



Leoncia Madrideojos Santiago

January 13, 1935 - June 1, 2021

Leoncia Madrideojos Santiago, mother, wife, devout Franciscan, and pioneer, passed away on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at the age of 86.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Loreto S. Santiago. She leaves behind her three daughters, Lorelee Wilkes and husband Sam, Jo Anne Stafford and husband John, and Gerardeen and husband Anthony, and four grandsons, Drew, Noah, Hunter, and Bryce, along with a legacy of a life spent practicing her Catholic faith. She always placed the needs of others before her own and never spoke an unkind word to or of others, in both her personal and her professional life.

She had a passion for orchids, gardening, cooking, and music.

She was a pioneer woman of the 20th century. As a child in the Philippines during WWII, she survived the Japanese occupation by fleeing into the mountains and jungles outside the village of Paete, Laguna, in the province of Luzon. She attended Centro Escolar University, an institution founded in 1907 by two trail-blazing women, and became a pharmacist. She came to the United States in the late 1950s to further her education and training, and met the man who became her husband. They returned to the Philippines, where they married and lived before immigrating back to the US with their young children in 1973.

She worked as a cyto-histotechnologist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and at the Charleston Area Medical Center. While at CAMC, she helped develop cutting-edge techniques in the histology of cancer.

She will be remembered as a person of strength, patience, and kindness, who quietly exemplified feminist ideals and one who lived a devout life in Christ with true humility and grace. She will be sorely missed.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, St. Albans, with Father Patrick M. McDonough as celebrant. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Park, South Charleston.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in St. Albans, WV, the Edgewood Summit and Arthur B. Hodges Center in Charleston, WV, and HospiceCare WV in Charleston, WV.

You may visit Leoncia's tribute page at BartlettNicholsFuneralHome.com to share memories or condolences with the family.

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Ave., St. Albans is honored to serve the Santiago family.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Park

4301 MacCorkle Ave. SW
South Charleston, WV 25309

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
525 Holley Street
St. Albans, WV 25177

Funeral Service

JUN 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
525 Holley Street
St. Albans, WV 25177

Tribute Wall



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Leoncia Madridejos Santiago.*



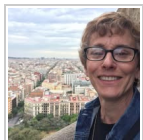
June 14, 2021 at 01:07 PM



“ *Say not in grief that she is no more
but say in thankfulness that she was
A death is not the extinguishing of a light,
but the putting out of the lamp
because the dawn has come.*

- Rabindranath Tagore

Victoria Cajipe - June 13, 2021 at 07:08 PM



“ *It was such a pleasure to spend time with your Mom at Hodges. Before Covid, Jasmine, your mom, my mom, and I would do art, music, and Bingo together. Your mom always had a smile on her face.*

It was so nice meeting all of you and the grandsons. You could tell by her face how much she loved all of you. I hope you will cherish all the wonderful memories you shared with her.

*Fondly,
Shelly Winowich (Betsy Gooding's daughter)*

Shelly Winowich - June 06, 2021 at 03:03 PM

LO

Thank you for your kind words. It was nice being able to chat and get to know you and Betsy. I really enjoyed having Thanksgiving dinner with you all a couple years ago. - Lore

Lore - June 07, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Leoncia Madridejos Santiago.*



June 04, 2021 at 12:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leoncia Madridejos Santiago.*



June 03, 2021 at 12:13 PM