



## Helen Lorene May

October 24, 1934 - September 26, 2017

Helen was born on October 24, 1934 in Knox, Texas. She passed away on Tuesday, September 26 at the young age of 82. She was born to Thomas Aubrey Turner and Thelma Jenny (Winn) Turner, being the fourth of seven children. The family relocated to California when she was young.

A small statured, beautiful young girl, Helen met Archie Wayne May when they were fourteen years old, and were married at seventeen years on December 3, 1951. Together they raised four children, teaching them among other things, a love for nature in all her wondrous aspects, respect and love towards people and animals, and a willingness to not only empathize with those less fortunate, but also to reach out and help them without ever considering the personal sacrifices. Helen and Wayne drew strength from each other while they shared the good times and the bad throughout 60 years of marriage until she lost her love and soulmate to illness in 2012.

After raising her children Helen and her eldest daughter, Debby, opened a home daycare in 1974. From generation to generation as they grew up, those she cared for became close friends and a well-loved extension of her family.

When Wayne was diagnosed with a critical illness, they both retired, bought a motor home and spent several months each year traveling the country, visiting family and making new friends until Wayne could no longer travel.

In addition to Helen's friends, too numerous to count, she is survived by her daughters, Debby May of Visalia; Yvonne Pennestri and her husband, Eric of Porterville; and Sheri Musgrove of Visalia. She also leaves behind 6 grand children and 8 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband and best friend, Wayne May; her only son, Michael May; her parents, Aubrey and Thelma Turner; and her siblings, Novalene King, Thomas Turner, Margaret Starnes, Frances Moreau, Donald Turner, and Thurman Turner. Helen was the last surviving child of Aubrey and Thelma.

During the last few years Helen suffered many falls resulting in massive bruising and broken bones. Yet each time she soldiered on with her usual strength, determination and humor until she regained her mobility and self-sufficiency. Unfortunately the results of the last falls proved too damaging for her worn out body to defeat.

A graveside service will be held at the Visalia District Cemetery on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 11 AM. Chaplain Kent Mishler will be leading the service. During her lifetime, she always said, "If you want to give me flowers, give them to me while I'm alive to enjoy them. Don't wait until I'm dead." Therefore if you'd like to give a donation in her name, please send it to St. Jude's Children Hospital. This will honor both her and the many children she has loved throughout her life.

Condolences may be sent to [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com) <<http://www.salseranddillard.com>>

# Previous Events

## Graveside

OCT 4. 11:00 AM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery  
1300 W Goshen Ave  
Visalia, CA 93291

# Tribute Wall



“ *Salsler & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Helen Lorene May*



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**Salsler & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - September 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ *We are so sorry for the loss of Grandma May. She was loved by her daycare kids and will be greatly missed. We love you Debby, Sherry, and Yvonne.*

*Love Michelle and Matt Phillips, Liam, Liz, and Adam.*

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**Michelle** - October 02, 2017 at 12:44 PM

LG

“ *I am so sorry for your loss and prayers being said for your comfort at this time. Your Mom was such a sweet person, I remember her and your Dad very fondly when they visited with my Dad and Mom and at Knudsen Creamery functions many years ago. My Dad and your Dad were old truck driving buddies in those days. Now they are all together telling stories.*

*Lynn Fagundes Galatro*

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**Lynn Galatro** - September 30, 2017 at 11:34 AM