountain in the Dogtown community to James Elijah and Gencie (Casey) Burt. She married Elvin Massey Sunday, January 4, 1953.

When her daughters were ages five and nine, she led them with a honeyed alto voice as The Massey Trio; Martha Hughes Gilbreath was their first pianist. Approximately 12 years later she sang with Floyd Whaley, Don Reeves, her sister-in-law, Wanda Burt with pianist Gail Reeves Garrett as the Ruhama Quartet. Sometime later she sang with Milford Cushen, Larry, and Jeff Bruce with pianist Teresa Peyton as the Ambassador's Quartet.

She was known for her hard work and undeniable joy of tending to her beautiful flower gardens and flower lined paths. Helen will be lovingly remembered for her elaborate Christmas Villages, decorating stylish Christmas trees, making custom made draperies, her made from scratch apple and pecan pies, delicious old fashioned iron skillet fudge and her love of all animals. Helen rescued many stray cats and made sure they were neutered and spayed, well fed and loved.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Elvin Massey; her brothers, J.R. (Russell), Donald, Ralph, and Kenneth Burt. She is survived by her daughters, Anita Massey and Renea Massey-Kusma, her sister Patricia Jones, many beloved nieces and nephews and their children including Talia Parker and Tucker and Hudson Jones; her sisters-in-law, Trillis (James) Moses and Betty Massey and lifelong friend, Stephanie Graham. She leaves behind the animals she loved more than life, eight cats and Gus the dog.

The family wishes to acknowledge every single employee at Crowne Health and Hospice of Alabama for their attentive and incredibly compassionate care.

A private graveside will be held at a later date.

Wilson Funeral Home and Crematory of Fort Payne is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

TP

“ I remember when her and Renae would always come to Trillis and James just to see me i comforted her at Elvin’s funeral i love and miss her so much.

Talia Parker - January 12 at 07:19 PM

BR

“ I so loved and enjoyed her. She was such a special blessing when I met her with Renae on Friday, beauty salon day 😊, for lunch. I always got a loving hug and she always sat next to me. She always laughed and cut up with us even when our topics were a “little spicy”. I will miss her sweetness and love.

Beverly Richey - January 07 at 12:05 PM

JB

“ We spent many hours together while she, Larry and Jeff sang together. She had such a beautiful voice and was one of the sweetest ladies and friend to all of us. We love her dearly!
I am extremely sorry for your loss. Maybe she, Larry and Jeff are singing together again! 😍

Joan Bruce - January 07 at 08:41 AM

CL

“ Cheryl Little sent a virtual gift in memory of Helen Massey



Cheryl Little - January 06 at 04:15 PM

“ Our beloved Mother had a great sense of humor. She loved laughing and having fun, but had more determination and stamina for consistent hard work than most of us.

All Spring and Summer Mother would cheerfully be outside at 7 a.m. pulling weeds, setting out the plants she thought she'd hidden from Dad the day before, and fully enjoying herself for two solid hours in the yard. By 9 a.m. Dad had coaxed her inside to dress for breakfast at the Waffle King. By Noon she was settled at her favorite sewing shop at the Potter's house in Dogtown.

She would sew, hammer a valance together, have a coffee break for sure, and possibly hang a job with Dad's assistance before heading back home by late afternoon for more yard work. After dinner she would often head to Wilson Funeral Home to vacuum, dust and all the rest when the families had gone home for the evening.

Mother loved it when her "girls" were visiting in general, but also loved that we pitched in with the funeral home cleaning detail. Elvin was more comfortable supervising, as I recall.

Mother loved the family she grew up with, and the little family she and Dad nurtured for their entire lives when their daughters were born. Mother freely said, "I love you," and enjoyed hearing it so much.

It was heartwarming how frequently she heard it, and said it, to so many at Crowne Health and Rehabilitation. She heard it from caring women in administration, (one in particular that she adored). She heard it from her favorite visitors from housekeeping, laundry, and foodservice throughout the day, and from the dedicated CNA's, LPN's and RN's. Her CNA's became her adopted daughters. Mother was also quite fond of the Physical Therapists. It represented work and progress to her, and as she said, "I like walking down the hall with a handsome man." God bless you, Mother. You were a pistol.

Anita, myself, your loving family and friends miss you already. I don't recall who said it but I bet we can all agree wholeheartedly: "Love never dies."

Our unyielding love and gratitude,
Your "Bossy girls," Anita and Renea

SG

I KNOW she will be missed!! I loved your Mom so much and she just cracked me up all the time as we traveled with the Ambassadors. God speed Mrs Helen...I know you are already singing up there in Heaven with Daddy and Jeff again. Please know that y'all are all in my heart and in my prayers. God Bless! Shannon Bruce Griffin.

Shannon Bruce Griffin - January 07 at 08:17 AM

EW

Liz Wells

Helen had a welcoming and generous spirit, always smiling. She loved to laugh, attended numerous soccer and baseball games, and made her famous fudge. Fiercely independent, Helen loved her family and demonstrated that love everywhere, making each know each was special to her. We loved her and will miss her!

Elizabeth Wells - January 13 at 09:26 PM

SF

“ Mrs. Massey was a sweet and loving mother! Every time I saw her she acknowledged me with kindness and a smile. Renea my prayers are with you all. I pray for comfort and peace. What a blessing she was 🙏 With Love, Sheila Whitmire Freeman

Sheila Freeman - January 06 at 09:34 AM

RB

“ I'm going to miss my aunt Helen. More than words can describe i loved her so much.

Rodney Burt - January 05 at 11:37 PM

TK

“ I loved Mrs. Massey. She was so sweet and gave the best hugs. She will be missed.

Taylor Kauffman - January 05 at 09:57 PM

AL

“ I'm so sorry to hear this. Helen was a good friend. She sowed several curtains for me over the years! I loved her. My condolences to the family! God be with you!!!!!!!!!!!!

Amelia Landstreet - January 05 at 09:01 PM

CS

I was asking about her just the other day. She was so sweet and so talented.

Cathy Stiefel - January 05 at 10:46 PM

GH

Helen had a beautiful, kind and loving spirit. She amazed me with her sewing and design skills--always a busy bee. My sympathy to the family.

Gwen Hill - January 06 at 08:23 AM