



Virginia Mae Souza

April 22, 1943 - July 20, 2024

Virginia Mae Raven Souza was born on April 22, 1943 to her parents, Martin & Olivia Raven, in Selma, California. She began her Heavenly journey and met Jesus on July 20, 2024. Although no one was ready to say goodbye, Virginia lived a blessed life for 81 incredible years.

Virginia's parents were lifelong residents of the Selma area and were married on June 9, 1942. They were blessed with the birth of Virginia the following year. Virginia was named after her paternal grandmother. She was one of 8 children: Virginia, Timothy, Theodore, Marty, Sharen, Sandra, Mark, and Scott. Virginia attended school with her siblings at St. La Salle Catholic School in Reedley. She graduated from Selma High School in 1962 and then, attended Reedley College.

Virginia met the love of her life, Ernie Souza, at a Portuguese Festa Dance in Riverdale. It was love at first sight. They were married on November 17, 1963, and recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were blessed with two sons, Shane Souza and Randy Souza.

Virginia spent most of her time raising the boys and supporting them in their activities, while working part time at the Laton Cooperative Gin. Both Ernie and Virginia enjoyed supporting their grandsons in their sports and activities as well. Both were members of the Catholic Church in Selma and then later, in

Laton.

After the boys were grown and married, both Ernie and Virginia enjoyed traveling with family and friends. Some of Virginia's favorite trips were New York, the Kentucky Derby, Italy, Spain, an Alaskan cruise, a mighty Mississippi river paddle boat cruise, and many bus tours throughout the United States.

A few of her favorite trips were traveling through the southeast part of the country, where she felt most at home with the southern hospitality that was extended to Ernie & Virginia. A great story that she experienced while in the South was when she was approached by several people asking for her autograph as they thought she was Blanche Deveraux (Rue McClanahan) of the Golden Girls television sitcom.

She experienced a once in a lifetime trip to Israel where she was in awe of the wailing wall. She enjoyed all the sights of New York but seeing the giant crater in the earth where the twin towers once stood was a memory never to be forgotten.

Virginia loved her bus trips to go watch the FSU Bulldog football games. One of her favorite excursions was the recent trip to Rutgers Indiana. In addition to the "win", they took the bus around the Indianapolis Speedway, rode the gondola over the St. Louis arches, and visited the Clydesdales at Anheuser Busch. One of her more memorable trips was the bus tour to Albuquerque, NM to watch the Dogs and enjoy the large hot air balloon show. She said, "They are HUGE and beautiful, full of color!"

If you knew Virginia, then it is no surprise that her favorite trip was to Memphis, TN, where she got to tour Graceland, home of Elvis Presley. She was a huge "Elvis" fan. Up until recently, you would always find Virginia in the front row of an Elvis impersonator concert with her favorite performer being

Jeremy Elvis Pierce.

Virginia was predeceased by her parents, Martin & Olivia Raven, as well as her brother, Marty Raven.

Virginia is survived by her husband of 60 years, Ernie Souza; her son, Shane, his wife, Staci and their son, Maverick, all of Visalia; as well as her son, Randy, his former wife, Pam, both of Selma, and their two sons, Pierce and Preston, who currently reside in Tennessee. Virginia also leaves her siblings and their spouses: Timothy Raven (Debbie); Theodore Raven (Donna); Sharen Colliver (Paul); Sandra Gonsalves (Bennie); Mark Raven (Angie) all of Selma; and her brother, Scott Raven (Charlyse) of Kingsburg. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, extended family members, and friends.

On behalf of the family of Virginia Souza, we would like to thank you for your prayers and support during this difficult time. We appreciate the amazing caregivers that made Virginia feel so special these past few months - Sandra Gonsalves and Tatum Kerber.

No visitation services will be held. A rosary is scheduled for Monday, August 5th at 6:00PM at Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel located at 1588 Lincoln Street Kingsburg, CA.

A funeral mass will be held on August 6th at 9:00 AM at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church located at 20855 South Fatima Avenue in Laton, CA. Virginia's final resting place will be at the Oak Grove Cemetery in Laton, CA. A celebration of life reception will follow immediately after the burial at the Raven Barn located at 7497 Elkhorn Ave, Selma CA.

Remembrances in Virginia's name can be made to: KCAPS 1145 Draper Street, Kingsburg, CA 93631.

Virginia leaves behind a legacy of kindness and humility. She was a great wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. Her final gift to her family was the acceptance of her disease and for bravery shown in facing terminal cancer. God blessed her with His mercy and protected her from pain and suffering. She is truly resting in the arms of Jesus, enjoying her eternal reward of salvation.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Cemetery Details

Oak Grove Cemetery

19811 Cedar Street
Laton, CA 93242

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG 5. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel
1588 Lincoln Street
Kingsburg, CA 93631
(559) 897-2908
<https://www.creightonchapel.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 6. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (PT)

Shrine of Our Lady Of Fatima
20855 S. Fatima Avenue
Laton, CA 93242

Burial

AUG 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Oak Grove Cemetery
19811 Cedar Street
Laton, CA 93242

Reception

AUG 6. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Celebration of Life
7497 E. Elkhorn Avenue
Selma, CA 93662

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Virginia Mae Souza*



Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel - July 31, 2024 at 05:56 PM

SW

“ *Sw lit a candle in memory of Virginia Souza*



Sw - August 08, 2024 at 06:57 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Virginia Mae Souza.*



August 05, 2024 at 03:21 PM

KL

“ *KING FRESH PRODUCE, LLC. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virginia Mae Souza.*

KING FRESH PRODUCE, LLC. - August 05, 2024 at 03:21 PM

SC

“ Shelly Carrillo purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Virginia Mae Souza.



Shelly Carrillo - August 03, 2024 at 09:08 PM

SC

“ Shelly Carrillo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virginia Mae Souza.

Shelly Carrillo - August 03, 2024 at 09:08 PM

SA

“ Virginia and our families shared so many memories, starting with when we first met at my house in Selma when she came to sign up her two boys for preschool that I was just opening. That developed into weeks at the cabin, camping at Santa Cruise, fun days on the river, pool days at your house, oh so much more. You by my side when my Beautiful Lori died. I could not have made it without you. Fast forward the kids grew up, we moved away but we talked on the phone daily. You know all my secrets. Then I was privileged to your girls trips with Ruth and Shawna. The last one being you three visiting me at my home last September. Little did we know it would be the last time we would be together. Rest in peace my Beautiful Badass Bestie! I will never forget you and will always Love you
Love, Sunny

Sunny Almeida - August 02, 2024 at 10:08 AM

CS

“ Cathie Keith and Chuck Shorten purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Virginia Mae Souza.



Cathie Keith and Chuck Shorten - August 01, 2024 at 02:58 PM

AD

“ Annette & Johnny Dhillon purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Virginia Mae Souza.



Annette & Johnny Dhillon - August 01, 2024 at 01:37 PM

AD

“ Annette & Johnny Dhillon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virginia Mae Souza.

Annette & Johnny Dhillon - August 01, 2024 at 01:37 PM

LG

“ Our heart felt condolences to Ernie and the whole family. May Virginia rest in peace. Sincerely, Dimas & Lisa Garcia

Lisa Garcia - July 31, 2024 at 10:13 PM

LK

“ *My deepest heartfelt condolences to the family (Uncle Ernie, Shane/Staci, Randy and all of the boys). My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I love you all. ❤️🙏*

Leslie Knott - July 29, 2024 at 12:32 AM