



## Mrs. Helen Pitre Giron

August 13, 1933 - December 20, 2023

Services will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at Our Savior's Church, Opelousas Campus for Helen P. Giron.

Helen was born on August 13, 1933, to the union of Persley Pitre and Lola Green Pitre in Plaisance, Louisiana. She accepted Christ at an early age. She was baptized by the late Reverend Samuel A. Crowder at Mohorn Baptist Church in Plaisance. Helen graduated from Plaisance High School in 1953. She was proud of her basketball playing days at Plaisance High and was a star athlete and an excellent student.

Helen knew that education was the key to her success and was determined to go to college. With the help of her teacher, Ella Mae Batiste, and her brother, John Pitre, Helen was able to achieve her dream of furthering her education at Southern University in Baton Rouge. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education in 1956 and a master's degree in Elementary Education in 1967 from Southern University. Following her master's degree, she also obtained the +30 hours of additional credit courses from Southern. After graduating, Helen returned to Opelousas, Louisiana and began teaching at the St. Landry Training School. She also molded the minds of young boys and girls at various St. Landry Parish schools such as JS Clark Elementary School and Southwest Elementary School. During her career, Helen taught various subjects and tutored children after school. Helen went beyond her classroom duties and helped to organize community activities and clothing drives for school children in need. After her retirement in 1986, Helen was a

highly sought-after substitute teacher at Washington Elementary School, Plaisance Elementary School, Opelousas High School, Opelousas Junior High School, and South Street Elementary School. Many of Helen's students would greet her in the community and thanked her for stern and determined approach to teaching. She taught multiple generations of the same family throughout her career.

Helen was motherly before she became a mother. Her mother passed away when she was a child and her father passed away when she was in her early twenties. Helen took it upon herself to rear her sister, Jennie Pearl Edwards, and her late nephew, Anthony Pitre, Sr. She cared for them like they were her own and made sure they obtained a high school and college education. She also helped rear her grandson Elbert Giron, Sr. (Pop) for a short while. Helen was the go-to Aunt who took care of many nieces and nephews during the summer months.

Helen married the love of her life, Herbert Willard Giron, Sr., in 1966. To this union three children were born: Dawn, Kayla and Lyle. They were married for thirty-five years before his death. Helen and Herbert built the first house in Evangeline Subdivision. Helen loved her children and ensured that they set and achieved their goals in life. She let everyone know how proud she was of her children and family.

Helen was a devoted member of St. Mark United Methodist Church where she was a member until her death. She was a member of the choir, served as a lay speaker and communion minister, and was a member of many committees. She loved her church and her church family. She was also a member of the Carousel Social Club for many years. They were a close-knit group and were active in the community. Following in the footsteps of her daughters, Helen joined the Lambda Beta Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated in 2000 where she was active for many years. On Wednesday, December 20, Helen's body could not be repaired. She took off mortality, put on immortality, and slipped away to a land that is older than Eden and taller than Rome - a land where she will never grow old.

Those mourning her memory include her children Dawn Giron of Baton Rouge, LA; Drs Kayla Giron-Baker and husband Reginald Baker of Tracy, CA; Lyle Giron and his wife Cassandra Giron of Houston, TX; and her stepsons, Herbert Giron, Sr. of Inglewood, CA and Wilbert Giron, Sr. and his wife Betty Giron of Opelousas, LA. She is survived by two loving sisters: Mary Ina Cooper and Jennie Pearl Edwards of New Orleans, LA; her sister-niece Louella (Annawise) Lewis of New Orleans, LA; and her sister-in-law Clydia Giron of Opelousas. Her surviving grandchildren are Victoria, Taylor, Carter, Pam, Elbert Sr., Greg, and Wilbert Jr. She is also survived by her godchildren, Catherine Pitre and Lauren Giron, numerous great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, sorors, coworkers and lifelong friends, including Eleanor Jo Miller, Yvonne Thierry, and Carrie Norman. Preceding her in death are her husband, Herbert Willard Giron, Sr.; her parents Persley and Lola Pitre; her brothers Alphonse Sr., Joseph, and John Pitre; her sisters Eula Mae Ricard, Irona Smith, Rhody Ward, and Elga Washington; her nephew who was like a son, Anthony Pitre, Sr.; daughter-in-law Elva Giron; grandson Peter Giron and his wife Danielle Giron; and godchild Jacqueline Batiste. She was also preceded in death by her brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Helen P. Giron often spoke about making the “dash” count and she most certainly did. Rest well thy good and faithful servant.

