



## Henry Albert Mestayer

September 24, 1934 - April 6, 2024

New Iberia -

A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 11:00 am at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in New Iberia for Henry Albert Mestayer, age 89, who passed away peacefully at his residence with his loving wife by his side on Saturday, April 6, 2024, in New Iberia.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 10:00 am until service time at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in New Iberia.

A repass will be held at the fellowship hall of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in New Iberia immediately following the service.

Henry Albert Mestayer was born on September 24, 1934, in New Iberia where he remained a lifelong resident. He had a wonderful memory for names, especially his customers from Taylor's Drug Store where he worked 12-hour days for most of his life. Henry was especially loyal and kind to his customers and employees. After his retirement he lost a good portion of his vision due to macular degeneration and had difficulty with faces, but he could usually pick up on who he was talking to after some cagey small talk. It was often after retirement when out in New Iberia he would get complemented and thanked for his kindness and service during his years at the pharmacy. The only gripes

noted were related to his gift-wrapping ability. When the store was super busy during Christmas and short staffed sometimes, he would help out in the gift-wrapping department. There were many sour looks after his speedy wrapping job! He had a dry sense of humor and even on his last day he was able to make jokes with his sweet care giver Linda. He loved boating and days at Cypremort Point fishing and cooking with Terry Badeaux and Ed Landry. When his vision loss was at the point where he was unable to drive, he built a dock on the bayou behind the house and said he was going to go to town in his small boat. That never worked out as planned but it was a valiant effort. When his vision faded further, he had Alexa in every room and loved talking to her about the weather and current events and having her play his Frank Sinatra, Louis Prima, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr, etc. Henry will be dearly missed.

Henry is survived by his loving wife of over 63 years, Ella Romero Mestayer; his children, Angela Mestayer McManus (Michael) and Ross Mestayer (Sandra Cyr); as well as his his grandchildren, Michael John McManus, Alexandra Grace McManus, Sarah Kathleen McManus, and Tayor Henry McManus.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Felix C, Mestayer and Maud Delaney Mestayer; as well as his siblings, Dolores Mestayer Boutte, Peggy Mestayer Estorge, Felix Delaney Mestayer, and Betty Mestayer Tunstall.

The family wishes to offer a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful staff who cared for Henry in his home when his health had him at his worst. Linda and Gertrude during the day and Linda and Diane during the night.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in memory of Henry Albert Mestayer to the St. Jude Foundation, <https://fundraising.stjude.org/>.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Cypress Funeral Home & Crematory,  
206 W. Lafayette St., Maurice, LA 70555.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church  
2514 Old Jeanerette Road  
New Iberia, LA 70563

## Funeral Mass

MAY 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church  
2514 Old Jeanerette Road  
New Iberia, LA 70563

## Repass

MAY 4. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church  
2514 Old Jeanerette Road  
New Iberia, LA 70563

*The Repass will be held in the fellowship hall.*

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Ella, Angela, Ross, and all of the Mestayer Family—please know that we are deeply saddened by the loss of Henry. A wonderful person and a life long, supportive friend of the Benois.* ”

Janice Benoit - June 23, 2024 at 09:55 PM

BL

“ *Ross,  
God Bless you and your family, Our families have warm memories of your father!* ”

Brian Lord - April 14, 2024 at 11:19 PM

JB

“ *Ross, condolences on the passing of your dad. I remember how kind he was each time that I saw him.* ”

Jude Broussard - April 14, 2024 at 02:10 PM

CH

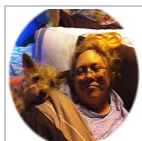
“ *Henry was my first boss and I truly enjoyed working with him, Felix and Joe. They are all together in heaven now and are asking Henry “what took you so long?” Many good memories and yes he taught me how to gift wrap and not to use too much tape. Too bad the kids growing up today can’t experience what working at Taylor’s was like. Henry was always watching but it taught us to be hard workers and show respect to all of the customers. I have so many stories and they made great memories. I know you will miss him Ella. But just remember he never really left—he’s always in your heart❤️* ”

Cindy Herring - April 13, 2024 at 08:11 PM

KM

“ *Uncle Henry will be greatly missed.*

**kitty Tunstall Moore** - April 12, 2024 at 08:40 PM



“ *God bless Uncle Henry and Family*

**Elizabeth Boutte** - April 12, 2024 at 06:32 PM

CB

“ *I saw Uncle Henry's obit early this morning. What a beautiful life. I messy wrapped some gifts with Uncle Henry many times at the drug store. Rest in peace. You will be missed. Catherine Boutte*

**Catherine Boutte** - April 12, 2024 at 04:18 PM

JB

“ *Your family has my deepest sympathy. I was so sorry to hear of his passing. He was raised in our neighborhood on Pollard Ave and remained a lifelong friend. His mother and sister Dokey were our good neighbors. It sure is sad to see our friends going away. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers.*



**John Berard** - April 12, 2024 at 12:54 AM

SM

*Condolences to Aunt Ella, Ross, Angela, and the entire family. Uncle Henry was one of a kind, his dry sense of humor was wonderful. Lots of love and thoughts from Las Vegas.*

**Steven Mestayer** - April 12, 2024 at 09:21 PM

MD

*O Ella, I am so sorry and many prayers sent to you and your family.*

**Madelyn Coleman Dugas** - April 13, 2024 at 07:12 PM

MT

### Uncle Henry

*Little did I know, Henry was always watching. Looking back, Uncle Henry knew. There were many times, he knew. In the late '60's, after the new Taylor's Rexall Drug store opened, the family would travel from Dallas to New Iberia. At that age, the kids were allowed to walk, or ride bicycles from Mom and Pops Mestayer double lot and house on Pollard Avenue to Taylor's on St. Peters. This was a time long before Boulogny Plaza and while the Evangeline and Essanee theaters were open. Once inside Taylor's there was some of everything. The soda fountain on the right back wall, the Whitman Samplers on the shelves along with first aid, perfume, make up and the bobbing heads of the Iberia Parish youth. Isle after isle of neatly organized items for sale. Some have said Taylor's Rexall Drugs was the first super store for New Iberia.*

*At Taylor's, in the back lefthand corner, above the tops of the shelves, off in the distance, where prescriptions were filled, there was Uncle Henry – eyes down filling the bottles, eyes up, over the glasses, watching store activities. From this elevated workspace, Uncle Henry could peer over all the stocked shelves all the way to the front doors where customers entered. If there was action in Taylor's, Uncle Henry knew. However, as a first cousins of Ross, we had access to the back room. The stock room with super high ceilings with rows of 12-foot-long dual fluorescent lighting. Now of course in the stock room, there was an endless supply of ammo for the sling shots found on the toy isle inside Taylor's. Well, those bulbs did not stand a chance when a multivitamin flew from the sling shot into the fixed end of the tube. First there was a pop like noise then in slow motion, the fluorescent tube separated at one end allowing the long tube now released on one end, to tilt down, point, then disconnect and fall. Much like a lightning bolt, the releasing of the two-pronged end allowed for a free fall from the ceiling light fixture to the floor, where the impact created a glass breaking sound with a puff of white smoke. That noise occurred just before the stock room exit door opened and latched closed.*

*Later that day, Uncle Henry took all the boys away from Taylor's and out to the camp at Cypremort Point. Henry knew. Even though Uncle Henry called me "Tommy or Charlie" most of the time, he knew.*

*Rest in peace Uncle Henry  
Michael & Cynthia Tunstall*

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**Michael Tunstall** - April 26, 2024 at 12:14 PM