



Penny Lynn McCullough Malanca

January 25, 2026 - February 7, 2026

Penny Lynn McCullough Malanca, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, teacher, and friend, passed away on February 7, 2026, at The California Armenian Home in Fresno, California. She had recently celebrated her 64th birthday on January 25, 2026.

Penny grew up in Dos Palos, California, where her love for people, learning, and community first took root. She devoted 27 years of her life to education, teaching 4th grade, 6th grade, and junior high Algebra in Mendota, California. A longtime educator and passionate cheer coach, Penny always went the extra mile for her students—picking up overtime hours, afterschool programs, and winter sessions to ensure every child felt supported and capable. She had a special gift for sharing her love of math and making it feel less intimidating for students who struggled, empowering them to believe in themselves. She was highly recognized in education and received teacher of the year for Fresno County in 2012.

Her dedication extended far beyond the classroom. Penny was the biggest cheerleader for her own children, faithfully supporting them at countless baseball, football, softball, and cheer events. Whether in the stands or on the sidelines, she showed up with unwavering encouragement and pride.

Above all else, Penny's heart belonged to her family. She is survived by her

daughter, Julia Frazier, and son-in-law, Brandon Frazier; her son, Geno Malanca; and her cherished grandchildren, Everett Frazier (4) and Amelia Frazier (1.5 months), who brought her immeasurable joy. She is also survived by the father of her children, Dave Malanca.

Penny is survived by her twin sister Sherry Easterwood, and brothers Gilbert McCullough, and Thomas Storm McCullough, along with her 13 nieces and nephews, all of whom she loved deeply.

Penny will be remembered as vibrant, empowering, inspiring, and endlessly encouraging—beautiful inside and out. She exuded love, support, and light, and was always all in for anyone who needed help. Even in her later years, as she lived with Parkinson's disease, her light continued to shine. She had a way of lighting up a room, and those around her never failed to feel her warmth and energy.

Her legacy lives on through the countless lives she touched—as a teacher, coach, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend—and through the love she gave so freely to the world. She remains forever in our hearts.

Announcement

Penny Lynn McCullough Malanca, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, teacher, and friend, passed away on February 7, 2026 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. She had recently celebrated her 64th birthday on January 25, 2026. She remains forever in our hearts.

A colorful celebration of life will be held Monday, February 16th, at Elite Event Venue 4105 W Figarden Dr., Fresno, CA 93722

Time: 11am-4pm, Food will be served from 11:30am-1pm

Please bring stories and pictures to share with Penny's loved ones.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to Penny's favorite Parkinson's group; Exercise for Life Foundation, 1827 Goshen Ave, Clovis CA, 93611 Federal Tax ID (EIN) 85-3822663. This foundation is the non-profit umbrella that funds the Rock Steady Boxing Central Cal services.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **16**. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Elite Event Venue
4105 W Figarden Dr.
Fresno, CA 93722

Tribute Wall

ED

“ I met Penny at the California Armenia Home Vineyard while I visited my mother. I adored her and I always made sure I visited her while I was there. Such a beautiful woman with bright eyes, gorgeous hair, and decked out in her jewelry. I was so saddened to hear of her passing and I will truly miss seeing her. I know she is at peace and released from her wretched disease.

Elizabeth Davitian - February 22 at 03:58 AM

LR

“ My deepest condolences goes out to the family. I remember Miss Malanca with my two sons, Elijah and Jeremiah Robison. She was very carrying and encouraging and helped my sons tremendously. She will forever be missed.

Laura Robison - February 16 at 03:17 PM

BM

“ My wife Bobbi and I knew Penny through our participation in the Parkinson's Support Group and the Rock Steady Boxing classes. I will remember Penny for her beautiful smile, her wonderful energy and the light she brought into a room. She would often bring treats to our various gatherings to share with the others present. Penny brought such joy, she will be missed.
Bruce and Bobbi McKee, and Kelly and Hrant Darakjian and the Support group leadership members.

Bruce McKee - February 16 at 02:05 PM

RE

“ Penny was always such a light wherever she went. Met her through my sister Alma Davis. She loved my sister so much, besides working together in Mendota, they shared time together whenever they had a chance. Thank you Penny for your love and your glow. Now they both can get together and share more laughs and fun. Thank you.....

Rene - February 16 at 01:22 PM

GS

“ Gloria Shaw lit a candle in memory of Penny Lynn McCullough Malanca



Gloria Shaw - February 16 at 03:25 AM

AL

“ My aunt Penny was the one person in my life I never wanted to disappoint. She was my first best friend and biggest cheerleader in life. 💜



April Laird - February 16 at 12:04 AM

KW

“ Penny and I worked together at Best Products. I'll never forget her bringing a box of cantaloupe to work when I was pregnant. It became the thing I craved, 1/2 a cantaloupe filled with vanilla ice cream. We had many long conversations about so many different things. She was a sweet heart.



