



*Vera Irene Rush Mason*  
November 7, 1928 - April 14, 2024

Celebrating the Life of  
*Uera Irene Rush Mason*  
Monday, April 22, 2024 11:00 a.m.  
Broussard's Chapel  
Beaumont, Texas

Scripture & Prayer  
Dr. Raymond McHenry

*“What a Wonderful World”*  
by Louis Armstrong

Family Memories  
Le Short

*“Take Time to Be Holy”*

Family Memories  
Brad Mason

*“It Had to Be You”*  
by Frank Sinatra

Eulogy  
Dr. Raymond McHenry

Closing Prayer

## Take Time to Be Holy

1. Take time to be ho - ly, speak oft with thy Lord;  
 2. Take time to be ho - ly, the world rush - es on;  
 3. Take time to be ho - ly, let him be thy guide,  
 4. Take time to be ho - ly, be calm in thy soul,

a - bide in him al - ways, and feed on his word.  
 spend much time in se - cret with Je - sus a - lone.  
 and run not be - fore him, what - ev - er be - tide.  
 each thought and each mo - tive be - neath his con - trol.

Make friends of God's chil - dren, help those who are weak,  
 By look - ing to Je - sus, like him thou shalt be;  
 In joy or in sor - row, still fol - low the Lord,  
 Thus led by his spir - it to foun - tains of love,

for - get - ting in noth - ing his bless - ing to seek.  
 thy friends in thy con - duct his like - ness shall see.  
 and, look - ing to Je - sus, still trust in his word.  
 thou soon shalt be fit - ted for ser - vice a - bove.



**Vera Irene Rush Mason**, lovingly known as “Grand I”, joyfully entered the arms of Jesus on Sunday, April 14, 2024. She was born on November 7, 1928, in Beaumont, Texas to Cosby Creed Rush and Mary Alice Farris. The youngest of eight children, she was 10 years younger than her closest siblings and grew up with her nieces and nephews.

Because she was so much younger than her siblings, she was pampered, spoiled and dearly loved. Before Irene was born, her family had been very successful while living in the

Winnie – Anahuac area. Her dad owned a construction company, a mercantile store, and part of a bank before losing it all in the Great Depression. Due to the Depression, her dad had a collection of worthless I.O.U.’s from several of the large ranching families in the Winnie area. By the time Irene arrived, her family was poor. Her dad bought a house that had been damaged by fire, sawed it in half with a handsaw, moved it to a lot on Emile Street in Beaumont and put it back together. This was home for Irene and the nieces and nephews who visited often.

Irene was a very shy child and grew up in the shadow of her older sister, Eloise Milam, who was a musical star in the Beaumont area. Eloise told Irene her shyness came across as “stuck-up” or rude and that she was worried too much about what others thought of her. Eloise encouraged her that others were also thinking of themselves, she needed to be less self-conscious and instead put others at ease. She took these words of wisdom from her adored, oldest sister to heart and became the outgoing; never meet a stranger, kind, humble and generous Irene we all love and remember today.

After high school, she met Charlie, the love of her life, while attending Lamar. He had just come home from the Navy, as had

so many others at the end of WWII. Charles Edward Mason and Irene Rush were married on June 1, 1948. She chose that day because her sister Eloise was married on that day. They moved to Nacogdoches so Charlie could attend Stephen F. Austin University with the goal of attending medical school. While in Nacogdoches, they welcomed their first-born son, Charles Edward Mason, Jr. After completing college, they moved back to Beaumont to join Charles' dad and brother in the construction business. Not long after, Brad and Mary Bess were added to the family and life was full. She was a devoted mother; involved in any activity her children took interest in. Several years later, Charlie became sole owner of Mason Construction. During this time, Irene worked many side jobs to support the struggling construction business. She taught swimming lessons, dressed up as a clown for birthday parties, made and sold Christmas decorations and also worked at the company. Irene was very creative and industrious and could turn pennies into dollars with her hard work.

Charlie's health greatly affected his ability to work, ultimately forcing him into retirement in his late 50's. Irene lovingly cared for him through all of his heart attacks and finally his heart transplant. With a new heart and early retirement, Charlie and Irene began their many travels. They purchased their first motor home and loaded up the grandkids. Every summer they traveled for weeks at a time with the kids. Irene loved to travel and found adventure and friends wherever they went. She never met a stranger and could strike up a conversation with anybody. While on trips with the grandkids, if Irene saw a child who looked to be the same age as her grandkids she immediately encouraged them to go and start a friendship with them. There was never a dull moment; she could turn any boring activity into something fun.

