



Maria de la luz Moreno

August 3, 1938 - July 21, 2023

On July 21, 2023, Maria de la luz Moreno, returned to the Lord at age 84 after a long courageous battle with dementia. She passed peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, friends, and pets. Maria was the biological mother of three children. However, many people considered her their surrogate mother and grandmother.

Maria was born to Osvaldo and Carlota Olmeda in San Carlos TAMPS, Mexico, on August 3, 1938. The second oldest of 6 children, Maria is preceded in death by her parents, her sisters Neomi, Alicia, and her brother Samuel. She leaves behind her sisters Betzabeth and Gloria Eva.

When Maria was 22 years old, she divorced her first husband when her youngest was only six months old. She refused to live her life on anyone else's terms, during a time when divorce and single motherhood was taboo. But with her head held high, she took her three small children; Irma, Julia, and Junior, and started to nanny in Texas. She helped raise three more children alongside her own. She became best friends with Libby Vernon and her sons became her first set of honorary children.

In 1969, she married Manuel Moreno and moved to Moses Lake, WA, where she resided until this day. With her new marriage she gained six more children to love. I grew up unaware that I had any step family. That word just did not

exist in her household. Family was family, and she doted on all of us every chance she could.

Her story is full of courage, tragedy, wisdom, humor, diligence, and most of all, hands that would squeeze so tight, you would never forget how much you were loved by her.

It didn't take much to make her happy—a phone call, a card, a visit, or a kiss before saying good night. She lived to make our lives better. She loved to spoil us in her kitchen, her garden, and using her sewing machine.

She cared deeply for her family, friends, and neighbors. She did this not out of obligation, but because of who she was. She was always the first to offer help. She always ensured that every child who came through her door was safe, healthy, and happy. She would give cold water to the garbage men every Tuesday morning, meet up with her friends for coffee at McDonald's, have shopping sprees at Goodwill and the Senior Center, carpool to church, and get home in time to call her sisters and daughters every night.

It's hard not to brag about my Gramma. With only a formal 3rd grade education, she taught herself to read and write English so well, she was translating government paperwork for anyone who asked. There are generations of families living in the U.S. today, because of her help. And she did it all free of charge. Her greatest joy was to help.

Despite being diagnosed with dementia 12 years ago, a disease that is known to strip someone of their personality and dignity, Maria continued to stay true to herself. The core of who she was never wavered. Her sense of humor, her sass, her strength and her love was always there. Her face would still light up when she saw you enter the room. She still reached out to squeeze your hand. And dementia couldn't take away her grasp of both English and

Spanish.

There is no doubt that if dementia never entered her life, she would have easily lived to be 110. People would often compare her to an ox! She survived one life threatening ailment after another. Maria was an extraordinarily strong woman who outlived doctors who told us she didn't have much time left. She refused to be a textbook patient and lasted a decade longer than expected. My Gramma lived and died on her own terms. It was between her and God, and no one else.

Through her, we know what resilience and perseverance truly look like. The impact she had on those fortunate enough to know her cannot be measured in one lifetime.

Maria has blessed 5 generations of our family. She leaves behind her children Irma Valdez, Julie Peterson, and Ramon Garcia, Jr. Her grandchildren Jaime Valdez, Melissa Alvarez, Philip Peterson, Andy Peterson, Jacquelynn Garcia, Eric Garcia, and Marcus Garcia. Her great grandchildren Jaime Valdez Jr., Julie Daley, Eli Valdez, Selena Valdez, Azelea Fuentes, Huston Fuentes, Nyssa Peterson, and Eric Garcia Jr. Her great-great grandchildren Avery and Aria Daley. And an endless list of honorary family members.

All of us feel an immeasurable loss, but also feel a deep gratitude to have been lucky enough to be loved by her.

Please join us for her Celebration of Life. Funeral services will take place on Thursday, July 27th at Restore City Church at 2227 W. Peninsula Dr at 11AM. Burial will be in Guarding Angels Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 765-7848

Previous Events

Service

JUL 27. 11:00 AM (PT)

Restore City Church
2227 W Peninsula Dr.
Moses Lake
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ Rest in peace grandma. Such wonderful memories at grandmas house I remember hanging out in the fro yard while she worked on her garden. Every chance she got she was taking pictures with her polaroid cámara. Fond memories that ll never forget

aurelio jimenez - July 28, 2023 at 03:26 PM

DV

“ Lucha is the sister of my heart. She loved and cared for her children and mine in the same open hearted way. Through the years she has grown dearer to all of us. God hold her close for she personifies a child of God in every way.

Dr. Libby Vernon - July 27, 2023 at 11:58 AM

DP

“ Our deepest condolences to all the family. What a beautiful lady. May she rest in peace. God Bless.



Deborah Padron - July 27, 2023 at 11:46 AM

TA

“ Trina Alfaro lit a candle in memory of Maria Moreno



Trina Alfaro - July 25, 2023 at 08:54 PM