



Helen Charcalis Erskine

JUL 31, 1946 - NOV 7, 2023



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MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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Loving wife, mother, grandmother, and passionate educator, Helen Charcalis Erskine, 77, passed away peacefully at her home on November 7, 2023.

Born in Concord, New Hampshire, and a resident of Memphis, Tennessee, since 1976, she graduated from Concord High School (NH), obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire, and her master's degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The child of Greek immigrants, she was a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Memphis, where she was active in the Daughters of Penelope. Proud of her Greek heritage, she loved to share her cultural identity with others, usually in the form of her delicious family recipes. She was a longtime pastry shop volunteer during the Memphis Greek Fest and enjoyed Greek dancing.

She was a career English teacher, first in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, and then in Stony Brook, New York. Later, in Memphis, she taught English for gifted students for 25 years. She taught briefly at Craigmont Junior High School but spent most of her career at White Station Junior High / Middle School. Over the years, her former students would tell her how they recalled the song she taught for remembering linking verbs and her gestures for remembering vocabulary words (exacerbate! clandestine!), and how they continued to use her "Rainbow Packet" grammar reference into high school and college. She believed strongly that middle school students could handle studying complicated subjects and engage in thought-provoking discussions. Very little made her happier than learning the amazing things her former students were doing with their lives. After retirement, she remained active in Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional society for women educators.

In recent years, she was surrounded by a tight-knit group of longtime friends with whom she frequently dined and even traveled around the world.



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Her greatest love was her family. She celebrated the accomplishments of her husband and children as her own. She was always the first (and loudest) to clap at her musician husband's performances and took great pride in everything her sons did. She was also thrilled to welcome the arrival of three grandchildren into the family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, William G. Charcalis and Katherine Pappas Charcalis, and her brother George Charcalis. She is survived by her beloved husband of 52 years, Bruce Erskine, of Germantown, Tennessee; sons Michael Erskine (Sara Erskine), of Germantown, and Mark Erskine (Diana Comes), of Memphis; brothers Harry Charcalis, of Concord, New Hampshire, and William G. Charcalis (Jeanne Charcalis), of Stamford, Connecticut; and grandchildren Thomas and Bonnie Erskine, of Germantown, and Alice Erskine-Comes, of Memphis, as well as many dear nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family invites friends to gather for visitation and a Trisagion service Tuesday, November 14, 2023, from 5:00pm until 7:00pm at Memorial Park Funeral Home, 5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 11:00 am at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 573 N. Highland, Memphis, TN, with burial to follow in Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to MIFA or the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.



Events

Helen Charcalis Erskine

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Visitation


 **Tuesday**, November 14, 2023

 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home**
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119

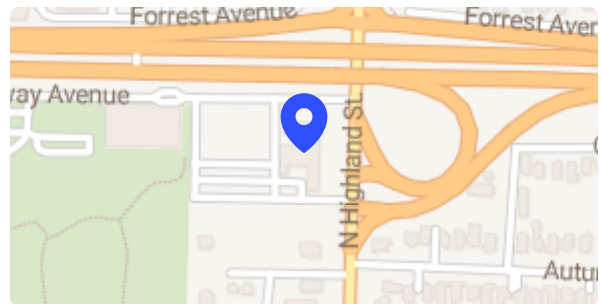


Funeral Service

 **Wednesday**, November 15, 2023

 11:00 AM CT

 **The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church**
573 N. Highland St., Memphis TN 38122





Tribute Wall

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Virginia Fite posted:

I am a former student of Mrs. Erskine's and I have recently started my teaching career. I've been teaching my 4th graders the helping verb song and I remember my rainbow writing packet being a huge help throughout middle school. I am sad to learn she passed a couple of years ago. I hope to have the same lasting impact on my students that she had on hers. "Is be am are was were been, has have had, do does did, may might can could shall should will would, must! keep! get! being!!!"

November 18 at 10:52 AM



Lynne And Daniel Schwam posted:

We are so saddened by the news of sweet Helen's passing, and send heart felt condolences to Bruce and the family! We have such fond memories from our years together at Stony Brook. Lynne (Ockner) and Dan Schwam

May 1 at 6:43 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Erskine family.



November 14 at 8:57 AM



Megan Robb planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Helen.



November 14 at 8:57 AM



Anonymous sent a Basket of Memories to the Erskine family.



November 13 at 6:24 PM



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Erskine family.



November 13 at 8:59 AM



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Anonymous sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Erskine family.

November 13 at 7:39 AM



The Memphis Federation Of Musicians. sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Erskine family.

November 13 at 5:51 AM



Anonymous sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Erskine family.

November 10 at 1:33 PM



Jane M. sent a Pink Potpourri Bouquet to the Erskine family.

November 10 at 9:02 AM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Erskine family.

November 10 at 8:09 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Erskine family.

November 10 at 6:54 AM





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UW

Us Attorney's Office Wdtn planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Helen.



November 10 at 6:54 AM

LT

Linda Garrish Thomas posted:

Dear Bruce and Family, I was shocked and saddened to learn of Helen's passing. It was an honor to know her even in our very few instances of meeting. My deepest sympathies. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Linda Garrish Thomas

November 10 at 2:54 AM

AG

Angelo Gesmundo posted:

So Sorry to hear of your loss Bruce. Knowing that thoughts and prayers are mentioned for you and your family at this difficult time. God Bless...Angelo and Carol Gesmundo

November 9 at 6:36 PM

RW

Rick Willard posted:

Mrs. Erskine was so influential to my career. She really looked out for me as a young teacher. She was an excellent colleague and the epitome of a professional. A fantastic lady with a brilliant mind. I was privileged to know her and work along side her. I hope all those essays in heaven are ready for her approval. Goodbye Mrs Erskine and thank you for everything.

November 9 at 3:15 PM

JS

James S. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Helen.



November 9 at 1:34 PM

NN

Nikki Nicole posted:

This summer we were lucky enough to spend a little time with Helen. She made our kids feel very loved with the stories she told. I know she will be dearly missed by so many.

November 9 at 12:01 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Helen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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