Karen Walker - February 15 at 10:02 AM

GS

“ I remember Penny working at Best Products in the early 80's. Penny was always optimistic with a big beautiful smile. I enjoyed her presents. Sending my heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.



Gloria Shaw - February 15 at 12:49 AM

KP

“ I loved Penny! She had a light that never dimmed. So many good memories.. see you soon. Sleep well my friend!



Karen Christie- Parkhurst - February 13 at 11:03 PM

KP

“ This was one of my best friends when I was young. I used to have so much fun with her. She will always be in my heart. We would travel together and she would always be there. It’s never a goodbye it’s a see you later. Sleep well. -love Breckin

Karen Christie- Parkhurst - February 13 at 10:49 PM

MM

“ You were my 7th and 8th grade math teacher you were an amazing teacher and i learned a lot from you, you were the sweetest kind and loving teacher. One thing I remember most about you was how much you loved singing and playing high school musical in class. You will truly be missed ❤️

Monique Martinez - February 13 at 07:44 PM

CK

“ My dear Penny,
I loved sharing stories with you at cheer comps, and on the sidelines. Your love for your kids was infinite and I know they know how much family meant to you. You were so proud of your ginger babies cheering or playing ball. I saw it shine through for National and valley Champs for both kids. You will be greatly missed.
Christine Kovacevich

Christine Kovacevich - February 13 at 10:38 AM

GW

Penny from me and Roberta's swim arobics teacher to the flute the cheerleader you always gave me positive and great encouragement. I remember 4th of July at uncle Dubbs you ran thru the sliding glass door and took it like a champ. You were always sweet and kind. Fun to be around and full of Bronco Spirit. It has been a honor to of known you and been apart of my journey in life. Love ya girl. You will be missed!!

Gina westbrook - February 15 at 04:17 PM

AD

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Penny! May she rest in peace and I pray for her family in this time of mourning!*

Angela Dean - February 12 at 10:49 PM

NC

“ *Penny will be missed by many, it breaks my heart to hear of her passing. She was my favorite teacher when I was in 4th grade at McCabe Elementary school. In Mendota. She was always compassionate & kind. Always took her time to teach us, and if ever students needed help she was always available after school. :)* ❤️ ☐
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Nora Castro - February 12 at 08:09 PM

CA

“ *Cheryl Allen lit a candle in memory of Penny Malanca*



Cheryl Allen - February 12 at 06:59 PM

LV

“ *Ms. Malanca*

It's difficult to say goodbye to someone as amazing as you, but the good news is that your lessons will live on in my memory. Thank you for being an excellent teacher. Your student from Mendota. You will be missed.....My heartfelt condolences to the family. May her soul rest in peace.

Lucy Castillo-Viramontez

Lucy Castillo Viramontez - February 12 at 05:47 PM

ME

“ We remember a truly unforgettable educator, the only teacher we know who was pulled over twice on her way to work on the very same day by a husband-and-wife police team. Even that couldn't keep her from showing up for her students. We remember the “rock star” teacher who was summoned for jury duty just four weeks before state testing. When the judge called the school to ask, “Who is this incredible teacher?” That was the kind of impact she had. We remember the mastermind behind the one-and-only, award-winning SAT-9 Pumpkin Carving Contest, because only she could make academic excellence and pumpkin carving go hand in hand. We remember the fearless leader of the notorious Mathematical Monsters who roamed the junior high halls after 7:00 p.m., proving that learning didn't stop when the bell rang. And most of all, we remember the heart behind it all. Students would say, “Mrs. Malanca cares too much for us!” And that was her legacy. She cared deeply. She believed fiercely. She loved unconditionally. She was more than an educator. She was a champion for children, and she will always be remembered.

Manuel Escandon - February 12 at 05:23 PM

AF

“ Mrs. Malanca was my Jr. High math teacher and dam just thinking back to those memories and she was koo, funny, always doing the activities with us. When I first met her I thought she was mean (I was like 14) but it's only cause she didn't let us get away with messing around in class but it's sad to hear, my condolences to her family! She'll be missed by many.

Ashley Farias - February 12 at 03:19 PM

KW

“ Penny and I became great friends when our daughters met in dance class at the age of 4. Penny and I could make each laugh for hours. We supported each other through all of life’s many trials. Penny was the only person who has ever been able to get me to understand abstract math. She had such a gift for teaching. Everyone who knew her loved her happy spirit and her wacky holiday dressing, as did I. We had a bond I will never forget nor be able to replace. God bless you for always being my friend, Penny. Please forgive me for not being there at the end. It hurt too much to see you that way. I will miss you ‘til I we meet again someday.

Karen Wong - February 12 at 01:27 PM

PG

“ My heart hurts for the family. She was an amazing teacher to my children. My condolences are with the family. 🙏🌸🙏

Patricia Gamez - February 12 at 01:26 PM