



Lisa Leilani Pereyra

June 6, 1955 - December 30, 2018

Lisa Leilani Pereyra “Mama P”, 63, of Dale City, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on December 30, 2018. Lisa was born on June 6, 1955 in Honolulu, Hawaii to the late Adams C. and Agnes Marie “Liborio” Travens, and grew up in the valley (down 139 stairs) in Aiea, HI. She graduated from Aiea High School where she was a soprano in the traveling show choir, “Aiea Swinging Singers”. In continuing her musical passion for singing, she met her husband in a church choir in Hawaii, and the rest is history.

While living in Hawaii, Lisa grew a strong love for sea creatures and a passion for preserving the ocean and had a strong affinity for her favorite animals, sea turtles and sharks. One of the ways she would preserve the ocean was to up cycle plastic bags. She would cut plastic bags and crochet them into coin purses, rugs, baskets and even stuffed animals. Lisa would use anything she could find and make it into art. She saw the world differently-- always beautiful.

On July 19, 1975, Lisa married her loving husband Benjamin, after making him wait at the alter for an additional two hours past the wedding time! To this 43 year union, three children entered this world. Ben was a military man, and with that came the responsibility of Lisa, to care for the children as they moved from place to place. Everywhere they went, she would make sure the children were well cared for and never had a dull moment in learning all there is about life. Many times, Lisa would find that she ended up having more children under her care, than whom she had given birth! When kids were around, arts, crafts and lots of love were always near.

After settling down in Virginia, Lisa was employed by Prince William County Public Schools, as a cafeteria nutritionist, for Bel Air Elementary School for eighteen years. She truly loved being able to see the children come through the line every day. She worked so hard to make sure no child went hungry and that they always knew that someone in the world loved and was thinking about them. There were many occasions where Lisa would extend an extra helping of food, or even paid for a child’s lunch out of her own pocket. While working here, she made lifelong friends in her coworkers, who she referred to as

her sisters.

Lisa enjoyed volunteering and sharing her talents. She and her family volunteered at Fort Belvoir Catholic Church for over 20 years. Lisa and her husband, Ben, would do music for Sunday school, sing in the Contemporary Choir and also direct the Ft. Belvoir Children's Choir. She would also paint faces for any event Fort Belvoir would have. Lisa always said, "We are put on this Earth to love and serve the Lord." She did so by sharing these wonderful gifts and her love for children.

Lisa loved people. She never met a stranger and was able to remember so many details about the people she met in such a short amount of time. Lisa loved to talk and thoroughly enjoyed events where she could meet new people and reunite with old friends. This was ever present in the Annual Pereyra Easter Picnic that she and her family hosted. On Wednesdays, Lisa would get together with good friends/family at IHOP to fellowship and catch up from the previous week. Another one of her favorite activities was to get together and make music. She would sing Hawaiian music, hymns and more. She had one of those voices that you were able to listen to all day, a voice that could melt your heart.

Lisa was an incredible artist and always saw the beauty in the world, which she translated on her canvas. She would paint/draw people, school houses, painted murals for schools and landscape paintings so perfect you would wish you could live there. Many of her masterpieces were made for children or to make children smile. Every year she worked hard to enter the Prince William County Fair and always swept the competition with many blue ribbons. One of her favorite objects to paint were eggs. She would paint real eggs and wooden ones, each more beautiful than the last. These gorgeous eggs were often given as gifts from Lisa and are treasured among the recipients still today.

Not only was she an artist on canvas...Lisa could cook! One of her favorite things to do in the kitchen was bake her famous banana bread. Lisa would spend hours in the kitchen preparing these loaves for family, friends and strangers. It brought joy and a smile to her face as people enjoyed and boasted about her banana bread. Although she freely gave her recipe out, it was never as good as Mama P's.

Lisa's whole world was her family. She loved them dearly and enjoyed every minute she had with them. As a mother, she was stern yet calm, tough yet soft. She didn't mince words when it came to discipline, but always made sure her children understood it was all out of love. Long days, late nights, rehearsals, work schedules, concerts, performances, trips and more don't even begin to scratch the surface of motherhood for Lisa. Mama P. always instilled in them that they can make a difference, but also ingrained how important

it is to enjoy life and make beautiful memories. Nothing gave her more joy than the fact that all three of her children would carry on the legacy of inspiring and caring for children, by finding occupations in the classroom. Mama P's light has diminished here on earth... only to shine on us even brighter from up above.

Lisa leaves to cherish her memory, her loving husband of 43 years, Benjamin T. Pereyra; her caring children, two daughters, Leilani Sayasithsena (NouNou) and Malia White (Allen); one son, Benjamin D. Pereyra (Elisabeth); her "adopted" son, Louis Kim; her precious granddaughter, Isabelle Ka'iulani White; one brother, Lester Travens (Teresita); her spoiled furbaby, Kahuna; and an incredible number of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, whom she loved dearly.

A Funeral Mass and Celebration of Life will be held 11 AM on March 9, 2019 at Christ Church, 7600 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. A reception of family and friends will follow in the church's fellowship hall. The family asks that everyone in attendance wear Hawaiian Aloha Shirts and/or Lisa's favorite color, green, to personalize this celebration in her honor. A private burial will take place at Quantico National Cemetery at a later date.

Comments



“ Dearest family.

I have the most wonderful memories of Miss. Lisa in the Bel Air cafeteria. She painted a kitty wall plaque and a cat pin for me. I still have them displayed in my home. I think of her every time. She will be missed. God bless.

