



Marie Dolores Gallegos

May 21, 1939 - August 22, 2014

In the early hours of August 22, 2014, Marie Dolores (“Dolores”) Gallegos peacefully passed away. Dolores, 75, bravely faced a terminal diagnosis of gastric cancer, refused chemotherapy, and chose to live out her final days as fully as possible with her children and grandchildren. Dolores was born in 1939 to her mother, Juanita Chavez Gutierrez, and her father, Ignacio Gutierrez, in Las Vegas, New Mexico. She was the second to the youngest of ten children. She enjoyed an idyllic childhood in El Pueblo, New Mexico nurtured by her mother whom she adored. The soundtrack of her early life included the radio blaring the Grand Ole Opry, the trickle of the nearby creek, and on summer evenings, the voices of her brothers singing mournful corridos. She loved to dance and often attended dances in her hometown with her siblings. As a result of her keen intellect and appetite for learning, she skipped two grades and earned her high school degree at the age of 15. At the age of 16, Dolores likely became the first female radio announcer in the Southwest, working for Spanish-language KABQ in Albuquerque. Dolores had a noontime radio program, spinning her favorite Spanish songs. There she met radio personality Joe Gallegos, whom she married on July 15, 1957. The wedding was held at Immaculate Conception church in downtown Albuquerque where guests filled the pews and poured out of the church despite the fact that the wedding was held on a Monday morning. By 1966, Dolores had become the devoted mother of three daughters and a son. She considered being a mother and wife her singular and sacred calling. She often

described the sanctity of the mother-child bond and instilled the critical importance of parenting to her children. As a grandmother, she lavishly showered her love on her nine grandchildren who gave her great pride and joy. At the age of 42, Dolores resumed her education at the University of New Mexico. In 1986, Dolores earned her Bachelor of Arts and shortly thereafter became a certified court interpreter. For decades and up until months before her death, Dolores interpreted at trials, hearings, and other legal proceedings for the Department of Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration, and various private parties. Dolores traveled on a national tour with Argentine human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, serving as his personal interpreter. She excelled in simultaneous interpretation and was equally proficient in interpreting English to Spanish and Spanish to English. Through the years Dolores kept involved with local politics. She served as precinct chair and campaigned for several candidates for office including Toney Anaya, who later became governor of New Mexico. On several occasions she also worked for Senator John Pinto and other legislators while the New Mexico Legislature was in session. Dolores had a rich and complex personality: solemnly respectful of cultural and religious traditions but with an irreverent sense of humor; a sophisticated woman with simple taste; a reserved and quiet person who engaged strangers in conversation everywhere she went; a self-effacing individual whose extraordinary compassion profoundly touched the lives of her children, her grandchildren, and a vast host of people who were fortunate enough to have known her. Dolores is survived by her children: Pia Gallegos, Yolanda Gallegos, Ruben Gallegos and his spouse, Christina, and Victoria Gallegos and her spouse, Ben Lankasky; her grandchildren: Luna, Alma, and Che Olavarría Gallegos, Marina and Ingrid Hartzell Gallegos, Catherine, Ramon, Ruben, and Elizabeth Gallegos; her siblings: Mollie Romero, Paul Gutierrez, Fannie Tafoya, Ignacio Gutierrez, and Rita Medina; several nephews and nieces; and Amber, her golden retriever. She is predeceased by her parents; her siblings: Elfido Gutierrez, Mary Duran, Alisandro (Alex) Gutierrez, and

Antonio Jose (Tony) Gutierrez; and by her former husband, Joe I.A. Gallegos. Funeral and Memorial Service will be held on the morning of Monday, September 1, 2014, 10:30 a.m., at Los Poblanos Historic Inn, 4803 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM. Mass at Risen Savior Church will precede the service at 8:30 a.m. Contact family for details. At a later date, her ashes will be buried near her mother in accordance with her final wishes.

Previous Events

Mass

SEP 1. 8:30 AM (MT)

Risen Savior Catholic Community
7701 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Memorial Service

SEP 1. 10:30 AM (MT)

Los Poblanos Historic Inn
4803 Rio Grande Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM

Tribute Wall

EG

“I just found out about my the death of my "Tia Dolores". My Condoles to the family, and please know I will always remember you all very "fondly", as your family has always been there for my family and myself. My father would always speak fondly of his sister, and would speak very highly of you all. Your mother was truly a "special person", and I want your family to remember that she is in heaven now, free from all the pain and suffering she experienced during her illness. I will always remember you all, and please know we all are praying for your family during your time of loss." Remember, God has a purpose for all of us, but also remember we are family, and reach out should to us if we can do anything for you during this time. I miss you all, and am praying for you all."

