



Rachel Melendrez

July 15, 1921 - September 27, 2015

Rachel Melendrez died peacefully and surrounded by her family Sept. 27, 2015, in her Fort Collins home. She was 94.

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She was born July 15, 1921, the third of 14 children, to Norberto and Petronila Rivera in Stanton, Texas. Her family moved to the Fort Collins area in the mid-1930s. Rachel met Valentine Melendrez at a local dance and they married on March 29, 1944. They were married for 71 years and had five children.

A talented cook and baker, she impressed family and friends alike with her delicious pies, cream puffs, homemade tortillas, chicken and gravy Sunday dinners, and canned fruit. Rachel worked as a housekeeper for many years, cleaning the homes of the area's wealthy. In the 20 or so years before she retired, she worked as a housekeeper for Colorado State University, cleaning dorm rooms and earning the respect and affection of many students in her time there.

Considered easy-going and quick-witted, Rachel loved to sing and her husband remembers her and her siblings serenading him on his birthday. She adored her many grandchildren, enjoyed playing bingo, and was an excellent seamstress and a dedicated Catholic.

She is survived by her husband; five children, Margaret Fuentes (Daniel), of

Windsor; Jean Ann Serrano (Richard), Fort Collins; Valentine Melendrez, Jr. (Pat), Severance; Linda Melendrez, Greeley; Daniel Melendrez (Ella), West Liberty, Ohio; siblings Josie Porras, Phoenix, Ariz.; Ferman Rivera, Mitchell, Neb.; Vickie Rivera, Mitchell, Neb.; Simona Prado (Henry), Torrington, Wyo.; Lucy Gallardo (Manuel), Lincoln, Neb.; 10 grandchildren; numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Rachel was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Jenny Martinez, Louis Rivera, Sr., Augustina Hernandez, Bruce Rivera, Bessie Ramos, Louis Rivera, Romaldita Rivera and Victoria Rivera.

Viewing is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 1. at Bohlander Funeral Chapel. A Rosary will be 9:30 a.m. and a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 326 N. Whitcomb St. Interment is after the service at Resthaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 8426 S. College Ave., followed by lunch at Holy Family.

Cemetery Details

Resthaven Memory Gardens Cemetery

8426 S College Ave
Fort Collins, CO

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP 30. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-4244
<https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/>

Viewing

OCT 1. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-4244
<https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/>

Rosary

OCT 2. 9:30 AM (MT)

Holy Family Catholic Church
326 N. Whitcomb Street Fort Collins, CO US 80521
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 2. 10:00 AM (MT)

Holy Family Catholic Church
326 N. Whitcomb Street Fort Collins, CO US 80521
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall

BA

“ To the Melendrez familia, we are so very sorry for your loss, this is a great loss, a mother is the core of familia. Rachel had this infectious smile, a big heart and was always so welcoming. Rachel and Valentine are icons in the Buckingham neighborhood and community, Rachel has left a beautiful legacy, she has left us, but she will always be with us. You need only to look in the eyes of her children and grandchildren and you will find her there. Jean you and your husband have given the greatest gift of all, the love and care you have given Rachel and Valentine is what familia is all about. May God Bless your familia in this difficult time.

Betty Aragon-Mitotes - October 02, 2015 at 09:02 AM

FA

“ Margaret, Jean Ann and Families,
Frank and I wish to express our deepest condolences on the passing of my beautiful Aunt Rachel . . . her dedicated commitment in this life and to her loved ones has definitely earned her eternal peace in Paradise. May God comfort you at this time in your great loss.
All our love, Frank & Lupe Apodaca

Frank & Lupe Apodaca - September 30, 2015 at 06:03 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rachel Melendrez.



September 30, 2015 at 11:18 AM



“ *Garden of Memories was purchased for the family of Rachel Melendrez.* ”



September 29, 2015 at 07:28 PM