After Charlie's death in 2001 at the age of 74, Irene continued her travels with her grandchildren, family, and friends. She traveled to over 22 countries and extensively in the United States. She would try anything and found beauty everywhere she went. She was always ready for the next adventure and never turned down an invitation for the next vacation, lunch or dinner date with her kids or grandkids, plays, symphony concerts, rodeos or any outing with her family. Her response to any invitation was always "I'll be ready!"

Irene loved dolls and collected many of them during her travels. She commissioned her brother-in-law, Kee Mason, to build an elaborate dollhouse taking up a whole room in her house, complete with all the accessories, lighting, furniture and figures. She was extremely proud of the dollhouse and loved sharing it with church groups, girl scouts, and many clubs and organizations. A signed visitor log exceeded over 1000 visitors! She was also featured in the Beaumont Enterprise for her hand-made paper dolls, her unique doll collection, and her dollhouse. Her list of hobbies also included painting, sculpting, collecting music boxes, reading, cooking, baking and entertaining.

Throughout her life, she wrote notes and cards to friends as a way to brighten their day. When her two sisters moved into Hotel Beaumont, a retirement home, card writing became her passion. She noticed the loneliness and sadness for the many living in nursing homes, retirement homes or living at home alone and she decided her new job would be to offer encouragement to as many people as she could; and so her card ministry began. An organized system was created so she did not send the same card twice to the same person. Such attention to detail! Her days would be spent drawing cards and sending sweet notes to her lists of new friends, family members, and anyone who would give her their address. She was an encourager at heart and brought so much joy through her cards. A smile, a laugh, a lifted heart, some piece of happiness was the goal. She wanted to make people feel special, worthy of who God created them to be. Her influence was felt far and wide and her family estimates she wrote and mailed well over 10,000 cards, letters and care boxes, both nationally and internationally.

Irene's ultimate goal, was to help everyone know of their importance to the world, and that they had a purpose to fulfill. She was a teacher, an encourager, a servant to others, a creative problem solver, and always smiling. With humble and quiet generosity, she helped complete strangers with needs, so they could better themselves. She was the friendly face in a room full of people, gifted in making everyone feel welcome and included. She always found a compliment to share and wanted everyone to be happy. So many things about her will bring us sweet remembrances. The cards, which we have all saved, the broaches worn on her back,

the “healthy” oatmeal cookies, the Dollar Store, her love for Bingo and the crazy prizes, sharks teeth and shells, and her sweet smile. We will miss you but we know you are with Jesus and those you love and no longer suffering. You established the foundation for our family and have left your legacy in each of us. Grand I you will forever be tooty-two!

Her family includes son, Charles Mason, Jr. (deceased) and wife, Becky, of Beaumont; son, Brad Mason and wife, Monica, of Beaumont; and her daughter, Mary Bess Townsend of Kountze, Texas; and her ten grandchildren, Chad Mason and wife, Lauren; Kristin Lenoir and husband, Sandy; Jaime Brown and husband, Patrick; Jeremy Mason; Jennifer Bowman and husband, Garrett; Hannah Bonin (deceased) and husband, Justin; Rachel Hart and husband, Bailey; Le Short and wife, Misty; Hallie Bradford and husband, Chris; Emily Ray and husband, Kenneth; 23 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.





















**Committal**  
Broussard's Crematorium  
Beaumont, Texas

**Memorial Contributions**  
Beaumont Children's Museum  
P.O. Box 407  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

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*She always leaned to watch for us,  
Anxious if we were late,  
In winter by the windows,  
In summer by the gate;*

*And though we mocked her tenderly,  
Who had such foolish care,  
The long way home would seem more safe  
Because she waited there.*

*Her thoughts were all so full of us,  
She never could forget!  
And so I think that where she is  
She must be watching yet,*

*Waiting till we come home to her,  
Waiting if we are late  
Watching from Heaven's window,  
Leaning from Heaven's gate.*

*Broussards*  
Established 1889

Please sign Mrs. Mason's guest book and share your memories at  
**[broussards1889.com](http://broussards1889.com)**