



Helen Harrison Phillips

June 5, 1942 - December 4, 2025

Helen Harrison Phillips (Honey), a devoted mother, grandmother, and pillar of the Shelby County business community, passed away on Thursday, December 4, 2025 with her family by her side.

Born in Shelby County, Alabama, on June 5, 1942, Helen's entrance into the world held a special significance, as she was born on the wedding anniversary of her beloved parents, Karl and Mildred Harrison. This auspicious beginning set the tone for a life defined by deep family roots and a commitment to her community.

Helen was a proud alumna of the University of Alabama, where she was a devoted member of the Chi Omega Sorority. Following her education, she embarked on a distinguished career in finance, breaking barriers as a female leader in the industry. She served with distinction as the President of the First National Bank of Shelby County.

Her love for her community extended far beyond the bank. Helen was a founding member of the South Shelby Chamber of Commerce, a proud member of the David Lindsey DAR chapter, and a member of the Columbiana Culture Club. She championed literacy and education as a past board member of the Harrison Regional Library and as President of the Mildred B. Harrison Regional Library Board.

Perhaps her most enduring public legacy was her dedication to preserving history. It was through Helen's steadfast vision and faithful collaboration with the American Village that the Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington found its new home. Her dedication ensured that this remarkable collection will continue to inspire generations of young people as they learn from the life and service of George Washington—the indispensable man of our nation.

While her professional accolades were numerous, Helen's greatest joy was her family. She loved life and celebrated it through her children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Karl and Mildred Harrison; her sister, Nancy Harrison; and her beloved son, Thomas Leon Phillips, Jr.

She is survived by her children, Frederick Scott Phillips (Leatha), Carol Phillips Fails, and Helen Phillips Dean (Brandon). She also leaves behind a legacy of love in her grandchildren, Hannah Dean Davenport (Braden), Garth Fort Fails, Jr., Elijah Harrison Fails, and Millie Elizabeth Dean; and her great-grandchildren, Inman Brandon Davenport and Ada-Mae Sharlene Davenport, and beloved sister, Carol Smith (Skipper) and brother Tommy Harrison (Michelle).

A graveside service will be held Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 2pm at the Columbiana Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Columbiana City Cemetery

206 Shelby Road
Columbiana, AL 35051

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Columbiana City Cemetery
206 Shelby Road
Columbiana, AL 35051

Tribute Wall

CF

“Helen’s daughter, “Little” Helen, is married to my nephew, Scott Dean. I first met “Big” Helen at the wedding in 1995. From that time forward, Helen was gracious, kind, and hospitable, always showing delight in greeting me on family occasions. Her welcoming spirit and genuine concern for others was evident always. My love to the Harrison/Phillips family members who will miss her terribly. May sweet memories and the goodness of God bring comfort in days ahead.

Cheryl Foust - December 31, 2025 at 03:54 PM

KS

“I am so very sorry to hear of Helen’s passing and wish I could have been there to pay my respects. My prayers are with you all.

Karen Sweeney - December 07, 2025 at 06:43 PM

CC

“Carissa Cook lit a candle in memory of Helen Phillips



Carissa Cook - December 07, 2025 at 11:16 AM

KB

“ I was so saddened to hear of Helen being ill these past few weeks and then her passing, she was a lovely lady and she will be missed. I enjoyed woking with Helen at the Bank for many years and I have lots of fun memories of our time together, she was like family to me. May God be with her family during this difficult time of loss, you are in my thoughts and prayers 🙏
Love you all, Kathy Gardner Brasher

Kathy Gardner Brasher - December 06, 2025 at 01:50 PM

CC

“ Carissa Cook lit a candle in memory of Helen Phillips



Carissa Cook - December 06, 2025 at 04:14 AM

TH

“ To the Harrison family my deepest sympathy to you all.I am saddened because I feel like the family is part of mine.We have been in each other’s life for years.I pray that God will give you strength and comfort during this difficult time.Helen was a lovely and kind lady. Will miss her very much.With all my love for the family.



Tommie Rose Head - December 05, 2025 at 10:10 AM

FL

“ Frenchell Lansford lit a candle in memory of Helen Phillips



Frenchell Lansford - December 05, 2025 at 07:49 AM

MD

“ Helen was a friend to me since our high school days. I didn't get to see her very often in the last few years, but when we did meet, things were as if no time had passed. We just “caught up” with things not shared in years. Helen was just a very special friend and person.

I would like to share one special memory that will never leave me and probably a few more girls. This was the time before bands even had a bus for the away games. It was up to parents to take their children or find them a ride to the games. The majorettes found the perfect ride. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison let Helen drive all the majorettes to the away games as long as they were in a reasonable distance from Columbiana. Good times of loving, laughter and probably solving rack other's problems. Thank you, Helen, for your friendship and all the good times.

Mary Gene Edmondson Denney - December 04, 2025 at 11:44 PM

FL

“ Frenchell Lansford lit a candle in memory of Helen Phillips



Frenchell Lansford - December 04, 2025 at 06:59 PM