



Patricia Ann Cruz

July 6, 1957 - January 25, 2019

Patricia Ann Camarena Cruz at the age of 61, and surrounded by her precious loved ones, was gently called home to be with her Lord on the morning of Friday, January 25th in Visalia, CA.

Patricia entered this world on July 6th, 1957 in San Jose California as the second child of Hope and Tony Camarena. She spent her childhood attending San Jose schools and growing up in a loving home, always staying busy with her four brothers and three sisters.

It was at O.B. Whaley Elementary School in San Jose that Patricia met Alejandro "Chender" Cruz in third grade. The two reconnected again when they became neighbors on Ophelia Street in their sophomore year in high school and a young romance blossomed.

After graduating from Silver Creek High School in 1975, Patricia and Chender were engaged. They married at St. Joseph's Cathedral in San Jose on September 25, 1976 marking the start of their cherished marriage, spanning more than 40 years.

Patricia became a mother, welcoming her oldest child, Rebecca into the world on July 25, 1977. Patricia and Chender went on to have two more children, Alex III in 1979 and Monica in 1981. Patricia also welcomed into her home her niece Elysha Cruz who she also raised and loved as her own. Raising her family alongside her husband was the center of her world.

After calling San Jose home for all her life, Patricia and her family left the Bay Area in the early 1990s and spent several years living in the Coachella Valley

before eventually making their home Visalia, CA.

It was in Visalia that her children graduated from Redwood High School and CSU Fresno.

Throughout her adulthood, Patricia made her career in retail, mentoring and making lifelong friends at Montgomery Wards, Mervyn's, Gottschalks, Lowe's, House to Home and TJ Maxx. Often known as the "work mom" Patricia's joyful personality helped her connect easily with coworkers and customers alike.

Patricia proudly became a grandmother on December 1, 2005 marking the start of a special chapter of her life. Soon after, she retired from her career in retail to become a fulltime grandmother. It was at this time that she also welcomed four new members to her family when her son Alex married Venus in 2007. At the time of her passing, Patricia was blessed with nine grandchildren and had just welcomed her first great-grandchild to the family in December 2018. She also baptized several of her siblings' children, who all call her Nina.

She was a devout Catholic who attended Sunday Mass at Visalia's St. Mary's Church and found comfort and strength in her faith.

Patricia will be remembered always as Yaya by her grandchildren who enjoyed countless hours celebrating everything from St. Patrick's Day, to Birthdays, to Saturdays with her. Her friends and family will remember her as someone who loved to sing and dance to the oldies, laughed as much as possible, enjoyed her Pepsi and margaritas, cheered for the Oakland A's and was a dedicated member of the Raider Nation.

She is survived by her caring husband of 42 years Alejandro "Chender" Cruz; her beloved children Rebecca Cruz (and Richard Moore), Alex Cruz (and Venus Cruz), and Monica Cruz (and Peter Hinojos); her niece Elysha Padilla (and Alex Padilla); her grandchildren Adrian, Alexander, Benjamin "Nehemias", Breona, Espi, Jeremiah, Mercedes, Petey and Timothy; Great Granddaughter Athena; her parents Tony and Hope Camarena; and her siblings Mary Camarena, Tony "Junior" Camarena (& Nova Camarena), Johnny Camarena (& Emma Camarena),

Bobby Camarena (& Annette Camarena), Susie Orozco (& Jeff Orozco), Paul Camarena (& Anna Camarena) and Christina Castro (& Jose Castro).

Patricia was, and remains, the light in our life, the love in our hearts, and the strength in each of our souls. In this way, she will be present at every celebration, hold us up through each hardship, and continue to be cherished each day.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

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

Rosary

FEB 1. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

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

Service of Remembrance

FEB 2. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Visalia, CA
608 N. Church Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Patricia Ann Cruz*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - February 01, 2019 at 08:29 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Patricia Ann Cruz*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - February 01, 2019 at 08:29 PM



“ *My Boys Miss Their Yaya Petey was looking up at ur pic today* 💜



Crüz Monica - March 18, 2019 at 11:03 PM

Crüz
Monica

“ Miss you more and more everyday Mother ,
♥



Crüz Monica - February 06, 2019 at 12:44 AM

PN

“ Rest in peace my long life friend. I will miss your post and your good mornings text. May God bless your family and friends. I love you Patsy.

