



Helen T. Gaffigan

June 21, 1938 - August 3, 2025

Helen Gaffigan, 87, passed away peacefully on August 3 at her home in Myrtle Beach. Born in New York on June 21, 1938 to Tom and Marion Mahoney, Helen grew up in Jackson Heights with her brothers Philip and Thomas, and that is where she developed the compassionate spirit that would define her life's work.

In 1960, Helen married the love of her life, Tim, whom she met at the Irish-American Club in Queens. Together they raised four sons – Timothy (Donna), Thomas (Caroline), James (Lorraine), and Terence (Christa) – born between 1961 and 1966. Helen was outnumbered in her household of boys, though she was never overmatched because of her confident personality. Her characteristic wisdom was discerning, incisive, and often humorous.

Balancing her roles as devoted wife, mother and professional, she worked night shifts for many years to ensure she could be present for her children during the day. Her commitment to her husband and sons was always first and foremost.

After graduating from St. Clare's Nursing School in Manhattan, Helen embarked on a distinguished nursing career spanning six decades. Her dedication took her from emergency rooms to leadership roles, from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a position she cherished for its opportunity to care for the most vulnerable patients, to specialized nursing for the elderly, and even certification for air care emergencies. She served faithfully for many years at Hackettstown Hospital in New Jersey, and later after Helen and Tim's

move from Long Valley, New Jersey to Myrtle Beach, at Grand Strand Medical Center, and Conway Medical Center. All the while she touched the lives of patients and co-workers alike through her skilled care, sharp mind, and sense of humor.

Her greatest joy in recent years came from her beloved grandchildren – Ryan (Erica), James (Karina) and Cristy – who brought immense happiness to her life. She was also a dog-lover who afforded great lives to a series of rescues, Cinnamon, Chloe, and Daisy.

Helen was a woman of deep faith, and was a long-time member of Our Lady of the Mountain Church in Long Valley, New Jersey, and later St. Michael's in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina.

Before she passed, Helen advised all her family, extended family, and friends to remember the good times and to laugh!

Helen was pre-deceased by her husband, Tim. She is survived by her sons Timothy, Thomas, James and Terence, by her brother, Thomas, and her grandchildren, Ryan, James, and Cristy.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be held for her at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 542 Cypress Ave., Garden City, SC 29576 on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 10:00 am.

Interment will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery in Conway.

Please sign the family's guestbook at: www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544
Conway, SC 29526

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Michael's Catholic Church
542 Cypress Ave
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
(843) 651-3737

Interment will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery, 1000 Hwy 544, Conway, SC 29526

Tribute Wall

PM

“ To know Helen was an honor and a privilege. To be Helen's friend had no bounds. Helen was loving, loyal, sincere, honest, straight forward, and a true friend. Helen always had time to share with all. Our friendship spanned over fifty years and never wavered. We spent hours remembering and sharing experiences and memories of our past lives, laughing at so many things we shared together. Helen's heart was big enough to envelop all who came in contact with her. Her sage advice was insurmountable and appreciated. Helen's sense of empathy for others knew no bounds. Her Faith in her God will never be surpassed. Tim, Tom, Jim and Terry emulate your MOM forever. She will always be only a thought away.
GO FORTH MY FRIEND, IN PEACE AND LOVE!
Pat McLaughlin

Pat McLaughlin - August 19, 2025 at 01:36 PM

ET

Helen and I were good friends in Mahopac, NY and continued our friendship over the years after she moved to NJ. We kept in touch via phone calls, and a few visits to NJ. After I retired to NC , and Helen had moved to SC , we met for lunch a few times and talked like it was yesterday. She was a wonderful caring person , be happily reunited with Tim.
Elaine Tassi.

Elaine Tassi - November 01, 2025 at 02:05 PM

KS

“ Sending the Gaffigan family so much love - this is an immeasurable loss. I remember when Helen would get off night shift at Hackettstown Hospital and walk across easement to our house to have coffee with my Mom. I am sure my Mom and Helen are reunited in Heaven

Kim Seenath - August 18, 2025 at 01:49 PM

SH

“ Dear Timmy, Tommy, Jimmy and Terry, I just saw your mom's obituary. What a massive loss and I have a million memories to cherish about her. Two of my favorites were: the year she asked me what I wanted for my birthday and I said Fruit Loops and she made it happen! The other was prom dress shopping! I know this is a huge loss but thinking about her, back with your dad, is comforting. It's been a long time but she will always be remembered with love. Sending peace during this sad time, Susan Carpenito Heard

Susan Carpenito Heard - August 18, 2025 at 10:24 AM

CB

“ Condolences to family and dear friends

Chris & Diane Burgos - August 16, 2025 at 05:13 PM

JG

“ JJohn Gehegan lit a candle in memory of Helen T. Gaffigan



jJohn Gehegan - August 12, 2025 at 05:20 PM

LB

“ From dog walks,
To girl talks,
I will miss you my friend.
I'll see you on the other side.

Linda Bindner - August 12, 2025 at 03:17 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Helen T. Gaffigan.*



August 11, 2025 at 07:29 PM



“ *Lisa & Joe Gehegan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen T. Gaffigan.*

Lisa & Joe Gehegan - August 11, 2025 at 10:39 AM



“ *Lisa & Joe Gehegan purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Helen T. Gaffigan.*



Lisa & Joe Gehegan - August 11, 2025 at 10:39 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Helen T. Gaffigan.*



August 10, 2025 at 01:52 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Helen T. Gaffigan.*



August 10, 2025 at 01:25 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to all the family of Helen! Your Mom was a dear friend/neighbor for over 30 years and we shared many happy times, laughs and long chats! She will be truly missed. I pray Our Heavenly Father Blesses and Comforts all of you during this difficult time! Love and Prayers Evelyn Worek*

Evelyn D Worek - August 09, 2025 at 04:43 PM



My deepest sympathy for your loss. We shared many fun times as 'Red Hatters' and Helen was our Queen Bee! Keeping all of you in my prayers, Erika Fitzpatrick

Erika Fitzpatrick - August 09, 2025 at 10:41 PM



“ *Jerri, L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen T. Gaffigan.*

Jerri, L. - August 09, 2025 at 08:01 AM



“ *Cristy Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen T. Gaffigan.*

Cristy Family - August 07, 2025 at 01:49 PM

CF

“Cristy Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Helen T. Gaffigan.



Cristy Family - August 07, 2025 at 01:49 PM

JO

“Joy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Helen T. Gaffigan.



Joy - August 06, 2025 at 02:39 PM

WD

“With love, the SHS English Department planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen T. Gaffigan.

With love, the SHS English Department - August 06, 2025 at 11:31 AM

WD

“With love, the SHS English Department purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Helen T. Gaffigan.



With love, the SHS English Department - August 06, 2025 at 11:31 AM

BC

“ Bill C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen T. Gaffigan.

Bill C. - August 06, 2025 at 10:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Helen T. Gaffigan.

August 06, 2025 at 08:35 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Helen T. Gaffigan.



August 06, 2025 at 08:35 AM

JC

“ John & Lucinda Cochrane. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Helen T. Gaffigan.



John & Lucinda Cochrane. - August 05, 2025 at 08:05 PM