



Elizabeth "Betty" M. Duran

May 2, 2020

Elizabeth "Betty" M. Duran, 90, of Pueblo went to be with the Lord on May 2, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ben Duran; parents, Ismael and Cora Gonzales; and great grandson, Isaac. She is survived by her children, Jody (Donald) LeBrasse, Linda (Russ) Aumiller and Timothy Duran; grandchildren, Wesley Aumiller, Aaron (Jodi) Aumiller, Amber (Jason) Hemmestad, Zach (Kai) Duran, Sarah (Jessee) Purcell, Kallie Allen and Kyle LeBrasse; great grandchildren, Morgan, Ethan, Isiah, Elliot, Harper, Westin, Remy, Koa, Kash, Jersey, Morgan and Garron; numerous extended family and friends. Betty was born in Walsenburg Colorado. She and her only sister Eleanor, lived in Walsenburg during the Great Depression, the dust bowl days of the 1930's as well as World War II. Betty graduated from Huerfano County High school in Walsenburg, Class of 1945, at the age of 15. She moved to Denver, where she was employed at the May Company Department Store for three years. She returned to her family home in Walsenburg to recover from a broken leg compound fracture, the result of a skiing accident in the winter of 1948. She met her loving husband on a double date and soon after they were married. Their life was blessed with their three children, seven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. Betty worked for the Welfare Department in Walsenburg and Pueblo, the Federal Housing Authority, the City of Pueblo, and the State of Colorado through the years. She retired in 1987 after thirty years with the Colorado Department of Revenue. She then became very active in the community becoming a member of the Southern Chapter of the

Territorial Daughters of Colorado, the Southeastern Colorado Heritage Center, The Pueblo Archaeological and Historical Society, the Pueblo Railway foundation and the Fray Angelico Chapter of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America. At her request cremation. Private family Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.

Tribute Wall

KD

“ *My condolences to all the family who lost such a loving matriarch. She was so proud of all of you, and sustained by your care and love.*

Betty's life exemplifies most of what we would wish for in a good life—a generous number of years, loving and being loved by family and friends, meaningful and satisfying work, worthwhile contributions to the community, and managing life's pains and challenges with humor and courage.

Many of us thought of her as a role model. She showed us:

- how to let go of things when the time was right, (a house, a job, never a cause)*
- how to delight in small pleasures, (always shared her ice cream cone with my dog)*
- how to cherish personal heritage (making and presenting the Spanish trunk, exhibit)*
- how to prepare for the worst and still delight in the best (called herself a “realist”)*
- how to age gracefully, stylishly, elegantly, serenely*
- how to fight hard, but fight fair, and politely*

I will wish her friendship, our jaunts together, her spirit.

Kathy DeHerrera



Kathy DeHerrera - May 22, 2020 at 11:37 AM

TC

“ Betty was a force that will be sadly missed. I first met Betty while teaching at S. Mesa. She volunteered in her grandsons second grade classes. She was always there for their events. Betty was Wes's grandma, a close friend of my son, Dan. She always had a kind word for you. When I retired, Betty encouraged me to get involved with the PUEBLO HERITAGE CENTER. Betty asked me to be part of the educational committee and encouraged me to use my teaching skills with the trunk program. I was amazed how involved and vital she was to the Center. Betty is going to be missed by all her friends here at the Heritage Center and her legacy will continue!

Toni Carter - May 18, 2020 at 01:15 AM

MS

“ Betty was one of the first sisters I met after joining Colorado Territorial Daughters, Southern Chapter. She was so gracious, interested in history, kind, generous, and an inspiration. She made me feel welcomed and always remembered my name. I learned of the Heritage Center through Betty and especially loved the "Hats" and "Zebulon Pike" boxes. My condolences to the families and God Bless! We will miss her.
Margaret Stiles Storm

Margaret Stiles Storm - May 15, 2020 at 02:10 PM

SL

“ 6 files added to the album *Betty Duran - The Heart of the Heritage Center*



Spencer Little - May 13, 2020 at 04:03 PM

SL

Betty Duran was a great inspiration to me. Nearly 4x my age, she had life, passion, and energy to share! She always served others and was kind and generous to the end. I will greatly miss her and the kindness and guidance she gave me at the Heritage Museum.

Spencer Little - May 13, 2020 at 04:06 PM

EM

Betty was a very pleasant person . My mother Rebecca Maes was her first cousin. Her mother Great Aunt Cora and my Grandfather Emilio were sister and brother. I remember when I attended my Uncle Fred's wedding she attended with her mother she had a brace on her leg . She was such a beautiful girl always smiling despite her handicap. The last time I had occasion to see her was aprox. ten years ago at a genealogy meeting in Pueblo. I moved to Florida shortly afterwards. My email address is temaes-morey@comcast.net if the family would like to contact me

Elaine Maes-Morey

Elaine Maes-Morey - May 16, 2020 at 10:03 PM

JA

“ I met Betty at the museum when I volunteered at the historical society. When she didn't drive anymore I would pick her up and go to our volunteer jobs. We had lots of fun and neat conversations. Lots of times Ben would be waiting outside Brookdale when we returned. She and I kept in touch by after we both retired from our volunteer jobs. We'd talk about every other week. My prayers are with her and her family at this time. She had a good full life. Great friend. God Bless.

Joann Allen

Joann Allen - May 09, 2020 at 01:10 PM