

Life's Journey

Helen Louise POLK, born April 9, 1919 to John and Henrietta Jones Bowles; Helen was the second of three children. Both her sister Florence Avery and brother John Bowles, Jr preceded her in death.

Helen achieved her education at Martha Washington Elementary school, graduated from Sulzberger Junior High in 1932 and went on to graduate from West Philadelphia High School. After graduation, she had an opportunity for college but didn't recognize it would be beneficial to Blacks during that time. However, that didn't stop her from continuing her education "Home Style". An avid reader, Helen would spend hours reading and learning everything she could including current events, black history, finances and her most favorite of all - the Holy Bible. As a young woman, Helen was an equestrian rider, something very few women of color did during her time. While working at the Campbell Soup Company in Camden New Jersey, she met and married Harry D Polk, Sr. and together they raised six children - Roxietta, Harry, Jr., Patricia, Camille, Fred and Tony. In the 50's, Helen worked for Quartermasters Depot in Philadelphia as a seamstress. She eventually retired from the School District of Philadelphia as a Supportive Services Assistant at the age of 62.

Helen accepted Jesus Christ, as her Lord and Savior early in life and anyone/everyone that met her knew without a doubt her decision and steadfastness in the Lord. After years of walking with the Lord, she became a member of The Non Sectarian Church of God Under the leadership of Elder Uylus Jordan in March 1954, 65 years ago and remained a faithful member serving in many ministries such as: Missionary, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School Teacher, Choir Member, Usher and caregiver for many sick church and family members. Her beloved Scripture was Psalms chapter 16 and her favorite song was "I'd Rather Have Jesus" sung by George Beverly Shea. We can still hear her saying:

"This is the day the Lord has made I will be rejoice and be glad in it." "I'm doing fine, Praise the Lord." "Keep praying and trust in the Lord" and a funny one: "A little powder and a little paint can make an is what it ain't"

Helen was also active in countless organizations, which included Neighborhood Town Watch (which she would attend with neighbor and friend Mrs. Idallas Steed), Salvation Army, a founding supporter of the Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Memorial, and founding supporter of the former Haddington Senior Center (54th & Haverford Avenue).

Some of the many hobbies she enjoyed were sewing, ceramics, crocheting and baking. Many relatives, friends and neighbors remember her homemade breads/yeast rolls, rice puddings, applesauce, fruit cocktail cobbler, and ambrosia. When going through financial hardships, she baked and did laundry to make ends meet.

Helen made many sacrifices for her family to provide their needs.

Helen was blessed beyond measure to have traveled the world nationally and internationally spending time with her family. She would return to testify of the wondrous beauty of God's creations.

During her later years, Helen loved Facebook, Messenger and would FaceTime family members even at 99 years of age. (Just don't call her between three and four while she watching General Hospital) LOL!



Our Mom, Mom-Mom Helen, Grand-mom, Grandmother, Aunt Helen and Friend will be remembered as a beautiful woman of God who remained steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as you know that her labor is not in vain in the Lord. Helen stepped into wholeness on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 after a brief illness. Helen was 99 years and 11 months old. Her heart's desire was to make 100 years old, however, she was ready to be with her Lord whenever he called.

Her son Fred and his wife Rose preceded Helen in death. She leaves to cherish her memories Roxietta Gilliam (Leroy), Harry, Jr. (Bobbie Jean), Patricia Daniel (Richard), Camille Crew (Larry), Tony "Farahd El Amin". Blending her love with all of Harry, Sr.'s children also includes Ina Jones (Royell) of Rosamond, CA, Keith (Belinda) Columbia, SC, Diane Lee (Herbert), Philadelphia, PA., Marie Howard (Arthur), Robbinsville, NJ, Crystal Hicks, Philadelphia, PA. In addition, her 15 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, 21 great-great children; three sisters-in-law: Ernestine Polk, Doris Polk and Dorothy Smith who's more of a sister than a sister-in-law; a special niece Arlene Gray, special family friends Emanuel & Martina Lambert and Patricia E. Williams along with a host of family, friends and neighbors. We would also like to give special thanks to Mrs. Gloria Chappelle and her family as well as the Brown Family, and the Non Sectarian Church of God.



Professional Services by:
Francis Funeral Home~5201 Whitby Ave~Phila., PA~ 215-747-1919

Order of Service

Friday, March 15, 2019 @ 11:00AM
Church of God
51st & Haverford Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19139

Processional	
Invocation	Pastor Emannual Lambert, Sr.
Scripture Reading:	Old Testament Psalms 16 New Testament John 3:16, 17
Selection Medley By	Charlene Holloway
Reflections	Missionary Ministry Harry Polk, Jr. (son) Kevin & Nathaniel Gilliam (Grandsons) Aleana & Arianna Polk (Great granddaughters) Minister Peggy Johnson Sis Martina Lambert
Acknowledgements/Cards	
Reading of Obituary	Arianna Polk (Great Granddaughter)
Selection	Barbara Walker
Eulogy Closing Prayer	Elder Ernest W. Brown Jr Elder James Finney



I'd Rather Have Jesus

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands;
I'd rather be led by his nail-pierced hand.
I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame;
I'd rather be true to His holy name.
He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom;
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;
He's all that my hungering spirit needs;
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead.

Refrain:

Than to be the king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin's dread sway;
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.



Program by:
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We're Creative and it Works!



Celebrating Her Life



Helen Polk
April 9, 1919 ~ March 6, 2019