



## Laura Ann Souza

January 15, 1940 - July 29, 2020

### Laura Ann Souza

Laura Ann Souza, 80, passed away at home on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 surrounded by her husband, children and nephew. She was born January 15, 1940 in Stigler, Oklahoma to Otto and Morene Durham. The family moved to Merced, California when she was young and she attended schools there. She married the love of her life, John Marks Souza on September 9, 1955.

Laura and John moved to Southern California in 1959 eventually landing at Boys Republic in the Chino Hills where they raised their growing family. They retired in 1995 to Woodlake, California. She lived a full life as a wonderful wife, mother and homemaker. She was a fierce Mama Bear to her children and did whatever it took to keep her kids on the right path. Over the years she took many children into her home including brothers-in-law, nephews, grandchildren and friends, loving them all with the same fierce dedication she bestowed on her own children. She had a knack for not holding back her opinion and always told you the truth even if it wasn't what you wanted to hear. Most of all she loved her family and instilled in them strong values and faith that has served them well.

Laura will be sorely missed by her husband of nearly 65 years John Souza; daughters Rhonda Souza, Wendy Manning (John), Celeste Souza; sons John Souza Jr. and Jared Souza (Rachel); nineteen grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson; her brother Jim Durham (Carmen) and sister Marilyn Mariscal (Joe); and her fur-babies Bentley and

Baxter.

She was preceded in death by her parents Otto and Morene Durham and her beloved "Granny" Dora Durham.

All whom loved her dearly will never forget her tenacity, wit, charm, grace and undying love and caring for them.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel and at the family's request will remain private. A Celebration of Life will be held when we can all gather safely.

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ I can't believe it's coming up on a year that we lost our mother.I was blessed to be holding her hand as she left to go to Heaven. She was waiting for me as I had been in the hospital. She was an amazing mother and my best friend as I grew into a Women. To this day I still reach to my phone to call or text her. We all had a wonderful life filled with Love. The Love me and my sibblings share is amazing which was very important to our mother..We still have our wonderful Daddy which no one has gone a day without caring for him...She married the best man ever..The grief I feel is still so fresh there are days that are unbearable.But I know we will all meet her in Heaven someday.  
We have such strong Love for each other and our Daddy that will forever keep us tight..I miss my beautiful spunky little Mama...Til we meet again..your baby girl, Celeste

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**Celeste Souza** - July 05, 2021 at 12:17 PM

JD

“ I have a lot of memories of my sister,I look back at it's ironic How much things that happened to Laura ,I had happen to me later,she broke her nose at Avery young age,9 years later I crushed mine, whe she was 12 she was Rollie's skating in front of our house and I ran up behind her and gave her a push,she fell and broke her tail bone,9 years later,visiting them in Downey calif,Rhonda and Wendy were playing on a slip and slide,and I decided to slide on it like you would sliding into 2nd base,and the two nieces jumped in front of me,tried to stop my slide and broke my tail bone and cracked my foot talk about. Karma,Jim durham

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**jim durham** - August 03, 2020 at 10:11 PM

MM

“ i remember when we just kids, she loved cutting out paper dolls, back then they were as common as coloring books, also hear her burst out laughing , when she was reading Mutt and Jeff comic books. will miss you. Marilyn Durham Mariscal

Marilyn J Mariscal - August 02, 2020 at 06:45 PM

JM

“ Joe and Marilyn purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Laura Ann Souza.



Joe and Marilyn - August 02, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ Share the Health was purchased for the family of Laura Ann Souza.



August 02, 2020 at 12:24 AM

JD

“ Jim and Carmen Durham purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Laura Ann Souza.



Jim and Carmen Durham - August 01, 2020 at 06:13 PM

TS

“ I am so sorry to learn of this loss. I must have been 4 or 5 when I had my first memory of her. Our families went to church together. My mom and dad were the youth directors and we had close friendships with Rhonda, Wendy, Celeste, and John-John. I know that they spent a lot of time at our home and swimming in the pool. but I recall spending the night with Celeste at their home at Boys Republic in Chino. I always felt so safe around Laura. I loved her voice. I loved her smile. And even though I was still quite young, I feel like she had a sense of humor I definitely connected with. Just the way she would look at me when she said something, I saw that smile, and knew there was an unspoken communication. My mom and dad loved and enjoyed Laura. I remember my dad kidding her and that it always fell well on her own sense of humor. I am so sorry for your loss. I know there's no words to truly ease your grief. Please know you are loved and will be prayed for and thought of over the weeks and months that will quickly move on without her. You are all loved.



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**terey summers** - August 01, 2020 at 05:58 PM

RF

“ I am so saddened by the passing of Laura. I have so many happy childhood memories of family vacations at your house. Your family made me truly love and have great fondness to cows and horses. Sending my love and prayers. Love, Renee Flanary

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**Renee Flanary** - August 01, 2020 at 04:48 PM

LL

I'm so sad for the family of Laura. I have a lot of memories of her from my childhood when I rode horses with Celeste. Praying for peace in your hearts Souza family. Love to all, Lisa Lewis Lage

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**lisa lage** - August 01, 2020 at 11:00 PM

BP

“ *My condolences Souza family. I am so sorry for your loss.*

*Betty Jo Peacock*

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**Betty Jo Peacock** - August 01, 2020 at 11:54 AM