



Bernice Gallegos Montoya

April 7, 1929 - April 27, 2020

Bernice Gallegos Montoya passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family early in the morning on April 27th, 2020. Bernice lived a long and happy life that was filled with family, food, music, and culture. Bernice was born in Cuba, New Mexico on April 7th, 1929 to Felicito Gallegos and Juanita Valdez Gallegos. She was one of nine siblings and she spent her early life with her parents and siblings on the family farm. In 1946, she married Bences Montoya with whom she spent 72 wonderful and happy years before his passing in August 2019. Their early years of marriage were spent in Cuba, New Mexico before they moved with Bernice's family to Salt Lake City in 1950. After their move to Salt Lake City, their family grew and they raised three daughters (Rosalie, Loraine, and Arlene) and two sons (James and Michael).

Bernice was very social and made friends easily. Those who knew Bernice loved her sense of humor: she loved to laugh and she encouraged playfulness and joy in those around her. She worked at Hiller Book Binding Company where she was loved and made many close connections, one of which would become her son-in-law (Richard). After her time at Hiller, she and Bences owned and operated The Pasttime Lounge in Midvale for several years and she later worked for Mervyn's Department Store where you could always find her with a huge smile.

Bernice was raised in a large family and she instilled the importance of close connection into her own family. She was known affectionately as "Nana" to all of her grandchildren and her home was a warm and welcome refuge to all that came to visit. When you arrived at her home, you could expect to be greeted with the absolute best New Mexico cuisine including homemade tortillas, pinto beans, red and green chiles, and pozole. In the summer, friends and family would regularly gather in her backyard where you would hear her favorite Norteño and country western music competing in volume with the sounds of people genuinely and thoroughly enjoying their time together.

Bernice is survived by her daughters Rosalie (Richard) Prime, Lorraine Sanchez, Arlene Montoya (Gustavo Ortiz), her sister Rose Vargas, 12 grandchildren, 19 great-

grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren. Bernice was preceded in death by her husband Bences Montoya, sons James and Michael, 4 brothers, and 3 sisters.

Special thanks to Good Shepherd Hospice, especially Barbara, Brooklyn, Kim, and Sonnie for all your loving care.

Due to COVID-19, a private funeral mass will be celebrated in Bernice's honor at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. Committal, Valley View Memorial Park.

Comments



“ I know Bernice and Ben ,and all there Children, we was very good friends, especially Bernice, I was working with here, in Hillerrs Bookbinding in Salt Lake City for years, I came to the USA in 1962, I was 10 days here in Salt lake City when I started working for Hillers Book Binding company, I could not speak any English, Bernice help me to learn English, we talked with our hands and we became good friends, we done all kind of things to gather, she always cooked good Mexican Food for us, I am dearly going to miss here, I love you Bernice, rest in Peace until we meet again, I Christine Strate and my husband Stephen do recognize the true life of our Savior, and we will all will meet again, We love you Bernice.

Christine Strate - May 04 at 04:02 PM



“ DIOS a recojido a una HERMOSA y BUENA mujer!!
Se le va a extrañar !!
Nuestras condolencias a su familia.
En ella pudimos apreciar el AMOR ECHO MUJER

DESCANCE EN PAZ !!

Rafael and Cristina Ortiz - May 04 at 04:01 PM



“ I am so sorry for the loss of your wonderful and joyful mom, may God comfort you and lift you up at this time of need. The thing I remember about my Aunt Bernice was her beautiful smile and joyful personality she was always so kind me and my family, she had a way of making us feel loved whenever we would talk, Tracee and I always admired her strength and her tenacity as she dealt with physical ailments. It was easy to see the love she had for her family, especially the love she shared with Bences and her sons and I truly believe that they are once again together and so happy to see each other again, what a wonderful reunion it must be. I know that she missed her brothers and sisters and I am sure that they welcomed her home with hugs and tears of joy. Your mom had a million dollar smile and could light up a room wherever she went. I so do wish there could have been circumstances that would have allowed your family to see how her extended family loved her by being there to honor her life and legacy. I know that she will be watching over her family from Heaven and smiling down on you. I know that the Lord will strengthen you and will feel his love for your mom and he will take good care of her until that day when all the family will be together again.

Felix Gallegos - May 04 at 04:01 PM



“ Will miss your wonderful smile ..So little time to spend with those you love...

But everyone will be Happy to see you again...

Say Hello for me....

Your loving niece

JANICE

Janice Chacon - May 04 at 04:01 PM



“ I'm very sorry for your loss.

Kathleen Atencio - May 04 at 04:01 PM



“ Rosalie, Lorraine, Arlene,
So sorry to hear about your mom. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. May she rest in peace.

Ruby - May 04 at 04:00 PM



“ My deepest condolences, I am so sorry for your loss of your mother and grandmother, May you find peace in knowing how much she was loved.

Elaine (Gallegos) Nuttall - May 04 at 03:59 PM



“ Much love, hugs, and prayers to you all. My Aunt Bernice was so sweet and lovable. We will miss her deeply. We wish we could be there with everyone to share memories and much love. God bless you and keep you in His perfect peace.

Annette Buhr - May 04 at 03:59 PM



“ My heart and prayers go out to you all. Your mom will be missed and she was so loved. We love Aunt Bernice.

Cathie Gallegos Chansamone and family. - May 04 at 03:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Neil O'Donnell Funeral Home - May 04 at 03:58 PM