



Maria Elena Parra

JUN 14, 1941 - MAR 20, 2023



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A Life well lived! It is with great sorrow and bittersweet gratitude we announce the passing of an extraordinary, and unimaginably brave woman, wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend Maria Elena Parra. She passed away in San Diego, CA on Monday March 20, 2023 at age 82.

Maria Elena was born on June 14, 1941 to Otilio and Severa Molina, in Mexico city Mexico. She considered herself blessed to have had the opportunity to travel through Mexico with her family, stopping in many beautiful places on their journey north. She often recalled many details of her travels as if they had just happened! They arrived and settled in Tijuana, Baja California Mexico, where she lived for 7 years.

In 1963 Maria Elena married Salvador Parra and moved to National City, CA. She took English classes, and received her GED. She always said she loved learning a new language. Maria and Salvador went on to have 3 children, Arlene , Salvador Jr and Irene. And 4 grandchildren Citlali, Vicente, Xochil and Kira.

Maria was a stay at home mom for many years, and when her youngest turned three, she went to work.

She started working in the old fish canneries of San Diego and later switched to working in hotel hospitality. That is where she thrived! Meeting new people and assisting them at work was her specialty. In 1994 she was even named employee of the year for her incredible dedication and hard work! She was gifted a one week trip to Canada which she enjoyed with her 2 daughters.

Maria was widowed in 2001 after almost 40 years of marriage to Salvador Parra. Maria then retired in 2002. Maria always provided a warm and welcoming environment to anyone who needed one. Her kitchen table was always full of food, laughter and coffee! Everyone and anyone was welcomed! As long as you could handle her raw sense of humor.



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After retirement she kept herself active and joined the Eagles club and other social groups . She took many trips to Vegas and loved her casinos! She met Pete Lopez in 2005 and began her whirlwind adventure. Together they drank, danced, traveled and enjoyed life to the fullest! Maria and Pete celebrated for 10 years, until his unfortunate passing. It was a huge loss for her that she never fully recovered from.

It was in her 4 grandchildren she found happiness once more! She was not your typical grandma though, thank God for that! By example she taught them how to be feisty, brave and persistent! And to not listen to their parents!

Maria was preceded in death by her parents Otilio and Severa; Her spouse Salvador Parra; Her siblings Trinidad and Luis; her partner Pedro Lopez; and her nephews Alfredo and Gaby.

Maria Is survived by her 3 children Arlene, Salvador jr, Irene and one adopted adult son Arnaldo Cordero, 4 grandchildren Citlali, Vicente, Xochil, and Kira, 2 son in-laws Jay Oshiro and David Castillanos 3 sisters Ana luisa, Dolores Estella, one brother Martin Molina, many Godchildren, cousins and countless nieces and nephews. And many others who considered her a second mom, and there are quite a few!

This was an extraordinary human being, she loved many people and was loved by many! She lived a long and full life! When the end was near and death was imminent, she confidently said “I am ready; onto the next adventure!” Here is to a life well lived!



Events


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VIEWING

 **Wednesday**, March 29, 2023

 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM PT


 **Garden Chapel at Greenwood**
4300 Imperial Ave., San Diego CA 92113

 Rosary @ 6:30 PM

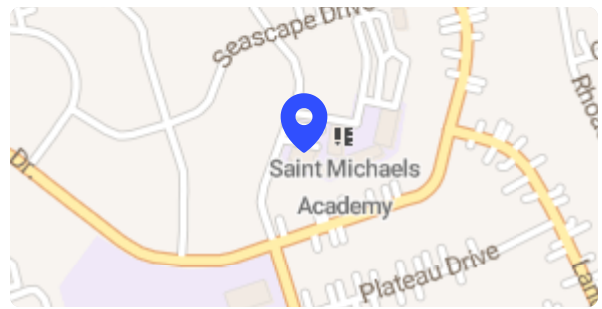


Catholic service

 **Thursday**, March 30, 2023

 12:00 PM PT

 **St. Michael's Catholic Church**
2643 Homedale Street, San Diego CA 92139





Tribute Wall

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Carolyn Guerra posted:

What can I say...? So many of my childhood memories have María Elena in them. Being neighbors for over 40 years mean there tons of memories! She was there for me in some of my most difficult times. She always had time to listen and tell you the truth whether you liked it or not. But you always felt the love. She was always welcoming and made you feel important. The times around the table were the best! When we were kids, it was the fideo. When I was older, it was the coffee. There was always something. I remember when irene was born. Since irene came years after most of us had grown up together, it was such a cool experience to see how she was raising irene in front of us. She was always so open and positive and shared her joy of her new baby and everything that came with that! She didn't ever mind changing diapers either! She just always seemed happy no matter what she was going through. I could go on and on but basically... she was love and joy to so many of us. Pure positivity and an openness that some of us lacked in our own homes. She was a second mom and a second home. I will miss her always... ❤️❤️

March 31 at 12:23 AM



Karen Lewis Eckles posted:

Mama Maria has been in my life since I was four years old. She was like a second mother me and a lot of other kids in the neighborhood. She was always welcoming, funny, stern, understanding and would certainly tell you like it is. She's always treated me like a daughter and not just Irene's friend. Their loss is also my loss, she will forever be missed. Rest easy mama Maria... on to the next chapter. Until we meet again ☐

March 30 at 8:18 AM



Martha Guerrero De Juarez shared 3 photos to the **Martha** album.



March 23 at 6:59 AM



L. Guerrero De Campillo posted:

"Maria always provided a warm and welcoming environment to anyone who needed one. Her kitchen table was always full of food, laughter and coffee! Everyone and anyone was welcomed! As long as you could handle her raw sense of humor." This is how I will forever remember María Elena. Sitting at her kitchen table, laughing at her jokes, and always feeling welcomed. I am grateful to have known you and your generous spirit. Rest in peace. 🙏

March 28 at 6:00 PM



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Jeanie posted:

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to your family for the passing of a beautiful lady, your mom. We've been neighbors for over 40 yrs. When my mom was alive, she and I would take walks around the block and would see Maria outside in her yard, watering the grass or plants. We'd stop by and talk a while and she would always invite us over when there was time. She always had a happy smile to greet you. May the Good Lord keep you in His prayers and may your mom's souls Rest In Peace. 🙏🙏 The Cantero Family.

March 28 at 12:39 PM



Niece Rose Mary Mauricio April 1 at 4:16 AM

♥️ Niece Rose Mary Mauricio San Antonio, Texas Auntie Elena 🙏 dearest Cousins Irene, Sal Jr. Panchito, Arlene and Family. "Perpetual light shine upon Auntie Elena Oh Lord thru the Mercy of God rest in peace." My loving Cousins you are not alone. Although we are miles apart. You are always in my heart and prayers.. I will pray a nine days Novena for my Auntie Elena. Take one day at a time healing broken hearts, unfortunately, a slow process. Prayers will give you comfort and give you strength. God walks beside you. Talk to Him express your feelings He listens. Blessings and Graces showered upon all our families in California. Smile, my love Cousin Rose Mary Mauricio (Auntie Lucy Parra's daughter) 🔥 Flame Glows Forever 🍷.



Anonymous sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Parra family.



March 28 at 5:32 AM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Parra family.



March 26 at 12:38 PM



Love, Espinoza Family sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Parra family.



March 25 at 2:48 PM



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Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Parra family.

March 25 at 10:37 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Parra family.

March 23 at 6:59 AM





Media

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Martha Guerrero De Juarez shared 3 photos to the **Martha** album.

March 29 at 6:23 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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