The family requests visiting hours be observed on Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 8:00 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. at Our Savior's Church Opelousas Campus. Share words of comfort with the family of Helen P. Giron on her Permanent Life Tribute Page at [www.williamsfuneralhomes.net](http://www.williamsfuneralhomes.net). Be the first to post your most treasured memory of Helen. Show your support by sharing a personal message or story, meaningful photo or video, or record a video message using your webcam. On behalf of the family, we encourage you share your personal experiences and preserve the memory of Helen Pitre Giron for future generations to come.

Final arrangements entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 817 E.  
South Street, 337-942-2037.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 6. 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM (CT)

Our Savior's Church Opelousas Campus  
202 Our Savior's Church Blvd  
Opelousas, LA 70570  
(337) 678-0660

## Celebration of Life

JAN 6. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Our Savior's Church Opelousas Campus  
202 Our Savior's Church Blvd  
Opelousas, LA 70570  
(337) 678-0660

## Burial

JAN 7. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Bellevue Memorial Park  
4833 Hwy 182 S.  
Opelousas, LA 70570  
<https://www.bellevuememorialparkcemetery.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BN

“ *She was my sister 3rd grade teacher at JH Augustus. My sister loved her. She taught my sister how to write perfectly, all upper case were the same size as well as all lower case were the same size(nothing but excellence). So sorry for your loss, God got you!*

*Barbara & Charles Norman*

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**Barbara & Charles Norman** - January 25, 2024 at 01:40 PM

LW

“ *This was my teacher, she was also our mother, she did not play with us, you better get your education. lol.*



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**Lorenza Joseph Wilson** - January 18, 2024 at 04:07 PM

NP

“ *After reading what was said by others, there's nothing left for me to say. This lady taught me at J H. Augustus. I will say anybody who she taught never forgot her. LOL Nancy L. Winfrey*

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**Nancy W. Pierre** - January 06, 2024 at 08:32 PM

ES

“Mrs. Helen P. Giron was an educational giant. Even as a strict disciplinarian, she was well loved and appreciated by her students. She epitomized the “professional teacher” in her daily attire, dedication to teaching and learning, and love for her students. I was never a student in her class, but as co-workers she taught me many lessons on how to be a teacher and always giving the best of myself to my students.

*I remember clearly her taking off one of her expensive blazers and pair of gorgeous earrings to dress me up to go to the school board office for a meeting. I went to that meeting as proud as a peacock knowing I was dressed for the occasion. I will always love Mrs. Giron for that sincere gesture without making me feel embarrassed about how I would have looked without her help.*

*I must also mention I presently work in the school that was previously Southwest Elementary and regularly adult visitors recall their days as students at Southwest and remember Mrs. Giron as being their #1 best teacher ever.*

*Recently, at a South Street gathering at Soileau’s Dinner Club, Mrs. Giron’s daughter, Kayla, blessed us all with Mrs. Giron’s presence. It was a beautiful occasion and although it was someone else’s birthday celebration, as always, Mrs. Giron was the star of the show. Thank you, Mrs. Giron, for your guidance, your friendship, meals at your kitchen table, for teaching my daughter, for dressing me up that day, and for everything else. You are embedded in my heart forever.*

*Elsie M. Semien  
South Street Co-Worker  
Friend Forever*

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**Elsie M. Semien** - January 06, 2024 at 02:43 AM

