



Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby

April 12, 1947 - November 16, 2025

Helen Maxine Widby, lovingly known as "Pat" and "Gran Gran", went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at the age of 78. Born and raised in Elizabethton, Tennessee, she entered this world on April 12, 1947, the daughter of the late Lawrence Taylor Myrick, Sr., and Carrie Bernice Myrick.

Maxine Widby grew up in Elizabethton and attended Douglas High School, where she played forward for the Douglas Dragons basketball team. On December 18, 1964, she married the love of her life, Ernest Widby, Sr. Their union of over 60 years was built on love, faith, and deep devotion to God and family.

In 1985, when Pastor Widby founded New Zion Faith Center, Maxine stepped gracefully into her calling as the First Lady of the church. She served faithfully at her husband's side as he carried multiple roles in the community. With her unwavering support, her quiet wisdom, sacrifices, and devotion, she undergirded every milestone they reached in their shared legacy. As First Lady, Maxine was the quiet backbone of the ministry: encouraging members, supporting church programs, helping shape its spiritual foundation, and standing as a steady, prayerful presence for the congregation. She served with humility, grace, and a gentle strength that uplifted everyone who walked through the church doors.

For many years, Maxine worked as an electronic technician with Siemens, known for her dependability, humility, and strong work ethic. She enjoyed painting pottery, traveling, and preparing memorable Southern dishes – especially her beloved squash casserole and oyster-turkey dressing. She faithfully supported Ernie's Gospel Soul, Sons of Zion, Vacation Bible School, fundraisers, and the ministries of New Zion with a servant's heart.

Maxine will be remembered as faith-filled, grounded, gracious, servant-hearted, selfless, loving, supportive, honest, dependable, and humble. She lived softly, loved deeply, and carried a quiet power that brought comfort wherever she went.

Maxine Widby was preceded in death by her parents, Lawrence Taylor Myrick, Sr. (December 8, 1996) and Carrie Bernice Myrick (February 16, 2015); her grandparents, Shannon and Helen Phillips Richmond, Thomas and Florence Myrick; her brother, Albert Lynn Myrick (December 11, 2024), and several aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends throughout the decades.

Cherishing her memory are her devoted husband, Pastor Ernest Eugene Widby, Sr.; her children, Ernest "Geno" Widby, Jr., Shelley Briscoe (Richard), and Christine Scurry (Jay); her brother, Lawrence Myrick, Jr.; aunts, Pauline Neely and Margaret Hagler; and uncle, George Richmond; along with special family friend, Theresa Crawford.

She is also survived by seven grandchildren – Jordan Ray, Kristian Robiou (Edmir), Travis Simpson, Paige Coleman, Ryan Coleman (Ashley), Jayonna Scurry, and Josh Releford; seven great-grandchildren; along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **22**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

New Zion Faith Center
1904 Jamestown Rd
Johnson City, TN 37604

Celebration of Life

NOV **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

New Zion Faith Center
1904 Jamestown Rd
Johnson City, TN 37604

Interment

NOV **22** (ET)

Washington County Memory Gardens
113 Memory Gardens Rd.
Johnson City, TN 37615

Tribute Wall

DS

“ *Deborah Simmons-Grey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Deborah Simmons-Grey - December 03, 2025 at 11:50 AM

SC

“ *Susie Colston lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Susie Colston - November 29, 2025 at 11:00 AM

CW

“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with the Family of Mrs. Widby. We just learned of her passing and are truly sorry. Charles was a member of “ The Sons of Zion”, for many years and we cherish the times spent listening to their wonderful music.*

*To Rev. Widby, all of her children, and grandchildren and a host of Family and Friends , may God keep you in his tender loving care.
Charles and Peggy Wells*



Charles and Peggy Wells - November 25, 2025 at 01:58 PM

LW

“ Linda Workman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



linda workman - November 24, 2025 at 10:24 PM

TR

“ Tiffany Ryans lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Tiffany Ryans - November 24, 2025 at 08:24 AM

MJ

“ Mary Ann James lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Mary Ann James - November 22, 2025 at 10:45 PM



“ Keisha Charles Kisha lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Keisha Charles Kisha - November 22, 2025 at 09:21 PM

PA

“ *Phyllis Askew sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Phyllis Askew - November 22, 2025 at 06:14 PM

CB

“ *Carol Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Carol Bradley - November 22, 2025 at 11:53 AM

VP

“ *Viola Patton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Viola Patton - November 22, 2025 at 12:52 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby.*



November 21, 2025 at 10:13 PM

BB

“ Bishop Harold Howard and Community Bapti purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby.



Bishop Harold Howard and Community Bapti - November 21, 2025 at 07:49 PM

BB

“ Bishop Harold Howard and Community Bapti planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby.

