



Rufina A. Hernando

February 21, 1931 - May 18, 2021

Rufina A. Hernando passed away peacefully in her sleep the morning of Tuesday, May 18, 2021 in her home in Benicia, California at the age of 90. She was born on February 21, 1931 in Guiuan, Philippines to Pacifico Melquiades Amigo and Crecencia Abuda. At age 20, Rufina married Pastor R. Rambo, a merchant marine seaman and arrived in the United States on July 4, 1952. Together, they had 3 girls, Cecilia, Soledad, and Teresa. They divorced in 1974. Rufina lived in San Francisco and Daly City for many years, moved to Vallejo and last residing in Benicia, CA. A determined and hardworking woman, she worked 2 full-time jobs for a number of years. My Auntie Grace got her a job at the Willat Company in San Francisco (a beauty supply manufacturing company). The owner, Mr. Arnold Willat had patented the first cold wave permanent. Rufina was instrumental in helping him build the Willat Jetstream 5 minute hair dryer! She enjoyed working at Willat until the company closed its doors around 1987. Her other job was working swingshift as a maid at the Hilton Hotel SF. She enjoyed working at the Hilton and was a star employee with a number of great moments there. With seniority, she worked the executive floor, meeting famous people such as John Goodman, former President Clinton and Hilary Clinton, Barry Bonds (who gave her a baseball), Paris Hilton (as a child), various rock stars, NBA basketball players, among others. She was selected to present roses to President Cory Aquino when she stayed at the Hilton Hotel on her first visit to the U.S. as President of the Philippines. The family loved hearing about her stories at the Hilton. She retired at the age of 70. Rufina remarried in 1981 to Florentino Hernando and they were inseparable for the next 37 years. Although Catholic, Rufina supported Flor in attending church services every Sunday at Faith Bible Church of Vallejo.

Rufina enjoyed a number of passions, such as gardening, shopping, making jewelry, and especially spending time with family. She loved life, always laughing, smiling, joking around, dancing and enjoying good times esp. with her BFF Auntie Carmen. She loved her gardens filled with roses and other flowers going non-stop to make them beautiful. Neighbors in Benicia on their daily walks enjoyed gazing at her garden and greeting her and Flor as they lovingly planted and maintained the various plants and flowers. Rufina loved hunting eggs every Easter with her grandkids and great-grandkids. She got a kick out of finding at least 2 eggs, hiding them in her pockets afterwards and showing her

victory at the end with the kids.

Rufina was preceded in death by her parents, Pacifico Melquiades Amigo and Crecencia Abuda and her 3 sisters, Paciencia, Lucia, and Julianna. She is survived by her brother Rufino (in the Philippines), her daughters, Cecilia (Victor), Soledad (Dennis RIP), and Teresa (Peter), her grandchildren (6), Desiree (Eddie), Christopher (Kathleen), Rico (Catherine), Jessica, Samantha (Desmond), and Gabriella, and her great-grandchildren (3), Jax, Deija, Lucas, as well as nieces, nephews, and so many “adopted” nieces, nephews, grandkids, & great-grandkids from cousins and close friends, who knew her as “Grandma” as they all grew up. She loved each and every one of them. Rufina was always a spark of life, enjoyed making everyone laugh and will be missed dearly by all who knew her.

A Celebration of Life Funeral Mass will be held at St. Basil the Great Catholic Church, 1200 Tuolumne St., Vallejo, CA on Saturday, 6/19/21 at 11:30 am. Internment will immediately follow at St. Dominic's Catholic Cemetery, 585 Hillcrest Ave., Benicia.

Events

JUN 19 **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:30AM

St. Basil's Church

1200 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA, US, 94590

Comments



“ May Aunty PINA Rest in Peace. I will always remember her infectious laugh. She was a great story teller. At the prayer services of her Comare Coring Badio she told the stories of merchant marine wives getting together, supporting each other while their husbands were out to sea so very far away. Never a dull moment if Aunty PINA would visit. She has so many friends & acquaintances over the years.

She will be missed by her family & friends. May she Rest in Peace.

With loving prayers from the Dagampat & Quianzon Families of Seaside & San Diego California

Pati Quianzon - June 20 at 04:00 AM



“ Pati Quianzon lit a candle in memory of Rufina A. Hernando



Pati Quianzon - June 20 at 03:46 AM



“ Mom, our final farewell is today! I miss U but I know that your mind, body, and heart are finally at peace which makes me feel so happy for U! I trust that Jesus is taking good care of U! I realize it was not easy raising 3 girls mostly on your own since dad, being a merchant marine was overseas most of they time! Now I understand why u worked so hard at 2 jobs, u enjoyed being mechanically inclined to always try to do and fix things, and so independent and strong willed because you had no one else to depend on but yourself! You were one fierce woman that was full of life, enjoyed making people laugh, stubborn many times, but always wanting to have a good time and be around family and friends! You lived a good long life! U were not afraid to take on anything, even your illness... u hardly let on if u were in any kind of pain, esp in the end! U loved helping and doing things for others! Thank U mom for all that u did for us and I know u tried ur best! So many memories to keep you in our our hearts and mind! We love u and will miss U!



Teresa Duran - June 19 at 04:18 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Rufina A. Hernando.



June 15 at 07:44 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Rufina A. Hernando.



June 15 at 01:53 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rufina A. Hernando.



June 14 at 12:37 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Rufina A. Hernando.



June 11 at 12:16 AM



“ Auntie thank you for the kindness & a big heart you have shown me through the years I've known you. Having me & TJ spending Christmas party w/U every year & family. Always a great fun, made your beautiful jewelry for us as Christmas presents. I've known your daughter Teresa for 40 yrs, I will check on her always to make sure she's doing fine for you. I will cherish all the memories you have left in my heart. Rest In Paradise Auntie



Marilou Cartago - June 08 at 11:42 AM