BG

“ Aww,Cuzin Helen. I remember the frequent trips you made to see Mom n Dad. They enjoyed your visits. I looked back at you being my Brothers and I teacher at J H Augustus Elementary School. The disciplinary one was definately you.😭😭My brothers would come home n say, Ms Pitre would say this paddle will talk to you cousin or not.lol. .Lord Lord,to Dawn, Kayla,and Lyle and those beautiful grandkids siblings,and all other family members,friends and church congregation. Y'all have my Deepest Prayers and Condolences. Helen you have definately earned your wings Girl ,,Rest in Heavenly Peace, .You will be missed🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏💔



Brenda Green - January 05, 2024 at 08:27 PM



I don't know Mrs. Pitre and never had her as a teacher, but after reading her life story she sounds like a tremendous woman and a a giant in the educational community. May she rest in peace and I pray that God grants her family consolation.

Anthony Offord - January 18, 2024 at 03:10 AM

RN

“ Ms. Helen: I only met you once or twice, through your sister, Ms. Rhody and my good friend Deborah Warren, and I was so impressed with you. May you rest in peace with the Father. I hope your family find joy and comfort in all that were. Rosa Newsome

Rosa Newsome - January 05, 2024 at 02:32 PM

RJ

“ A long life and exciting Lady who is an example to being all you can be and more. RIP

Rose E Jones - January 05, 2024 at 09:19 AM

PG

“ Mrs. Helen Giron was so full of positive energy & light , and so much spunk. I so admired her boldness & confidence! He filled a room with laughter and often gave younger women on the job words of wisdom whether you asked got it or not ( grateful). I knew her because of my dad, but I remember her most when she was a retired substitute @ East Junior High School, the former J.S.Clark which is now MACA. R.I.P. most gracious one 💕🌸💕  
Shine bright like a Diamond, you lived a blessed life ★



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**Peggy Garriette-Saunders** - January 04, 2024 at 10:12 PM

CC

“ Correction: Curley Green/2nd Cousin

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**Curley Green/2nd Cousin** - January 04, 2024 at 07:34 PM

CC

“ Please allow me to offer my sincerest condolences to all of her loved ones. For those who do not know, Helen had a documented history of helping people out, sometimes going out of her way to do so. She had the mindset of building people up to keep them from sinking in despair or other negative feelings.

*People have been empowered by her shared vision of them being successful in life.*

*Let us rejoice in Heaven's gain!*

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**Curley Green/2nd Cousin** - January 04, 2024 at 07:31 PM

DG

“ *Those we hold closest to our hearts never truly leave us. They live on in the kindness they have shared and the Love they brought into our lives.*

*My Sincere Condolences,  
Judy A. Guilbeaux-James, PhD*

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**Dr. Judy A. Guilbeaux-James** - January 04, 2024 at 03:19 PM

CB

“ *Helen Giron was my friend and neighbor and I will miss her. Rest in peace my dear friend.*

*Carrie Norman*

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**Carol Bigger** - January 04, 2024 at 11:09 AM

RP

“ *Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers goes out to the Family! So sorry for your Family loss!  
R.I.P Mrs. Helen Giron 🙏🙏*



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**Rita, Filbert,Edward, Jr.&Iasha Pickens** - January 03, 2024 at 10:43 PM

CP

“ *So sorry for your loss! My thoughts and prayers are with the family!*



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**Carol Phefferkorn** - January 03, 2024 at 05:30 PM

CL

“ Carol LeDoux lit a candle in memory of Helen Giron



Carol L. LeDoux - January 03, 2024 at 01:35 PM

CL

“ I am so deeply sorry on learning of the loss of Mrs. Helen Giron. We worked at the same school, Southwest Elementary, for many years together. She was a wonderful teacher and loved listening to her and her making us laugh in the teachers lounge on our lunch break or during recess. I was thinking about her just recently and wondered how she was doing. We used to see each other in the stores but it had been a while. Again, I am derply sorry for your loss and please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad and difficult time.

