



Maria P. Velez

June 22, 1945 - March 30, 2024

Maria P. Velez passed away peacefully at her home on March 30, 2024, following a battle with lung cancer. Maria was born on June 22, 1945 in Puerto Rico to the late Gabriel E. Guzmán and Providencia Pesquera Guzmán. She was the third child in the family of four children. She is survived by brothers Gabriel Guzmán (Zaida), Augusto Guzmán (Millie), and sister Margarita Guzmán (Judith), son Evelio G. Droz, daughter Astrid Adriani (Tony), daughter Helen B. Miller, grandchildren E. Timothy Droz, Kelsey Droz, and Alexis Adriani (Axel). Her daughter and husband, Maria P. Droz and Emilio I. Velez, predeceased her.

Maria moved to the United States to attend Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan where she would constantly get in trouble for whistling in the hallways. She moved to Virginia in the 80s where she worked as an accountant for the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency for a bulk of her career. She retired from the federal government after 34 years.

Maria loved being out in the yard. Gardening was her passion. She really had what they call a green thumb, she could make anything grow. She adored the chipmunks, deer and the diverse population of birds in the yard which gave her great joy to feed and watch. She also loved painting, crafting, swimming, children, dogs, and was an avid word search puzzle enthusiast.

Maria was a loving mother and grandmother who will be remembered as a feisty little woman. She would grab your onion rings in a heartbeat and have no remorse. She fought with the remote control, the cell phone and the computer (she lost half the battles). She had a wonderful sense of humor. She could have her doctors and nurses laughing. One time she told the doctor after her eye surgery that he didn't do a good job. She said "doctor, you didn't turn my eyes blue." He roared with laughter. Most importantly, she will be remembered for her many acts of kindness and her willingness to help anyone in need.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to her favorite charity, St Jude Children's Hospital (https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sl=donate-now&sc_dcm=58700008005633531&sc_cid=kwp&ds_rl=1291300&ds_rl=1285465&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw5cOwBhCiARIsAJ5njuaT96-rGDoKdRJI3AL7_c3fzj4iW2on2WdeZ6CMrk2dx1m986e7DYaAppzEALw_wcB&gclidsrc=aw.ds)

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310 on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 11:00AM.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

APR **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
6222 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310-2511
<https://stlawrencealex.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Tyger Fink lit a candle in memory of Maria P. Velez*



Tyger Fink - April 18, 2024 at 10:12 AM

MG

“ *Margarita I. Guzmán-Fournier lit a candle in memory of Maria P. Velez*



Margarita I. Guzmán-Fournier - April 09, 2024 at 09:39 PM

SP

“ *Sonika Penn lit a candle in memory of Maria P. Velez*



Sonika Penn - April 06, 2024 at 07:54 PM

HM

“ *Helen Miller lit a candle in memory of Maria P. Velez*



Helen Miller - April 06, 2024 at 07:37 PM