Eugene Gutierrez & Family

Eugene Gutierrez - September 01, 2014 at 08:56 AM

BG

“Auntie Dolores will be greatly missed by her nephew Leroy and myself. I was blessed to have met such a loving beautiful woman. She loved her family so very much and was so proud of all her children and grandchildren. Auntie may you enjoy your dancing in Heaven and keep a watchful eye on us from above. All our Love Leroy and Brenda Gutierrez

Brenda Gutierrez - August 29, 2014 at 10:39 AM

BS

“We are sending our deepest condolences to all.
Barbara and Terry Shirrod

Barbara shirrod - August 28, 2014 at 04:21 PM

BS

“ *Barbara Shirrod lit a candle in memory of
Marie Dolores Gallegos*



barbara shirrod - August 28, 2014 at 04:18 PM

J)

“ *To The Gallegos Family ...
It was such an honor to get to meet & greet
Mrs Gallegos and her Family here @ the
U.N.M. Cancer Center.
I enjoyed the times I spent chatting with Mrs.
Gallegos, a woman of great strength and love. I know she would
want us all to think of the good times we/you had together and she'll
be with us always.
My thoughts, love and prayers go out to you and your family during
this tough time ...*



*Respectfully...
James A. LaCour.
Patient Navigator.
U.N.M. Cancer Center.*

James A. LaCour (UNM Cancer Center) - August 28, 2014 at 12:01 PM

SB

“ My sincere condolences go out to the family of Ms. Gallegos. May she rest in peace in the loving arms of her Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. I didn't know Ms. Gallegos very well, but she would come into Ruben's and Pia's office and sit and talk with me from time to time. Over the years, we had some very nice, long conversations and she shared with me some stories of her childhood, which I always enjoyed hearing about. She will be missed dearly by her family.



Sharon Brundage - August 28, 2014 at 09:58 AM

FF

“ On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies we express our deepest condolences.

FRENCH Funerals-Cremations - August 27, 2014 at 04:29 PM

I met my neighbor, Dolores in 1987. Since then, we have shared years and years of coffee, walks, meals and family stories. I loved her children long before I met them. Over the years, I watched them return to New Mexico. This was the perfect gift for their mother. She was showered with fantastic, loving, grandchildren. She happily called me to announce the birth of all nine of her grandchildren from her first, Luna, to the most recent, Elizabeth. It has been such a joy to my life when she received the award for having the most grandchildren at Grandparent Day for several years in a row, by the way. She was just as proud of all of them as she was of her own children.

I loved when she called for me to come visit them or brought them across the street to visit. I loved talking to the girls, when they would walk Amber. The twins- Ruben and Ramon would call my name from the window when they were small, because they knew I would be bringing donuts to them. All nine grandchildren were so loved and bragged about by their grandmother. I enjoyed hearing about all of their many accomplishments. I loved watching them grow and I know she will live on in their memories always.

David and I will miss Dolores. We always found desserts to share across the street with each other. My son, Casey, was there when she needed him to move heavy items. My grandson, Max, enjoyed when she bragged about how tall and handsome he was getting. My daughter was so happy she came to her wedding. Jessi always mailed her cards from any state she was living.

Dolores really was a big part of all of our lives over these many years of friendship. She was such an intelligent, thoughtful, friend and she will always be missed. Her family took such great care of her and showered her with such love that her burden was hard but she endured because of their strength and devotion to be constantly with her.

Pia, her first had a very special place in her life. Dolores lost her keys or locked herself out of her house as much as I do, but her wood key ring with Pia's name was always found. Stories about her children's childhood filled many hours. Yolanda, as well as her other children lavished her with great meals at their homes. Rubin, as well as his kids, loved to make her laugh. Victoria, in her many performances and now her new business made her so proud.

The day I found out she was ill was one of the saddest days I ever experienced. We had a bond like sisters and I have had a very hard time. All the great times we spent together, will live on in my heart forever.

I spend a great deal of time in Trinidad, my home town. She would tease me by asking, "What's in Trinidad?" My reply was always the

same. Dolores, we share the same great treasure in our busy lives - our loving families. It is the same treasure that you were so lucky to be blessed with also. Dolores was very happy to be with her family on her birthday at the same beautiful Inn that her family will once again gather at to remember her in stories and memories. She will be with all of you and so happy to see all of you together. In the end, the memories we take are the most valuable earned rewards of a well lived, perfect life.

May she live on in your lives as you have always lived in her life.

Barbara Mraz - August 28, 2014 at 11:47 PM