



Helen Rodriguez

January 9, 1938 - November 30, 2024

Obituary for Helen Rodriguez

On November 30, 2024, heaven received a special angel known as Helen Rodriguez. Helen lived life to the fullest and loved with all her heart. She was the third child born into the family of John Vincente and Julia L. Avila on January 9, 1938. Along with her siblings Louise Romero (Antonio), John Avila (Delores), Betty Espinoza (David), Rita Maldonado (Ignacio), Fred Avila (Gloria), Alex Avila, and Christina Acosta (Lupe), the Avila Family was complete. Helen loved her sisters and brothers uniquely and cherished the bond only siblings can share.

Helen met her soldier Ralph T. Rodriguez while he was home on leave in-between military training in 1956. They joined hands in marriage one year later on November 30, 1957, at St. Alphonsus Church, Fresno, California. Together they continued their love story for 67 years bringing their three children Cathy, Ronnie, and Ralph Jr. into their union.

Helen spent 86 years on this earth planting seeds of love, generosity, compassion, and empathy for everyone she met. As a full-time housewife managing the family home she balanced her responsibilities by maintaining a well-organized household while still prioritizing quality time with her family. She was committed to making the time for meaningful activities with her loved ones. Whether it was preparing a hearty meal or planning a family outing, Helen always ensured that her family felt loved and cared for. It was not uncommon for Helen to drive the West side of Fresno delivering summer fruits

to her sisters who no longer drove.

After getting Ralph off to work and the kids to school she would drive to Malaga to visit her mother and enjoy a morning's cup of coffee. They would spend hours visiting and it's these loving memories spent with her own mother that she carried throughout her life.

Ralph and Helen shared a love for camping and introduced their children to the beauty of the Yosemite Mountains, the sparkling glimmer of Shaver and Millerton lakes, and the wonder of the Pacific coast. Helen played a pivotal role in establishing and nurturing family traditions that have been cherished for generations. Her love for camping with Ralph and their children laid the foundation for the annual Labor Day weekend retreats, a cherished event that brings entire families together. Through her enthusiasm, she ensured these gatherings became a time for reminiscing, delicious BBQ's, viewing sunsets by the beach, riding trolley cars, and creating lasting memories.

Helen leaves behind her legacy to her husband, Ralph T. Rodriguez, Daughter, Cathy Marroquin, (Carlos), Son, Ronald Rodriguez, and Son, Ralph Rodriguez, Jr. Additionally, six grandchildren, Carlos Marroquin Jr. (Crystal), Ronald Rodriguez Jr. (Chanel), Anthony Rodriguez, Nicholas Rodriguez, Jeni and Jon Marroquin and four great grandchildren, Aubree and Brayden Marroquin, Maverick and Karsyn Marroquin. Her brother and sisters to cherish the memories of sharing "Life" with Helen and the many nieces and nephews, whom she treasured.

Helen reaped what she sowed in life and it was evident by the family that surrounded her during her peaceful passing. While Helen may be out of our reach today, we shall continue to celebrate and remember her as a life complete with fulfillment.

At Helen's request private cremation is coordinated by Chapel of the Light, Fresno, California.

Tribute Wall

AR

“ November 30th 2024 I will never forget that date.. You see i have lost not only my grandmother, but also my mother and my best friend.

From the very beginning, she was a constant presence in my life. Her love was a guiding force, her wisdom an invaluable resource, and her kindness a lesson in compassion. She had the unique ability to be many things to many people, but to me, she was EVERHTHING 🥺💕💕💕💕🔥.

As a grandmother, she filled my childhood with warmth and joy. Her home was a haven, a place where I always felt safe and loved. Her stories were magical, transporting me to different times and places, always leaving me with a lesson or a laugh. She had a way of making every moment special, whether it was baking cookies together or simply sitting in the garden, enjoying the beauty of nature.

But she was also like a mother to me. She was there for every milestone, every scraped knee, every heartbreak. Her guidance was gentle yet firm, teaching me the values of honesty, hard work, and perseverance. She showed me how to face life's challenges with grace and courage. Her strength inspired me, and her belief in me gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams.

Beyond that, she was my best friend. She was the person I could turn to with my fears, my dreams, and my secrets. We shared countless conversations, filled with laughter and understanding. She had a unique way of listening—not just with her ears, but with her heart. No matter the situation, she knew just what to say to lift my spirits or offer a new perspective.

Losing her has left a profound void in my life. It feels as though a piece of my heart is missing. Yet, in my grief, I find solace in the countless memories we shared and the lessons she taught me. Her legacy is one of love, resilience, and unwavering support, and I am

eternally grateful for the time we had together.

Thank you, Grandma, for being my everything. I will carry your love and wisdom with me every day, And from this day on i will start and stay striving to live in a way that honors your incredible legacy. Though you are no longer here physically, your spirit with all of our memories also will always be a part of me, and you will never be forgotten.



Anthony Rodriguez - December 16, 2024 at 10:05 AM

MB

“ *Condolences to Ralph and Cathy , thank you for sharing your Angel with the Maldonado Family ❤️ -Mary barboza*



mary barboza - December 13, 2024 at 06:39 PM

PA

My name is Pamela I meet Helen in 1997 I dearly miss her my to the Rodriguez family and my condolences Helen is missed but never forgotten

Pamela - October 14, 2025 at 12:41 AM