



Maria G. Rodriguez

July 14, 2024

Maria Gregoria Rodriguez (née Matute), 82, of Troy, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, July 14, 2024, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras surrounded by family. She had traveled to her homeland with her only child for what was supposed to be a two-week vacation, but the Lord had other plans.

Maria (family and friends knew her as Goyita) was born in Danlí, El Paraíso, Honduras to José Guillermo Matute Avilés and Zoila Dolores Amaya on November 28, 1941. She went to school in Honduras and moved to New York City in 1969 where she lived with her daughter and husband. Throughout her career, Maria worked in various manufacturing facilities mainly focused in fashion apparel. She then decided to retire early in order to move to Michigan with her husband to help raise their granddaughters. Maria was endearingly referred to as "Lela" by them (short for abuela). She was a constant and ever-present loving grandmother who embodied love of family and taught them her culture and language.

Maria enjoyed gardening, cooking, watching novelas and home improvement shows, going for long walks and reading her Bible.

Maria had many family and friends in Michigan, New York, Puerto Rico and Honduras whom she enjoyed talking to regularly on the telephone. She was pure of heart, selfless, and only saw the good in everyone. Maria was a true

angel among us. She was a devout Catholic whose love for God was so deep that even when her health was failing, never stopped reading her Bible or reciting prayers of the Rosary.

Beloved wife of the late Hector Rodriguez. Dear mother of Bessy (Steven) Phillips. Cherished grandmother of Krizia and Paulina Phillips. Sister of Maura Dolores Matute Amaya (Napoleón, deceased), Gladys Orfilia Matute Amaya (Marcelino, deceased), Olga Esperanza Amaya (Gustavo, deceased), and the late Juan Alberto Matute Amaya. Maria had many cousins whom she loved dearly and was also the loving aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Cemetery Details

White Chapel Memorial Cemetery

621 W. Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 25. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Committal Service

JUL 25. 11:45 AM (ET)

White Chapel Memorial Cemetery
621 W. Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Maria G. Rodriguez*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - July 24, 2024 at 07:20 PM

SA

We will always remember Aunt Goyita with great affection, God is in control of everything and his word says that the Holy Spirit is our comforter.

A big hug Phillips family

Sandra Andino - July 24, 2024 at 08:55 PM

MS

Bessy lamentó lo de mi tía Dios derrame mucha fortaleza para ti y toda la familia un abrazo a la distancia Marta Elisa sosa

marta elisa sosa - July 25, 2024 at 11:13 AM

BP

Muchas gracias, Marta Elisa. Me hace tanta falta que no sé cómo lo voy a superar.

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 11:43 AM

BP

Te adoro Madre. Hasta que nos volvamos a ver...

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 12:04 PM

BP

“ *Hola Mami. El viernes fue tu cumpleaños. Espero que te hayan gustado las rosas que te llevamos. En la iglesia hoy, una intención de misa fue ofrecida en tu nombre. Te adoro viejita; eres la primer persona que saludo en la mañana, y la última en la que pienso en la noche.* 💕💕

Bessy Phillips - November 30, 2025 at 07:46 PM

OA

“ *Dear sister, you'll always live in our hearts!*

Your legacy will always remain! ❤️



Olga Amaya - July 29, 2024 at 02:12 PM

BP

Thank you Tia Olga. You will always be my mom's baby...

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 11:48 AM



“ *RIP tia Goyita, you will be in our hearts.*



Marcelo Goff - July 25, 2024 at 10:03 AM

BP

Thank you, Marcelo. What a beautiful picture from a happier trip to Honduras.

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 11:51 AM

GL

“ *At this difficult time, our prayers are with the Phillips family that the Lord may fill all hearts with comfort and strength. We love you Aunt Goyita! From Gustavo, Sandra and Sofia*

Gustavo López - July 24, 2024 at 09:18 PM

BP

Thank you, Gustavo. I'm so glad my mom was able to see all of you during this last trip...

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 11:55 AM

TK

“ *Your absence is only physical because in our hearts you will live forever*

Tus sobrinos Luis y Kenia - July 24, 2024 at 09:09 PM

BP

Thank you, Luis and Kenia. Amen.

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 11:56 AM

SL

“ *We will always remember Aunt Goyita with great affection, God is in control of everything and his word says that the Holy Spirit is our comforter.*

A big hug Phillips family

Sandra Andino y Sofia Lopez - July 24, 2024 at 09:01 PM

BP

Thank you, Sandra and Sofia. Your kind words are a source of comfort during this difficult time.

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 12:00 PM

TG

“ *Hermanita siempre fuiste muy especial y te recordaré y estaras en mi corazon y mis pensamientos, agradezco a Dios por tus consejos como hermana mayor. Todos los lunes extrañaré, nuestras conversaciones. Te amaré por siempre. Hasta pronto hermanita bella.*

tu hermana Gladys - July 24, 2024 at 07:17 PM

BP

Gracias Tía Gladys. Mi mami la quería tanto; usted nunca se olvido de ella. La felicidad de mi mamá era hablar con usted todos los lunes.

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 01:50 PM

XM

“ *Aunt Goyita, always remerber your smile and big heart. I will love you forever*

Xiomara Martinez - July 24, 2024 at 06:51 PM

BP

Thank you, Xiomara. My mom loved you very much. She always looked forward to your phone calls on Mondays.

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 12:15 PM

SL

“ *Our beautiful Aunt Goyita will always live in our hearts, her example and caring words will remain in us forever! We love you all! ☐*

Stephanie Lopez - July 24, 2024 at 04:06 PM

BP

Thank you, Stephanie. My Mom loved her family very much. Her legacy will live forever...

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 12:19 PM

LO

“ *Love, Julie and Steve Olds purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Maria G. Rodriguez.*



Love, Julie and Steve Olds - July 23, 2024 at 09:27 PM

LM

“ *I hope you find comfort and peace in God and remember that Tía Goyita is a star shining in the sky.*

Loana Martinez - July 23, 2024 at 07:21 PM

SA

We will always remember Aunt Goyita with great affection, God is in control of everything and his word says that the Holy Spirit is our comforter.

A big hug Phillips family

Sandra Andino - July 23, 2024 at 07:58 PM

BP

Thank you very much, Sandra.

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 12:03 PM

BP

Thank you, Loana. I agree that my Mom is a shining star in heaven.

Bessy Phillips - August 09, 2024 at 12:22 PM