



Helen Faye Bunderson

December 19, 1943 - August 31, 2026

Cedar City, Utah

Helen Faye Bunderson died in Cedar City on August 31, 2026. She was eighty-two. Born there on December 19, 1943, she grew up knowing the plateau as a weekday neighbor, and she learned a card catalog before she learned a highway. A correct call number, she said, is a form of respect.

She spent thirty-four years as a school librarian, typing the overdue list, the quiet list of children who needed a ride and would not ask, and the quieter list of children who needed a book that was not on the approved shelf. She did not put her name on a committee. She put other people's names in the right order. When a principal left in a hurry she kept the keys and the coffee and the calendar until the next one learned which door stuck.

She married Howard Bunderson in 1964. He sold insurance and died in 2002. They raised a son and a daughter who still argue about who got the last piece of caramel cake. Helen kept the garden of lilacs, and the habit of leaving a casserole on a porch without a speech. She sat through long meetings the way other people sit through weather.

Grandchildren remember a woman who corrected their thank-you notes more than their homework, who kept a biscuit tin of paper clips, and who could name every teacher in the building by the mug she no longer used. She died in Cedar City, in the cold she had always said you could live with if you dressed for it. The library is someone else's now. The patience she practiced there is harder to replace than a catalog.

Services

A funeral in Cedar City with one familiar hymn, sung slowly. A gift to a school library fund is welcome.

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