Patricia Nieto - February 02, 2019 at 04:29 PM

TC

“ My grandmother was the best person in our lives. Always showed love to everyone. She accepted my mom my sisters and I as her own when her son(my dad) married my mom. She never ever had a day where she didn't show us love. When I left for college she always sent me messages asking me how I was doing and always telling me she loved me. One thing I'm going to miss our the phone calls saying happy birthday and her always being the first to post happy birthday on our Facebook. YaYa I love you so much and I know you are no longer in pain but your love will always be missed.

Timothy Cruz - February 02, 2019 at 12:12 PM

AC

“ When I was little, for one of my birthdays, my Auntie Patsy gave me a birthday record of an alien singing a happy birthday song with my name in it. Every year, still, my mom plays that record for me on my birthday. It always makes me think of Auntie Patsy and it always will. She means more to me than I can express and I already miss her so much. Love you Auntie Patsy. Rest easy in paradise, you did good job here on earth, that's why this is so hard for us.

Andrea Camarena - February 01, 2019 at 03:43 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patricia Ann Cruz.



February 01, 2019 at 12:25 PM

CA

“ Will miss you no more pain or worry fly high and be free love you and will miss you very much ❤️😞

Carlotta Acosta - February 01, 2019 at 09:09 AM

TT

“ I'm deeply saddened to hear of Pat's passing. She was a lovely person that I truly enjoyed working with at Lowe's. My sympathies to her wonderful family.

Terry Tidwekk - January 31, 2019 at 11:15 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Patricia Ann Cruz.*



January 31, 2019 at 02:52 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Patricia Ann Cruz.*



January 31, 2019 at 01:39 PM



“ *Condolences to the family sad to hear the news heaven has gained another beautiful angel rest in peace give family comfort peace from my family god bless all of you*

Sherrie galli - January 31, 2019 at 08:46 AM



Will miss you dearly fly free and high ❤️😊

Carlotta Acosta - January 31, 2019 at 08:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Patricia Ann Cruz.*



January 30, 2019 at 09:39 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Patricia Ann Cruz.*



January 30, 2019 at 09:24 PM



“ *My sister, Patsy, was an Incredible woman. There isn't a moment that passes that i don't think about her. She was like my 2nd mom, my best friend, my person.*

One of my favorite memories of her is the look on her face when people at Gottschalks, both here in Visalia and the one down south, would refer to me as her daughter... she would say she wasn't old enough to be my mom yet we are 17yrs apart so it could have been possible. She hated it but im sure there was a part of her that felt like a mom to me. She always was there for me. She was there for every one of my daughters' births, she was there by my side when i married my love, she was there through every dark moment my little family experienced and she was there for every happy celebration. Sister will always be with me.

Christina Castro - January 30, 2019 at 07:08 PM

GD

“Hearing of her passing was a shock . I knew she had been ill for a while but the news still shook me . We knew each other from our working relationships at various Retails Outlets here in Visalia and we would bump into each other from time to time our life's path . I remember her as a very diligent employee who knew what her tasks were and nailed them every time , no questions asked, love that about her . Don't ever remember Pat not greeting anyone without her smile...even my wife Carole , saying to me , she's always Happy...make no mistake , you family members...she will dearly be missed , by you and all she knew and ALL that knew her as well . Take to your Hearts , that she will always be with you....knowing her as I did , you will one day be asking yourselves a question and a slight breeze will ruffle your nose...that would be Pat giving you the answer...that was her , always knowing . Yes , we would all still love having her with us . Pat is where we ALL would love to be , when we're called . NO MORE SUFFERING... God Bless You All .

Gil and Carole Dominguez



gil dominguez - January 30, 2019 at 04:11 PM

Crüz
Monica

Thank you Gil and Carol

Crüz Monica - January 30, 2019 at 08:22 PM

PC

I love and respect you very much Patsy. You brought smiles to all of us especially PJ. PJ still touches people's noses and says, "beep beep" which you taught him. Evey time he did it, I thought of you and will continue to think of you. You will live forever in my heart. Please be PJ's guardian angel. May God bless your soul forever.

Paul Camarena - January 31, 2019 at 07:53 PM

CP

Pasty I love you, and will never forget the memories we had when we were younger those were the best you have left behind a beautiful familia. And a legacy that will never be forgotten may you rest in peace
💜 love Corinne Cruz Pagan

Corinne Cruz Pagan - February 02, 2019 at 09:06 AM

KS

Rebecca and family I am deeply sorry for the loss of your mother, just remember all of the great and wonderful memories you have made along the way. Just remember family sticks together no matter what.

Keena Spence - February 02, 2019 at 11:17 PM

MO

We love and miss you Patsy! 💜🙏💜🙏💜🙏💜

Monique - January 27 at 12:35 PM