Bishop Harold Howard and Community Bapti - November 21, 2025 at 07:49 PM

CR

“ Praying for all the family, extended family, congregation and friends.



Clara “Faye” Hart Rutledge - November 21, 2025 at 07:06 PM

WJ

“ WZAP Radio - Glen, Rita and JR purchased the *Medium Dish Garden* for the family of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby.



WZAP Radio - Glen, Rita and JR - November 21, 2025 at 01:02 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby.



November 21, 2025 at 10:52 AM



“ Dennis, Debra, Morgan and DJ Rhea planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby.

Dennis, Debra, Morgan and DJ Rhea - November 21, 2025 at 10:52 AM



“ Faye Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Faye Smith - November 21, 2025 at 10:28 AM



“ My condolences to the family



Patria Rhea - November 21, 2025 at 08:59 AM

TF

“ *Tim and Penny Bowen and the Bowen Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby.*



Tim and Penny Bowen and the Bowen Family - November 21, 2025 at 07:20 AM

CT

“ *Connie Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Connie Thompson - November 20, 2025 at 10:40 PM

JW

“ *Janice Wells lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



janice wells - November 20, 2025 at 07:16 PM

FL

“ *Frazier Lyons lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Frazier Lyons - November 20, 2025 at 02:38 PM

VR

“ *Van Rollins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Van Rollins - November 20, 2025 at 10:45 AM

PD

“ *Pauline Douglas lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Pauline Douglas - November 20, 2025 at 08:47 AM

JA

“ *Widby family my heart is broken for your loss. Maxine was always so kind and encouraging to me growing up and also as an adult. The times that I would see her she always had that beautiful smile, a huge hug and words of encouragement for me to keep pushing on! I plead the blood of Jesus Christ over your family for healing and comfort during such a difficult time. All my love and blessings for a brighter day. Jacey Augustus*



Jacey Augustus - November 20, 2025 at 08:43 AM

SB

“ *Sylvia Bachman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Sylvia Bachman - November 20, 2025 at 04:07 AM

RF

“ *Renea Hall & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Renea Hall & Family - November 19, 2025 at 09:57 PM

LW

“ *Linda Workman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Linda Workman - November 19, 2025 at 09:04 PM

KM

“ *Kathy Mills sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Kathy Mills - November 19, 2025 at 06:04 PM

LB

“ Lynn & Rayetta Bachman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Lynn & Rayetta Bachman - November 19, 2025 at 04:09 PM



“ Carolyn Fain lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Carolyn Fain - November 19, 2025 at 04:05 PM

RC

“ Rev. Sharon Comage lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Rev. Sharon Comage - November 19, 2025 at 03:52 PM

RC

“ Rev. Sharon Hale Comage sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Rev. Sharon Hale Comage - November 19, 2025 at 03:50 PM

DM

“ Denise & Ida Machen purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby.



Denise & Ida Machen - November 19, 2025 at 03:18 PM

FS

“ Loved working with Maxine at T.I. sharing many laughs together. Prayers for her dear family. 🙏



Florence Street - November 19, 2025 at 03:01 PM

DD

“ Delores Delaney lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Delores Delaney - November 19, 2025 at 03:00 PM

LB

“ Lydia Bridwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Lydia Bridwell - November 19, 2025 at 01:41 PM

MC

“ *Marvin & Pam Cain lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Marvin & Pam Cain - November 19, 2025 at 12:46 PM

RB

“ *Rita O. Beadley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Rita O. Beadley - November 19, 2025 at 11:46 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby.*



November 19, 2025 at 09:56 AM

JT

“ *Josh Taylor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Helen M. Widby.*

Josh Taylor - November 19, 2025 at 09:56 AM

JM

“ 🤍🤍🤍 🙏🙏



Jackie, Isaiah, Jaenai, Lundyn, & Macsen - November 19, 2025 at 09:55 AM

RN

“ *Ricky Nobleton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Ricky Nobleton - November 19, 2025 at 09:07 AM

PB

“ *Paul & Vanessa Braxton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



Paul & Vanessa Braxton - November 19, 2025 at 08:25 AM

JW

“ *Janice Wells lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby*



janice wells - November 18, 2025 at 09:43 PM

AT

“ RIP, Mrs Pat. God Bless you and your wonderful family. No more pain on side.

Arnold Thomas - November 18, 2025 at 08:36 PM



“ Paulette Robinson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Paulette Robinson - November 18, 2025 at 08:08 PM

JA

“ Jaymon, Edna and Adeline



Jaymon - November 18, 2025 at 06:48 PM

CB

“ Charles Bufford sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Helen Maxine Widby



Charles Bufford - November 18, 2025 at 03:44 PM