Mrs. Berkman

S. H. Bekman - February 11 at 07:13 PM



“ LISA you will certainly be missed. I am so glad we finally caught up with each other. Now you are a bright shining flower in God's garden. Love you always. Cousin. Geraldine and Richard



Geraldine e - January 21 at 12:36 AM



“ Lisa, you will be missed by the Fort Belvoir Catholic Community., God bless you in heaven. You will not be forgotten!

Eileen Jones - January 15 at 12:10 PM



“ How sweetly her words were expressed in speech and in song. The undeniable tranquility and joy that her singing brought to the Fort Belvoir church will be remembered by so many parishioners. We'll especially remember the duet of Ben and Lisa at our son's first Communion Mass. In friendship, The Huisken family

Julie Huisken - January 09 at 10:37 AM



“ Oh so sad :(I will always remember my friend during our days as part of Dale City Craft Club. We shared so many memories and band days with our kids at Gar-Field. I loved her smile and glad to be a part of her life. She shared her joy of her heritage and love for life. Will miss you and prayers for your family.



Victoria Morris - January 07 at 08:38 PM



“ Miss Lisa always had a smile for me when I was at school. No matter how busy she was she had that smile. On days when I was swamped covering for meetings and would have no lunch, she made sure there was a sandwich set aside for me to grab. She will be missed terribly.

Karen Peak - January 07 at 06:46 PM



“ The Contemporary Choir was blessed to have Lisa - and her whole family - play and sing with us for over 20 years. Lisa always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. We will miss you Lisa and pray you are now singing with the angels!

Ann McSween - January 07 at 12:56 PM



“ Our family has many fond memories of Lisa at church events and with the children's choir of the Fort Belvoir Catholic community. She was a selfless, welcoming and loving person to all. We are very sorry to learn of her passing and wish her family comfort in the many fond memories of her that you all share. God bless Lisa and her family during this time.

The Venne Family

Daniel Venne & Family - January 07 at 09:36 AM



“ I remember Miss Lisa from kids church choir at Belvoir Chapel. Last time we saw her, she commented on how the kids have grown and how she remembered Jaren crawling under the chairs. I loved listening to her sing. Praying for her and the family.



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Benjamin Pereyra - January 07 at 07:58 AM



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Aisha - January 10 at 01:01 PM



“ Lisa was one earthly angel. I have many stories and memories over many years.
Bless You Lisa
Rose, Jasmine, and I. LOVE YOU!
And will keep You in our Hearts

rosalie wallace - January 07 at 05:36 AM



“ We had the pleasure of working with our sister for many years and her love for children and people on the whole was insurmountable. Mama Lisa never had anything unkind to say about anyone, she always saw the good in others and passed that on to us. She would teach us to love unconditionally, live like it's your last day, befriend someone, do all the good you can and hugs, hugs, hugs, no matter how sad or mad we would get she would hug it away (couldn't beat that), even when battling cancer we would always get our banana bread, flowers and hugs for mother's day, thanksgiving and Christmas, she was always thinking of others.

I can go on and on with so many heartwarming stories about our sister Lisa, but I will be writing all day. I will end by thanking her husband and children for all the love and support that you've shown to us throughout her illness.

What a family! Lisa did exactly what she was put on this earth to do and now she can take her place among God's heavenly angels. I can just imagine her conversing with God and him telling her "Lisa you are not the only angel I have to welcome " because she just could not stop talking

Love you Lisa ! Love you Pereyra's!

Dianne Carter - January 07 at 08:25 AM



“ Lisa was and always will be a beautiful person in my life I met Lisa almost 6 years ago through my now husband Barry I remember her and Ben coming to our house in Woodbridge They have known my husband Barry forever Barry always told me Ben is like his brother but Lisa she sat and talk to me about many things she made me feel so welcome into their family but truly gave me lots of good advice then we went to the Easter celebrations at Fort Belvoir that they gave each year it was truly amazing Lisa always gave me a hug and would make time to sit and talk with me awhile even with all the amazing people there and more each years I'm sorry we didn't make it the last two years I will always remember and love Lisa this is a beautiful soul and now an angel she will be truly missed by many Rest In Peace Lisa Prayers are with her Family

rosalie wallace - January 07 at 02:12 AM



“ Mama P was an absolute angel and the nicest, kindest women I ever met. We started this collection of her art work in our kitchen after she painted the first egg for us after we first met. She asked us to save the tiniest of eggs from our new hens for her to paint prior to her illness. We keep the unpainted ones along with her painted ones in remembrance of her. Now she's in Heaven painting now.



Tracy & Sandy - January 07 at 12:01 AM



“ To the Pereyra family, I'm sorry for your loss. May God continue to strengthen you through this difficult time. I'm glad I had a chance to meet Mama P. She will be deeply missed.

Vincent Johnson - January 06 at 09:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Susan Kervick - January 06 at 09:39 PM



“ This was a gift given to me from Lisa in the course of my work with YOPW. It has been treasured for some 20 years, and is a tiny sample of her talent and thoughtfulness. Her devotion to children and music was obvious. The Pereyra family's aloha spirit touched me then, as it does now. Blessings to all the Pereyras.

Susan Kervick - January 06 at 10:53 PM



“ We were so sad to hear of the loss of Lisa. She was one of the warmest, kindest, and friendliest women I have ever met. She always had a smile and a positive thing to say. We met at church and grew our friendship well beyond that. I know she was going downhill but every time we got to see her she was always so friendly and happy. It was hard to accept that she was not doing well. We are so sorry for your loss and your whole family will be in our prayers.

Kehl - January 08 at 09:22 AM