



Marie Therese Focha

December 14, 1959 - January 24, 2020

Marie Therese Focha entered into eternal peace on January 24, 2020 after a short illness. Marie was surrounded by family members.

Marie was born December 14, 1959 in Oakland, CA to Margaret W. Focha and Leo F. Focha (Deceased). Marie grew up in Oakland and attended St. Augustine's, Corpus Christi, Peralta Elementary, Glenview Elementary schools before going to high school at Holy Names High School, Graduating with the class of 1978.

Marie attended Feather River College, where she earned an Associated Arts Degree in Liberal Arts, before transferring to Notre Dame College in Belmont, CA. At Notre Dame she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. Marie earned a Master of Arts Degree in Marital and Family Therapy with a specialization in Latina/o Family Studies from Pacific Oaks College.

Marie worked for the Tulare County Health and Human Services Child Welfare Services; she started as a case worker and retired after 26 years as the supervisor of the Emergency Response Unit. Marie was very highly regarded by the staff she worked with and by the public she served. Her sense of service to others was unparalleled. Marie was a trainer for CASA of Tulare County, a Court Appointed Special Advocates program. She helped design the training curriculum and trained many advocates. She taught for the

College of The Sequoia's in Visalia. Marie was a Senior Director for School Age Children with the YMCA in San Francisco.

As is a family tradition Marie was a proud Union Member of Service Employees International Union, Local 521.

Marie is survived by her wife Cyndy Paulus. Marie is additionally survived by her mother Margaret W. Focha, Brother Bill Focha (Frances), Sisters; Margaret A. Focha-Smart (Brian), Cecile Focha (Gary), Monica Focha-McCallum (Ron) and Clare Focha (Brian). Marie was very fond of her nieces and nephews; Brooke Boyer, James McCoy, MEG Smart-Teramo, Adair Focha-Smart, Hank Boyer and Allison Boyer.

A celebration of Marie's life is planned for February 29, 2020 at 1:00 pm at Salser & Dillard Funeral Home (127 E. Caldwell Ave. Visalia, CA). Following the celebration, a reception will be held at the International Ag Center, Heritage Banquet Hall (4500 S. Laspina St. Tulare, CA) starting from 3pm to 6pm.

Marie's ashes will be memorialized in Pinecrest, CA. Pinecrest is a very special place for Marie and Cyndy. Marie has spent a portion of her summer at Pinecrest every year since she was born.

Marie was very proud of having graduated from Holy Names High School. She was active in the alumni association. She was awarded an Alumnae Recognition Award in 2001. In Marie's honor a scholarship has been established at Holy Names High School.

In lieu of flowers/In celebration of Marie's life, please consider a donation to the Marie Focha '78 Noblesse Oblige Scholarship for school and community

service, at Holy Names High School, 4660 Harbord Drive, Oakland, CA 94618 or www.hnhsoakland.org <<http://www.hnhsoakland.org>> and select "Support HNHS."

Previous Events

Memorial

FEB **29**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Marie Therese Focha*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - February 29, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Marie Therese Focha*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - February 29, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ *Joann lit a candle in memory of Marie Therese Focha*



joann - February 29, 2020 at 04:07 PM