



## Helen Marguerite Gray

August 28, 1926 - January 1, 2016

Services for Helen Marguerite Reames Gray, 89, of Tyler, Texas, will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 10:00 am, at First Baptist Church, 301 West Ferguson, with Rev. Pike Wisner and The Rev. Dr. Stuart Baskin officiating. Burial will be held at 2:30 pm at Black Hills Cemetery near Corsicana, Texas under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Helen unexpectedly passed away Friday, January 1.

She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church where she assisted for many years with the three-year-olds' Sunday School class.

Helen was born in Navarro County to Homer and Jewel Threet Reames. She married her high-school sweetheart, Harrell Gray, when she was only 17 and together they raised their family, participated in church work, camped throughout Colorado, and traveled the world.

She graduated from Emhouse High School and Navarro Junior College and studied Early Childhood Education at Texas Eastern University (now the University of Texas at Tyler).

Helen's first job was working at the candy counter at F. W. Woolworth in Corsicana. She then worked in sales and as a buyer for J. M. Dyer Department Store and was later employed as the Director of Family Services where she served families in need of emergency provisions.

After moving with her family to Tyler in 1967, she joined the staff of the Child Development Center at First Baptist Church. Beginning as a caregiver in the infant room, she became the Director of the program.

After the birth of her grandchild, Katie, she spent the rest of her life as a loving, doting, full-time grandmother.

During these years she was an active volunteer for the Tyler Association for the Educators of Young Children, Azleway Boys Ranch, PATH, HIS House, First Baptist Church, the Quilters' Guild and the Foreign Student Association. One of her favorite volunteer activities was serving as a docent for the Brookshires Wildlife Museum. She was proud to be the longest-serving charter docent.

She lived the final five years of her life at Meadow Lake Retirement Community where she made many friends and actively participated in their programs and events.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Harrell, and a host of family and friends.

She is survived by her loving family including daughter and son-in-law, Kathey and Ed Comer; granddaughter, Katie Comer; grandchildren-by-choice, Luong and Melissa Dang and Linh Brice; and great-grandchildren-by-choice, Laura, Samantha and Luong Edward Dang and Madison and Levi Brice; sister, Kathryn Watkins and many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Visitation is scheduled from 5:00 - 7:00 pm on Monday, January 4 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Azleway Boys Ranch, 15892 CR 26, Tyler, TX 75707 or online at [azleway.org](http://azleway.org); PATH, 402 West Front, Tyler, TX 75702 or online at [pathhelps.org](http://pathhelps.org); or the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Blackhills Cemetery

Corsicana, TX

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home  
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 581-2008

## Service

JAN 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church Tyler  
301 W. Ferguson St.  
Tyler, TX 75702

# Tribute Wall

GF

“ *Kathey  
Alta Faye and I have such good memories of Helen during the time  
we served at FBC Tyler. Your parents were always so kind and  
gracious to us.  
Gary Fenton*

**Gary Fenton** - January 09, 2016 at 01:25 PM

RY

“ *Ruth Young lit a candle in memory of Helen  
Marguerite Gray*



**Ruth Young** - January 05, 2016 at 08:23 AM

RY

*Ms. Gray was a beautiful woman who loved life and will be missed.*

**Ruth Young** - January 05, 2016 at 08:24 AM

PK

*Dear Kathey and family: I was so happy to see you and your Mom at  
Love Feast!!! And now, just so sad to hear that she is gone!!! I really  
got to know Helen through teaching yoga and aerobics at ETMC, and  
WOW.... she was amazing! She will be missed Kathey.... God's  
blessings to you and your family.... Patty Kirkpatrick*

**Patty Kirkpatrick** - January 05, 2016 at 11:05 AM

GT

“ Dear kathey,  
I am heartbroken to hear of Helens passing. I have so many great memories of her at water aerobics. She has and will be missed greatly.  
love, gay tyra

gay tyra - January 04, 2016 at 08:53 AM

GT

“ Gay Tyra lit a candle in memory of Helen Marguerite Gray



gay tyra - January 04, 2016 at 08:49 AM

KH

“ I remember Mrs. Gray well from when her husband, Mr. Harrell Gray, was our district manager at Brookshire's No. 9 in Bergfeld Center over 40 years ago during the early 1970's. I carried her groceries out many times. Although I had not seen Mrs. Gray for many years I remember her kind, friendly spirit. She was one of those ladies who made Tyler special. She will certainly be missed. My condolences to her family.

Kyle Hill - January 03, 2016 at 06:31 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Helen Marguerite Gray.



January 03, 2016 at 12:15 PM