



Melinda Faye Nagasawa

FEB 16, 1946 - JUL 30, 2024



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Melinda Faye Nagasawa

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Melinda Faye Nagasawa Obituary

Melinda Faye Nagasawa, 78, of Honolulu, Hawaii passed away on July 30, 2024. She was born on February 16, 1946 in Hawaii.

Gone too soon, Meling's presence will be missed by many; as she left family and friends with treasured memories of her no-filter, fun-loving personality.

Born to Stanley Redira, Sr. and Christina Matias, she was raised in Waialua by paternal grandparents Catalino and Julia Redira. Stanley Redira, Sr. played the trumpet in the Army Band with his Army buddy Gabe Baltazar who played the saxophone, which fostered Meling's love of jazz. The Redira home was usually blasting jazz music from the stereo, and Meling loved bossa nova jazz and some of her favorite jazz singers/artist were Astrud Gilberto, Stan Getz, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Joe Pass, Paulino DaCosta, Sergio Mendes, Nancy Wilson, Sarah Vaughn, Carmen McRae, Tomiko Jones,

Meling became a known jazz singer in the early 70's by sitting in on jazz gigs at Keone's Lounge headlined by jazz musicians such as Bobby Enriques, Jimmy Borges and Betty Lou Taylor, Sam Ahia . . . of course wherever Gabe Baltazar headlined Meling would be there. In fact, back in late 70's every Sunday Gabe would be playing at a place called Katso's. She would bug one of or a group of cousins to go with her to see Gabe perform with this upcoming Jazz Fusion Band made up of a bunch of teenagers from McKinley and Mililani High School. She was in awe of how a bunch of guys in high school had an interest and played jazz, and of course Meling who would be called up to sit-in and sing. Some of the songs Meling liked to sing was of course, Dahil Sayo, Ikaw; Day-by-Day, Wave, Nearness of You, Satin Doll, Sabor A Mi.....

Several jazz greats visiting the isle heard Meling sing at these jazz gigs and would always ask her where her gig was at. Once a well-known guitarist (who cousin Sharon can't remember his name) heard her singing at one of these gigs; he was impressed, he chatted with her after her asking "you don't have a steady gig? ...You need a gig of your own". Most notable while she was in L.A. she



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visited a club where Joe Sample was performing, she sat in to sing a song. After, Joe Sample invited her to his L.A. gigs anytime she could make it. Meling, was friends with many notable local entertainers who would ask her to come up and sing whenever she popped into their gig, such as the Mel Cabang show at the Oasis Nightclub. Mel would introduce Meling to the crowd and ask her to come up and sing. The crowd was usually surprised that an unknown talent could sing so well and would shout hana hou! After Meling did a second song, Mel being the comedian would exclaim, "Ok sit down now because this my show."

Meling's everyday gig was her profession as a barber/beautician. Friends and customers would seek her out to have their hair done, not because she was a topnotch hair stylist but they were entertained by her outgoing, friendly personality. Meling would remember her customers life story, "Ai, what happened to you?" She was always empathetic and could relate to whatever they were going through, not to mention how beautiful/handsome she would make them feel and look.

Meling was truly a down to earth, yet over the top character that had many asking, "She for real?" Many loved her and our family won't be the same without her around at our gatherings & functions. Going to miss calling her and greeting one another by calling each other... "crazy" whatcha doing...." Meling's true love were her sons, Dickie (Keala) and Ashley (Rose) Alcuran; grandchildren Charel, Brooke and Ama.

To send flowers
to the family, please visit our floral store.

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Tribute Wall

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MA

Maddie posted:

Condolences to all family members, and dear friends

September 10 at 9:46 AM

MA

Maddie posted:

Love n will much as you so much! CRAZY, FUNNY, TALENTED, GENEROUS, LOVING, are just a few adjectives to describe you! The unexpected things that comes out of your mouth is what makes you unique and fun to have worked with. Enjoyed so much, our Vegas trips, partying n just go out for fun memories. YOU WILL BE MISSED BY ALL!

September 10 at 9:43 AM

HF

Hughlyn Hernandez Fonoti posted:

Meiling! You will forever be missed! Truly a wonderful carefree spirit. She enjoyed singing, bowling, eating, entertaining, all of her animals and her children. She treated everyone with so much aloha and respect. Always laughing. Her laugh was so unique and contagious. If ever we needed to find you, all we had to do was to listen for your laugh, which always accompanied with your saying "yeah yeah." You loved your head pieces, whether it be your woven hats, visors, or brand name caps. I will miss our talks, our walks and especially YOU. You have truly touched and enriched our lives in so many ways that you have no idea. You were always so good to our kids/family. Treating them as if they were your very own. You will forever be loved and cherished in our hearts. May you rest in peace and love in the presence of our Good Lord. A Hui Hou (until we meet again). Always Loved & Never Forgotten. We love & miss you - Da Hernandez-Fonoti 'Ohana

September 10 at 1:39 AM

DP

Dean Pestano posted:

Love and miss you Aunty you always had a beautiful smile and your voice was like angels singing! See you in heaven I love you always!! From the Pestano Ohana.

September 2 at 5:14 AM



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Jo Villa posted:

I love MelingShe is my best friendEvery where we went she had a friend Everyone knew Meling,they all loved hWe both love music and singing! Memories good times only! "HeyThere" MELING YOU ARE A"SUPER STAR"

August 30 at 11:53 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Melinda by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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