



## Mary Elena Cosio

August 3, 1947 - March 11, 2025

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of our mother, Mary "Sesena" Bonilla Cosio born on August 3, 1947 in Tulare, CA. She passed away peacefully, in her sleep on March 11, 2025 at the age of 77.

Mary spent most of her life in Tulare, CA, lived in San Jose, and also moved to Arizona in 1999 to help raise her beloved grandchildren.

Mary is survived by eight children: Patsy (Dave), Georgina "Gina" (Lino), Eileen (Joe), Mary Ellen (George), Ernest (Sarah), Valentino, Jaimee and Jacquelin "Jackie" (Joel), 34 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren. She grew up in a large family. She had 7 brothers and 6 sisters and she was the 7th child of 14.

A talented cook, Mary had a gift for turning the simplest ingredients into gourmet meals. She was known for her incredible cooking, especially her homemade tortillas. Her proudest moments were the births of her grandchildren. She loved them all dearly. One of her fondest moments when working, was when a customer marveled at how she transformed gas station food into something extraordinary. She worked in retail for most of her life and earned her GED with ease despite only completing school through the eighth grade.

Mary's greatest love was her husband Gregorio. Mary had special admiration for Elvis Presley. One of the highlights of her life was saving enough money to take a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Graceland, fulfilling her dream of visiting Elvis' home. She often said she wanted her ashes spread there, and her family is determined to honor that wish.

She was a woman of love and sacrifice. When her oldest brother, Junior fell ill, she and her sister, Juana, moved to Arizona to care for him until his passing. Their bond was unbreakable, and heartbreakingly, Juana passed away 3 days before Mary. Now, they are together again, just as there were in life.

And of course, we can't forget those beautiful, ever-changing green eyes of hers...eyes that shifted with the light, just like she did. She adapted and she endured no matter what life threw her way.

Mary will be remembered for her warmth, her strength, her love of dancing and music, her laughter, and the love she poured into every meal she cooked and every life she touched. She leaves behind a legacy of love, family and cherished memories.

Mary is now reunited with her beloved husband, Gregorio; her parents; and the brothers and sisters who passed before her. We imagine she is dancing in heaven to her favorite songs and smiling down on us with her beautiful eyes.

She will be missed by her children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held 2:00 PM Sunday, March 23rd, 2025 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial

Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial

MAR **23**. 2:00 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 Mary Elena Cosio*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - March 21, 2025 at 06:37 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Elena Cosio*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - March 21, 2025 at 06:35 PM



“ *Daughter sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Cosio*



Daughter - April 22, 2025 at 07:07 AM

MD

“ Mom, the last few weeks have been the saddest days of my life and honestly. I cannot see any peace coming to me soon. The guilt the weighs on my heart is stronger than the sadness I have in it. I want to believe everyone, when they say, she knows you made it here," but I didn't not in time for you too see me and not in time for me to see you. I can never get that back or make up for it and that will always be the biggest regret of life. Just know mom and I hope you do. That i love you with every bit of my being, I always have and you passing where and how you did has me feeling, you might not have. That will be my own guilt. So the emptiness i feel now i deserve, and if i die alone and sad I deserve that too because I know now,, you left us in that same way. I'm sorry mom and I hope you will be forgiving to me because I am not to myself. I love and miss you so much and I hope you will forgive me for not doing what i could have and not saying what I should have. You will always be with me. I LOVE YOU!!!

MaryEllen- Daughter - March 30, 2025 at 02:27 PM

JM

Girl u got to for give ur self we all need to I didn't get to see mom either but I had to for give my self cuz if not I know our mother is not at rest she loved her kids and family so much I love u and hope u find peace in this

Jacquelin Murillo Martinez - November 21, 2025 at 02:39 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Elena Cosio.



March 20, 2025 at 05:33 PM

JM

“ I love u mother I'm so sorry I didn't get to see u  
I know ur not hurting anymore that's the only  
thing keeping me sane I love u so much for  
ever momma



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**Jacquelin Murillo Martinez** - March 19, 2025 at 06:16 PM