



Sarah Grace Elam

June 14, 1939 - September 8, 2025

Sarah Rigby Elam, age 86, of McCalla, Alabama, was called home to the Lord on September 8,

2025, surrounded by her family's love. Born on June 14, 1939, Sarah was preceded in death by her parents, Nettie and Clayton Rigby, and her brother, Charles Rigby. She leaves behind her devoted husband of sixty six years, John Elam, Sr., who remained by her side faithfully through every season of life. She is also survived by her children, Bubba Elam (Angie) and Tammie Elam Reaves (Allen); her grandchildren,

Hunter Elam, Joel Reaves, and Lauren Reaves Shipman (Don); and her great-grandchildren,

Parker and Shepard Shipman, who brought her endless joy. She is also survived by her siblings

Vicky Rigby Lucas (Jimmy) and Tommy Rigby, along with many beloved nieces and nephews

who adored their Aunt Sarah. Sarah was a woman of sass and sweetness, equal parts strong and tender. She loved deeply, gave generously, and laughed often. She had a gift for making everyone feel welcome, never meeting a stranger and always ready with a kind word or a story that would leave you smiling.

She loved shopping for purses and shoes, could whip up the best pound cake you've ever

tasted, and enjoyed playing and watching games with her family and friends.

Her love for flowers was unmatched—every bloom brought her joy, whether in a garden, a bouquet, or a wild patch by the roadside. She delighted in God’s beauty in creation, and she shared that joy freely with those around her. Most of all, Sarah was “Nana”—the heart of her family. She sang little made-up songs to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, leaving them with memories as sweet and unforgettable as her voice. She loved Jesus with her whole heart and lived out her faith as an active member of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. Her life was a reflection of her Savior’s love: kind, loyal, forgiving, and full of grace Her life was a great gift to her family and friends, and she leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and faith. Though her family grieves deeply, they rejoice in knowing that Sarah is now in her heavenly home, surrounded by eternal beauty and peace. Reverend Alan Head will be officiating the service. Visitation: Friday, September 12, 2025 at 10:00 AM Service: 11:00 AM Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church 4809 Bell Hill Road, Bessemer, Alabama 35022.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Chruch Cemetery

4809 Bell Hill Road
Bessemer, AL 35022

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church
4809 Bell Hill Road
Bessemer, AL 35022

Funeral Service

SEP 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church
4809 Bell Hill Road
Bessemer, AL 35022

Tribute Wall

LC

“ John, sorry to hear you lost your wife, Sarah! I miss talking to Duck!

LUKE CATES - October 01, 2025 at 05:32 AM

ML

“ Sarah was a beautiful lady inside and out. She could make you smile and laugh at her stories. She and John were the sweetest couple. The way they loved each other was so true and you could tell how much they loved each other. You could see the joy in their life because they loved God and everyone they met. Never a stranger in their life. They were an inspiration to all married couples. Devoted to God first then to each other. They were wonderful parents who loved their children and all the grandchildren. We can celebrate because we know she is with Jesus. God bless you all and our most heartfelt condolences.

Mark and Pam

mark & pam lord - September 12, 2025 at 02:45 AM

JN

“ Jody Northcutt lit a candle in memory of Sarah Grace Elam



Jody Northcutt - September 11, 2025 at 05:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sarah Grace Elam.

September 11, 2025 at 02:22 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Sarah Grace Elam.*



September 11, 2025 at 02:22 PM



“ *Kelly Walker purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sarah Grace Elam.*



Kelly Walker - September 11, 2025 at 07:32 AM



“ *Nik and Danlee Budney purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sarah Grace Elam.*



Nik and Danlee Budney - September 10, 2025 at 10:33 PM



“ *Lewis & Teresa Jeffers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah Grace Elam.*

Lewis & Teresa Jeffers - September 10, 2025 at 12:29 PM

LJ

“ *Lewis & Teresa Jeffers purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Sarah Grace Elam.* ”



Lewis & Teresa Jeffers - September 10, 2025 at 12:29 PM

JD

“ *"Love and Hugs from Sarah's Mc Adory class of 1959" You will forever be missed but will always be loved and remembered. Jim and Evelyn Durough* ”

Jim and Evelyn Durough - September 10, 2025 at 07:17 AM

MP

“ *Martha Pickrell lit a candle in memory of Sarah Grace Elam* ”



Martha Pickrell - September 09, 2025 at 09:06 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sarah Grace Elam.* ”



September 09, 2025 at 08:05 PM