



# Lida LaTorre

JUN 9, 1932 - JUL 13, 2013



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## **Lida LaTorre**

JUN 9, 1932 - JUL 13, 2013

**L**ida E. LaTorre (Melendez) passed peacefully on July 13, 2013 at New Life Hospice while surrounded by her children, brothers and family after a short illness. She was 81 years old.

Lida was born on March 3, 1932 in Orocovis, Puerto Rico, the 9th of 12 children, to Juan and Amelia Melendez of Bauta Arriba. She attended school in Hayales Coamo. She married neighbor Miguel E. Saez and the young couple moved to Lorain, Ohio on a cold wintery day in January 1951 to begin their life on East 34th Street. She was an active member of the Iglesia Discipulos De Cristo led by Pastor Jose Luciano who ministered to the small, closely knit and growing Puerto Rican congregation. As a single parent in the 1960s, Lida reared four children on West 17th. Street. She found strength and support through her faith and family. Later, she would meet and marry Modesto LaTorre.

A talented seamstress, Lida worked many years at Joseph and Feiss Company. Then she proudly joined the housekeeping team at St. Joseph Hospital where she was employed until 1980. Yearning for her "Isla de Encanto," upon retirement she returned to her native land to enjoy the sun and water in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. Missing family and friends, she returned to Lorain in 1997 to live at Sacred Heart Apartments. Through the school district's senior volunteer program, she was a teaching assistant in English language, where her hours of work contributed to a college saving fund for her grandchildren.

Mrs. LaTorre had a sense of adventure and she led by example. An avid swimmer, she would jump from a boat into the water to show there was no need for fear. With her "vamos" spirit, she explored places and things at a moment's notice—a trait that made her quite the crowd pleaser. She excitedly toured guests into the hillsides of Puerto Rico, planned family picnics to park destinations, and drove to out of the way towns just to taste the ice cream. It was like Lida to have many a neighborhood



## Obituary

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child along for the ride. She enjoyed traveling – junkets to casinos with her girlfriends, visits to her children's homes across the US and trips to Island fun-spots for joint birthday celebrations with her siblings—creating many fond memories. People young and old gravitated to her for she showered friends, family and new acquaintances alike with her generosity and hospitality. A virtuous woman, she shared God's blessings with others. Lida's house was a transition home to many who left the Island coming to Ohio seeking opportunity. She enjoyed singing church hymns and old Spanish love ballads; and dazzled others by reciting poetry. Lida had a passion for flowering plants with a special interest in orchids. She took pleasure in crocheting lovely afghan quilts and handkerchiefs for gifts which are in many homes and purses around the world.

Lida is survived by her four children: Edith (John) Jachym of Raleigh, NC, Eugene (Kathy) Saez of Ranchos Palos Verdes, CA, Mirian "Susie" (Julian) Saez of San Francisco, CA and Lyda (Miguel) Pabon of Fort Lauderdale, FL: three grandchildren: Marissa (Bill) York of Tampa, FL, Jonathan Jachym at present residing in London, England and Ian Jachym of Raleigh; and by five siblings: sisters Eva Montanez of Rio Piedras, PR and Dilia Forti of Plattekill, NY and brothers Rubeli (Angelica) Melendez of Aibonito, PR, Anibal (Lucy) Melendez of Cleveland, OH and Jose (Sandra) Melendez of Lorain, OH.

The children request family and friends to join them at a memorial service and reception to celebrate their Mother's life to be held on Tuesday, July 16 from 5 to 6pm in the Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral and Cremation Center, 1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst, OH. The family invites everyone attending the memorial service to join them immediately following the service for a reception in the gathering center of the funeral home.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.dovinreberjones.com](http://www.dovinreberjones.com)



# Events

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## Visitation

 **Tuesday**, July 16, 2013

 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET


 **Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center**

1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst OH 44001



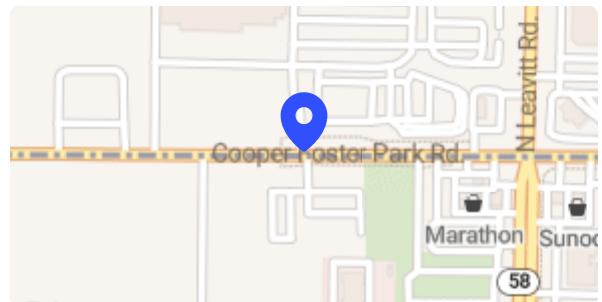
## Memorial Service

 **Tuesday**, July 16, 2013

 5:45 PM ET

 **Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center**

1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst OH 44001





## Tribute Wall

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LF

**Linda Demattie Dunwoody - Parrish, Fl - Friend** posted:

I am saddened to hear of your loss. May you all find peace even as you mourn. Her story depicts a life well lived. My heart and prayers be with you. Love, Linda

July 28 at 8:00 PM

NF

**Nona Wright - Raleigh, Nc - Friend** posted:

In your memories, may you find comfort. In your friends and family, may you find love. In your heart, may you find the strength to help you through this sad time. Nona

July 22 at 8:00 PM

RF

**Roberta Achtenberg - San Francisco, Ca - Friend** posted:

Dearest Mirian--Thank you for sharing your mother with all of us. What a force of nature she was. I know these are difficult times for you and Julian. Take solace in your family and all you did to honor your beautiful mother. Please lean on me and Susan, and your vast community of friends. We are all here to help. With affection, Roberta

July 21 at 8:00 PM

GA

**Gayle & Alexandra - Amherst, Oh** posted:

Tia Edith, Words seem inadequate to express the sadness we feel as we share your sorrow. Please know we are praying peace and comfort for you and your family. We love you!

July 15 at 8:00 PM

RF

**Ron Smith - Cary, Nc - Friend** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with Edith and the entire family during this time of sorrow and need.

July 14 at 8:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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GL

**Greg And Antonella Skinner - Miami, FI - Friends Of Mike And Lyda** posted:

Dear Lyda, Mike and family, We are so sorry for your loss but rejoice in that your Hermosa Lida is at home with her Lord and Savior! She truly was beautiful and her smile radiates the love of Christ which she shared with all around her. Thank you for sharing her beautiful life story. She left a great legacy in and for her family, and is an inspiration to those of us that know of her through you. May we all enjoy life as Lida did, always praising the Lord and living as a true Christian. We are physical at a distance, but our hearts and prayers are with you. May you all rejoice as you celebrate Lida's beautiful life and relish the blessings you received through your exemplary mother. With much love, Greg and Antonella

July 14 at 8:00 PM

DS

**Dianna Garcia Smetzer** posted:

What a wonderful woman Lida was. Always a smile on her face and an invitation to stay for coffee and eat something sweet. She did a great job raising her four children and as a single hard working woman I always admired her for that. I grieve her passing. I will miss her.

July 14 at 8:00 PM

WF

**Wilson Colon - Chicago, IL - Extended Family** posted:

May our dearest Mother rest in peace and The Lord give us all the strength to continue on life's journey as we all have been taught by the word of The Lord Almighty Amen.

July 14 at 8:00 PM

MF

**Marcie & Lucy Aponte - West Mrlbourne, FI - Friend** posted:

Edie, Eugene, Suzi & Butchie, So Saddened to hear of "Wela Lida's" passing. Our Deepest Sympathy on your great loss....She was a beautiful Lady...May you find comfort in knowing she is now sleeping peacefully in the arms of the Lord...RIP Lida

July 13 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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