Rest in God's loving arms Mrs. Giron!!! 🙏❤️🙏

Carol L. LeDoux - January 03, 2024 at 01:34 PM

JP

“ Mrs. Giron taught both of my sons. She was a dear friend to my parents as well. I had the pleasure of visiting her last year for the Christmas Holidays. She was so sweet, spunky, and loving. She was professional being a teacher and cared about her students.

Rest In Heaven dear friend. 🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏

Jacinta Frank-Parrish & Gerald Parrish - January 03, 2024 at 12:18 PM

DW

“ *Dionne Washington lit a candle in memory of Helen Giron*



Dionne Renee Washington - January 02, 2024 at 10:31 PM

RZ

“ *I had the opportunity to work with Mrs Giron at Washington Elementary she was such a loving & caring teacher she will be missed get your rest my friend*



Ronald Zachery - January 02, 2024 at 06:09 PM

GB

“ *RIP Mrs. Giron  
You were definitely a great educator*



Grace Barnes - January 02, 2024 at 05:55 PM

KM

“ *Heartfelt Condolences and Prayers For The Family Of Our Beloved Mrs. Helen P. Giron. May GOD Bless You With The Strength and Comfort That You Need During Your Time Of Grief and Sorrow. May She RIHP. 🕊️🕊️🕊️*



Kathy T. Meullione - January 02, 2024 at 05:40 PM

BT

“ Rest in Peace Ms Helen. My sincere condolences to the family. She will be missed.



Barbara W. Thomas - January 02, 2024 at 04:47 PM

BC

May her memories bring peace to your family. Condolences to Dawn and the family! 🙏🙏🙏

Brenda Carter - January 02, 2024 at 09:17 PM

PC

Helen you will be missed. You were so good at saying encouraging words followed by serving up a delicious bowl of soup. To your precious children: Praying that God's caring, comforting, presence, will surround you during this time.

Pat Cassimere - January 05, 2024 at 01:42 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Helen Pitre Giron.



January 02, 2024 at 03:21 PM

JM

“ Mrs Helen you was a fern and loving mother. You was caring for everyone. May the Lord watch over you/ family. Joyce Gales Milburn. May your soul Rest In Peace

Joyce Milburn - January 02, 2024 at 03:15 PM

DJ

“ Ms giron was my 6th grade teacher at southwest elementary and she would always say she was hard on us because she wanted her black kids to suceede and I am so thankful for her sternness we need teachers like her today and thanks for being a part of my village take your rest the best teacher of all times

Debra Moore Johnson - January 02, 2024 at 03:06 PM

LP

I WAS A 3RD GRADE STUDENT OF MS. Helen P. GIRON AT SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, OPELOUSAS, LA. SHE TAUGHT ME THE ELEMENTS OF LIFE TO SUCCEED . I GRADUATED 2ND IN MY HIGH SCHOOL. SHE WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY MEMORIES. PRAYERS GO OUT TO HER FAMILY .

Lori Arvie Payne - January 02, 2024 at 08:17 PM

CP

My aunt/godmother was a very positive person in my life. She would sound so much like my mom repeated what my mom would say. I quest that's why they were sisters. My aunt/godmother stay on me sometimes worse then my mother. Lawd when I would go to her house and stayed awhile she say come and let me comb ur hair tears would start flowing b4 I sat down. My aunt Helen stayed firm always not slipping once. She wanted the best for me. I'm going to keep her in my heart always because she filled me up with positive thoughts and feelings for staying close to God just like her sister my (MOM) after losing my mom she would call me everyday and pray with me and fill me with God's prayers and words giving me strength to move on. Honestly it really feels like losing my mom all over again 😭

Catherine Pitre - January 03, 2024 at 04:17 PM

TF

“ The Grant Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Helen Pitre Giron.

The Grant Family - January 02, 2024 at 02:54 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Helen Pitre Giron.*



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January 02, 2024 at 02:54 PM