



## Maria H. Avila

February 14, 1938 - February 5, 2013

On Feb. 5, 2013, Maria Herminia Avila of Napa passed away peacefully in her home after a hard-fought and stubborn battle with cancer.

Born Feb. 14, 1938, Mrs. Avila was a force to be reckoned with — strong, determined, with a biting sense of humor.

She was born and raised in the Azores Islands. At age 12, she dropped out of school to work in a tuna-canning factory to help support her family. She immigrated to Napa in 1962, to be with her husband, Antonio Jeremias Avila. The two had a daughter, Emily, who survives her. She is also survived by her younger brother, Jose Reinaldo Nunes.

Mr. Avila passed away in 1968 and she raised Emily on her own, with the fierce passion of a woman on a mission. She sponsored the immigration of her entire family to the United States — five siblings, nine nieces and nephews, and her mother. At one point, she supported 15 people in her home on her single meager salary. A very large extended family of nieces and nephews is testament to the enormous difference she made in people's lives.

In her later years, she started traveling, visiting Alaska, Hawaii, Yellowstone National Park and many other sites in the United States. She also traveled

down the Amazon River in Brazil, visited Senegal, and toured through Portugal, France and Spain.

Despite the many challenges in her life, she lived it to the fullest with an easy laugh and deep compassion. She will be sorely missed by those who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to St. Anthony's Dining Room in San Francisco, Queen of the Valley Medical Center, or Napa Valley Hospice.

# Previous Events

## Rosary

FEB 8. 7:00 PM (PT)

Claffey and Rota Funeral Home  
1975 Main Street  
Napa, CA 94559  
(707) 224-5210  
services@claffeyandrota.com  
<http://www.claffeyandrota.com>

## Mass

FEB 9. 12:00 PM (PT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
981 Napa St.  
Napa, CA 94559  
(707) 226-9379  
<http://www.stjb1858.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Maria H. Avila*

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September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Maria H. Avila*

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September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM