



Esmeralda Abelina Grant

June 4, 1921 - June 27, 2021

Esmeralda Abelina Grant, a retired nurse practitioner, passed away peacefully at her home at the age of 100 on June 27, 2021. She was born on June 4, 1921 in Tela, Honduras, to her father Jacobo Procopio Bonilla, a Doctor and Human Rights Judge, and her mother Estefana Fernandez, a homemaker from El Salvador. When Esmeralda was only 3 years old her mother Estefana became sick from tuberculosis and passed away as a result. Since her father was a judge he was able to lawfully claim Esmeralda as a dependent despite the fact that he was not married to her mother. He raised Esmeralda along with her other half brothers and sisters as a single parent. As a young child Esmeralda watched her father transform his home into a clinic so he could treat patients free of charge who were too poor to pay for medical treatment. However by age 11 Esmeralda became an orphan after her father was assassinated due to his protest against the Government. Even in the face of adversity Esmeralda persistently worked in other peoples' homes to support herself once she became an orphan. At the age of 20 she married Franklin Grant who was studying to be a medical statistician. The couple bore two children, Barbara Cristina Grant-Tengeri and Robert Franklin Grant Sr. Soon after their marriage Esmeralda landed her first job as a nurse's aide at the United Fruit Company in Tela, Honduras. While working at the local hospital Esmeralda came to the attention of an American supervising nurse who graduated from Bellevue School of Nursing in the United States. She was impressed with her nursing skills and saw how fast she caught on. The supervising nurse convinced Esmeralda to apply to Bellevue School of Nursing and to see what type of support the school staff/administration could provide to assist Esmeralda. However, Bellevue could not accept Esmeralda's application since she did not have a high school diploma. Eventually, the visiting Minister from Chambersburg, supervising nurse, a doctor and her husband found a family in Chambersburg who decided to welcome Esmeralda into their home, while she pursued her high school diploma. Afterwards, she went to New York to be trained as a nurse at the Bellevue School of Nursing while she attended Hunter College at night. Even though she endured family separation, economic hardship and a divorce, she graduated with honors. In 1967 she moved to California and went through training at Kaiser Hospital to become a nurse practitioner. Esmeralda later became a Director of Nursing at Matilda Brown Convalescent Home and Mc Clure

Convalescent Hospital in Oakland. She retired after that and enjoyed spending her time reading, traveling, and attending baseball games. She also enjoyed working as a volunteer at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center for over 25 years. She particularly enjoyed spending time with her dear friend and soulmate Dennis Mishek who was her companion for over 47 years. Even with her advanced arthritis, she maintained an active schedule and didn't spend time worrying about unimportant things. Maybe this was the secret to her longevity. She leaves behind her son Robert Sr., daughter Barbara, granddaughter Adebisi Akinrimisi, two Grandsons Onsomu Tengeri and Robert Jr., one Great Grandson Muroki Sokoro Tengeri, and many more dear and valued family members and friends.

Events

JUL **Visitation** 10:00AM - 01:00PM

13

Chapel of the Chimes

4499 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA, US

JUL **Funeral Service** 01:00PM - 02:30PM

13

Chapel of the Chimes

4499 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA, US

JUL **Entombment Following Service** 03:00PM - 03:30PM

13

Chapel of the Chimes

4499 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA, US

Comments



“ I met Esmeralda in 2005 at Downtown Oakland Senior Center. We were friends ever since as we both were volunteers there. I consider myself lucky to have known such an incredibly strong wise woman. She taught me some important life lessons, both from her words and her actions. Condolences to her daughter Barbara, son Robert and all of the rest of her family. She will never be forgotten. ♡

Amy Blasenheim - July 17, 2021 at 08:10 PM



“ Thank you Esmeralda for making my years at DOSC as a board member & volunteer such a wonderful learning experience. Oh, how I loved your sense of humor & time we spent working on projects. It was an honor being one of your special “Bobbsey Twins.” I miss you.

Norma Yim

Norma Yim - July 13, 2021 at 02:58 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Esmeralda Abelina Grant.



July 11, 2021 at 02:30 PM



“ Esmeralda was my second mother, she was present when I was born, she has always taking care of me when I was in NY. My condolences to the family.

Angela Occhiena de Pineda - July 10, 2021 at 06:55 PM



“ Esmeralda and I met and became friends in the early 1970's when we both worked for Kaiser in Oakland. My job took me to other Kaiser locations, but we remained in touch and had lunch together when we could. Over the years our friendship remained, and we shared our love of baseball and our belief in God and love of the Lord. Especially precious to me is the sound of her little laugh we were talked on the phone. I shall miss her, but know we will see each other again someday in Heaven. May the Lord comfort the hearts of all those who loved her.
Carolyn Salazar

Carolyn Salazar - July 10, 2021 at 06:16 PM



“ Carolyn Salazar purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Esmeralda Abelina Grant.



Carolyn Salazar - July 10, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Esmeralda Abelina Grant.



July 10, 2021 at 03:34 PM



“ Lisa Howard, NYCDOT purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Esmeralda Abelina Grant.



Lisa Howard, NYCDOT - July 09, 2021 at 04:18 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Esmeralda Abelina Grant.



July 09, 2021 at 12:40 PM



“ From the Family of Dennis Mishek purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Esmeralda Abelina Grant.



From the Family of Dennis Mishek - July 08, 2021 at 10:23 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Esmeralda Abelina Grant.



July 08, 2021 at 04:21 PM



“ From the moment that I met grandma Esmeralda in 1999, there was a warm embrace shared between the two of us. She prepared a delectable meal, during and after this scrumptious meal, she asked engaging questions, and remained present. Her Piercing eyes reflected much patience, authenticity, care, wisdom, long-suffering, endurance and a deep understanding of herself as well as others- and This life. Thank you for being a spoke in the wheel for so many, thank you for being my grandmother and confidante, Thank you for being my son's great grandmother, and thank you for being there for him and a myriad of ways. Thank you for your assistance prayers for all of your children and family and friends. As long as I am alive, your life and memory will live on through me- I will tell others about you with such delight and honor. May your soul rest in peace at last

Stacy Blackwell - July 08, 2021 at 12:34 PM



“ From the moment that I met grandma Esmeralda in 1999, there was a long embrace held between the two of us. She cooked a delectable meal and asked engaging questions. She smiled warmly and her eyes reflected much patience, love, endurance, Authenticity and wisdom. She saw others well. From then and until now, she's been dwelling in my heart - truly lodged in now. Thank you for being so many spokes in so many others wheels. Thank you for all that you were and are. Thank you for listening to me and holding me yet again when my own mother gained her celestial wings - and for so many others life events. Your life is beautiful and I still hear your song. As long as I live, your embrace and memory will be carried on. Thank you for being my grandma and confidant & my sons great grandmother. I love you forever. Stacy Blackwell

Stacy Blackwell - July 08, 2021 at 12:23 PM



“ I met Esmeralda at Mass at Sacred Heart Church. She was intelligent, gracious, and kind. She is undoubtedly feasting at the banquet table in Paradise. Rest in Peace, dear friend. Randy Andrada

randy andrada - July 08, 2021 at 11:49 AM



“ I knew Esmeralda when she was a nurse at Bellevue in the 1950s, and kept in touch through the years. She was dedicated to patients, efficient, and helped to teach me and other new physicians during our post graduate training.

It became obvious in the years afterwards that she was a wonderful human being. It was an honor to know her, and she will be missed.

Glenn Lubash, MD, FACP

Glenn Lubash - July 07, 2021 at 04:00 PM



“ I had the pleasure of knowing Esmeralda at the Oakland senior center from 2001 to 2014. She was a beautiful person, warm and friendly. I will miss her. If there was one person who stands out in my memories of my volunteer days at the senior center it would be her.

Wayne Quan, DDS

Wayne Quan - July 07, 2021 at 11:54 AM



“ I was so grateful and privileged to work under Ms. Esmeralda at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center. She was the youngest 92 year old I'd ever met and nickname me "baby senior". I enjoyed the stories of her early life before and after marriage as well as our many home visits and lunch trips to Treasure Island. I was able to visit with her shortly after her June 4th birthday and she was in good humor and spirits. I will miss her beyond forever. Rest well in Heaven for you "did a job well done." Thank you for your wisdom and love

Terri McWilliams

Terri McWilliams - July 07, 2021 at 07:54 PM



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Stacy Blackwell - July 08, 2021 at 12:25 PM



“ Thank you Esmeralda for making my years as a DOSC board member & volunteer such a wonderful experience. Oh, how I loved your humor. I'll always remember our chat on June 4, your 100th BD & our laughter over my earlier error (last year I pushed your age ahead of schedule). I felt privileged to have you call me a Bobbsey Twin, to be given a special name by you. I miss you.

Norma Yim

Norma Yim - July 12, 2021 at 06:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Robert Grant - July 04, 2021 at 11:09 AM



“ Beautiful outwardly and inwardly.

Stacy Blackwell - July 08, 2021 at 12:25 PM



“ Thank you Esmeralda for making my years as a DOSC board member & volunteer such a wonderful learning experience. I felt privileged to work with you on various projects & being one of your special “Bobbsey Twins.” Oh, how I loved your humor. I miss you.

Norma Yim

Norma - July 13, 2021 at 11:22 AM



“ rip gramma

Pehness Nballs - August 07, 2021 at 07:43 AM