



Josefa 'Mama' Ceres Herrera

JAN 18, 1926 - FEB 12, 2018



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MEMORIAL PARK & MUSEUM

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Josefa 'Mama' Ceres Herrera

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Josefa 'Mama' Herrera Obituary

JOSEFA 'MAMA' CERES HERRERA, 92 of Pearl City passed away on February 12, 2018 in Kapolei. She was born in Camalig, Albay, Philippines. She was a seamstress for 17 years from Wongs Drapery and retired on December 31, 1990. She is survived by her husband Apolinar N. Herrera; sons Fernando C. Herrera, Jose C. Herrera; daughters Hilda H. Borja, Myrna H. Cordial, Marcy C. Herrera, Nanette H. Winkyaw, Joy C. Herrera-Mabellos, Julie C. Herrera-Jacinto, Cora C. Dela Cruz, Lorna C. Herrera-Ignacio; 25 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Wake visitation will be 5:30 pm Sunday March 11, 2018 at Mililani Memorial Park and Mortuary's Downtown Chapel (20 S. Kukui St. Honolulu) followed by wake service at 6:30 pm. Mass visitation will be 10:00 am March 12, 2018 at Our Lady of Good Counsel (1525 Waimano Home Rd, Pearl City, HI 96782) followed by mass at 11:00 am. Private burial will be 12:30 pm. Casual attire.

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

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Tribute Wall

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HB

Hilda Herrera Borja posted:

God is good - all the time. And all the time - God is good. Amen. Thank you Lord for allowing us to celebrate Mama's earthly life in such a beautiful and moving way. You made her memorial and funeral services just the way we prayed them to be that even the unpredictable weather behaved and cooperated. Family members and friends felt Mama's love that though our time to fellowship after her memorial service was limited, many lingered and mingled among each other - just as how Mama would have wanted them to, as she would shower each with her signature hospitality... accentuated by her smiles, laughs, hugs, short talks, and her world-famous expression turned mandate: kumain ka! She made sure everyone left with a happy tummy (Lol). And of course, some, with take-out doggy bags for lunch the next day. During Mama's funeral, Junior very well summed our feelings about Mama. His were our sobs and tears of sadness as we said our final goodbyes to our Dear Mama... yet ... expressions of joy, as well ... knowing that Mama no longer suffers and believing that she is now in Heaven with You, our departed loved ones and all your angels and saints. We could only imagine Mama being ushered by a host of angels to a joyful festivity as she was led by her guardian angel to that special seat reserved for Heaven's newly-arrived guest of honor. And of course, Mama felt sooo special and smiled from ear-to-ear while giving her queenly waves as she showed off her newly manicured finger nails, courtesy of Krystle. Nannie and Marcy made sure that Mama was all dolled up with her favorite party dress while Gabbie meticulously checked how she applied Mama's favorite Shiseido make up and lipstick. Oh, wait, the celebration would not be complete without... it's Josh! singing Mama's favorite Martin Nievera's songs, accompanied by the All Filipino Angels Orchestra! How sweet naman. And Papa was so, so proud of the love of his life as his eyes twinkled and his smiles showed off his sparkling teeth (he, he). What more could we say and do except to offer You, our God our eternal gratitude for being our Awesome God, as we entrust our Dear Mama back to you. Peace to all and to God be the Glory! In Jesus' Precious Name. Amen,

March 11 at 10:55 PM



Tribute Wall

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AH

Andy Herrera posted:

Mama, my hero! Good evening and Aloha! In behalf of the Herrera family, my family, please accept my heartfelt Mahalo to everyone who are assembled here tonight to join us and offer our thoughts and prayers in the memory of our mother, Josefa Ceres Herrera. We take comfort knowing that she is in heaven right now, watching over us. I would like to make special mention and recognize Pastor Jim Todd and his daughter, Michelle, who graciously came from the mainland to attend my mother's funeral service. I can tell that Papa Apolinar is very happy and greatly honored to see you here with us tonight. Let me share with you the reality of what life was like for Mama and the family since she suffered a life sustaining stroke that made her bedridden for 15 years - from early January 2003 until her death on February 12, 2018. Of course, nobody suffered more than Mama through those years, but our Papa, was definitely second. We all shared my mother's pain. It was like we were all on trial. At any one point, as a family, we were in denial, or we were depressed. And there were conflicts. We didn't always agree with each other on a course of action. It was a confusing time. However, in the end, we felt that we all put up a good fight. We did what we could do. Her life on earth left us with countless happy memories and some of which I'd like to share with you. Mama was born on January 18, 1926. She was raised by her maternal grandmother, Lola Simeona, who was overly protective and spoiled her a lot. She and Papa grew up from the same neighborhood in the town of Camalig, Province of Albay, in the Bicol Region located at the southern area of the island of Luzon, the biggest of more than seven-thousand islands in the Philippines. It is home of the famous, almost perfectly cone shaped volcano named Mayon. Before Mama came to Hawaii when she was 48 years old, in late October 1973, she was dearly called Manay Epang by our younger relatives, Aling Epang by her friends, and then Josefa by her friends here in America. And to her children, she has always been lovingly called Mama. One month after she arrived in Hawaii, she found her first ever paid employment as a seamstress at Wong's Drapery Store in Beretania Street. In such a short time, she diligently became an expert seamstress. She was well liked by her employer and co-workers. She dutifully and skillfully performed the same job at Wong's Drapery until she retired in December 1990. Papa and Mama would never admit who pursued whom during their courtship. When asked, one would point to the other as the pursuer. But of course, I have learned over the years that each one had pursued the other as evidenced by their love for each other. And the evidence shows - over seventy-two years of wedded bliss! Their union produced two sons, nine daughters, and sadly, a miscarriage. It was just as sad when Arceli, the first born among the daughters, passed away at a very young age. Arceli caught pneumonia when she was 8 months old and had never recovered from the illness. Growing up a spoiled child, Mama did not know anything about her job as homemaker, mother, and wife. However, she learned quickly and excelled in all these jobs. Her main hobbies were to keep our house always tidy, and to cook delicious meals for us. She also enjoyed collecting food coupons to supplement the family income. And she was exceptionally an expert with the family budget. Mama held the family together and made a very loving home for us. She raised each of us devotedly to the best that each of us can be. Mama had given so much love to each of her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and of course to Papa. Mama, your children honor you so dearly, for bringing us into this world, and for all the sacrifices and all the good things that you did for each of us. You and Papa are the only reason why we are what we are now. We have been good, we have attained modest successes, and above all, we have truly learned from you ab



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AH

March 11 at 10:55 PM

EC

Efren Herrera Cordial Jr. posted:

Dear Grandma, A wise man (my neighbor Mr. Kim) once asked me if I believed in Heaven on Earth and I haven't really thought about it until asked. I've never deeply pondered the idea until recent and have concluded that there were numerous events that hold true to the statement; I finally know what it means. Every moment that I've spent with you grandma has been my Heaven on Earth, even at times when you scolded me. I was one of the few lucky grandchildren that was blessed to be taken care from you daily after school. From kindergarten to senior year in high school you have supported me and ensured that I had a roof over my head and food to eat as I waited for mom to pick us up after work. You're the main reason why I enjoy the green colored mint chocolate chip ice cream as you almost always had the meadow gold brand version (that, and napoleon flavor) sitting in the freezer. I cherish the moments where your "Ninja Turtles" would walk down the stairs during OLG mass to give you a hug and say "Peace Be with You" in front of the church to see; I was so proud to show them that you are my grandma. I miss those days for they are golden, and I will forever keep these memories close to my heart. I will be looking forward to the day when we will meet again with our Lord Jesus. I love you grandma and miss you dearly. You will forever be my grandma! Aloha E.J. A

March 12 at 8:40 AM

CF

Cora, Papa Herrera & Family posted:

My family and I appreciate you all, my USAA family. Aloha and Mahalo!

March 12 at 3:27 AM

JF

John Hearn & Your Usaa Family posted:

Cora and Family, We were deeply saddened by the news of the loss of your Mama. Our hearts go out to you all during this trying time and may you, and your loved ones find the strength to get through this. Please accept our condolences and know that we are here for you all if you need any help whatsoever.

March 11 at 10:55 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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