

## We Remember Ligia Teresa Gonzalez de Caldas



Our beautiful blue-eyed mother was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on July 30, 1925.

Ligia (Lee) Teresa Gonzalez-Pagan spent the first years of her life on her native island, then relocated to New York where she lived with her mother, Gloria and sister Carmen Mariana, along with various aunts, uncles and cousins who welcomed her family with open arms.

Summer evenings were spent sitting on the brownstone stoop in **Queen's** where she would see a handsome young man pass by. She would confide to her friends that she would one day marry that young man, and sure enough she did! At the young age of 15, Lee and Joe (Jose Manuel Caldas-Fillat) became sweethearts, dated for 5 years and tied the knot on December 28, 1946.

Once Joe finished his chemical engineering degree, they relocated to Lawrenceburg, Indiana where Lee gave birth to two lovely daughters, Gloria Teresa and Joan Lee. Shortly after, Joe's career took the family to New Jersey where they purchased their first home in East Orange. Joyously, Lee was blessed with two more children, Patricia Margaret and Jose Manuel (Manolito)...the miracle baby!!! They were a complete three generation family of the 1960s: grandmother, Tata Gloria, Joe and Lee, and their four beloved children.

But, as fate would have it, another move was in the works back to her beloved island of Puerto Rico due to Lee's health. Dedicated woman that she was, Lee focused her life on her family, her friends and her faith. Her range of charitable work extended from Catholic Community Services, the Girl Scouts of America, and the Cancer Hospital (Clinica Oncologica) when the family moved

back to Ponce, her place of birth.

Once Joe retired and they became empty-nesters, they moved to Miami, Florida and eventually to San Antonio, Texas. Lee was blessed to live close to all of her children at one time or another during her thirty plus years in San Antonio. She was active in her parish home, St. Matthews as an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) sponsor.

Lee's love of a lifetime, Joe pre-deceased her just after his 90th birthday on August 11, 2013.

Lee passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, June 3, 2017, almost reaching her 92 years of age. During her final days, she was gently cared for by her daughter, Gloria and granddaughter, Carmen Ligia with whom she lived. Her daughter, Patricia often brought food and respite for the household. Joan and Jose would visit as often as possible from their respective homes in Salt Lake City, Utah and Atlanta, Georgia bringing moral support and comic relief. Lee had the joy of having all four of her children with her to celebrate an early Mother's Day...enjoying home-cooked food, numerous hugs, and lots of laughter.

The miracle of modern technology worked in her favor, being able to visit via FaceTime with the numerous family members that live all over the United States. We will remember her tears of joy when she laughed; her love of hats and beanies even in warm weather because her head would get cold; her weekly phone calls to family and friends "just to hear your voice."

Lee's Tree of Life has been fruitful and plentiful. Her continual prayers and faith blessed her not only with numerous family members, but all who strived to talk to her and visit her regardless of time or distance. Lee was not only blessed but a blessing. In her later years, she lamented not being able to physically do all the things she used to do, so her constant reply was "...I pray for all of you every day..."

**Children and Spouses:**

Gloria Teresa Caldas

Joan Lee and Dr. Jerry Maymi

Patricia Margaret and Dr. Rafael Santiago

Jose Manuel and Tamara Caldas

**Grandchildren and Spouses:**

Ernesto Manuel Blanco (pre-deceased)

Carmen Ligia Blanco- Jimenez and Ramon Jimenez

Natalie Joan Maymi-Pack and Travis Pack

Carlos Rafael Santiago and Megan Santiago

Mariel Alejandra Maymi-Osborn and Thomas Osborn

Nicole Marie Santiago-Hafemeister and Dr. Adam Hafemeister

Erika Michelle Maymi-Battle and Stan Battle

Alec Manuel Caldas

Christian Manuel Maymi and Jaynie Maymi

Rachel Caldas

Jessica Caldas-Bates and Brian Bates

Javier Enrique Santiago and fiancé Carli Domenico

Shoshana Leah Caldas

Marco Ernesto Caldas

**Great grandchildren:**

Trystan Blaine Pendergraff

Ema Grace Pendergraff

Eliana Alexandra Jimenez

Matthew Enrique Jimenez

Miles Devoe Battle

Jackson Mercury Osborn

Max Pack

Noah Cash Battle

Isaac Santiago Hafemeister

Frankie Roux Osborn

Sawyer Christian Maymi

Lincoln Steele Pack

Josephine Bea Hafemeister

And baby Bates (Jessica and Brian) on board ...

Her loving family will gather in person or in spirit to celebrate her life and homecoming to her eternal home on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 7:00pm at St. Matthew's Church, 10703 Wurzbach Rd., San Antonio, TX and invite you to join us for this liturgy followed by a reception in the church hall.