



## Mariann Rena Terusa

March 9, 1951 - February 12, 2019

Mariann Rena (Calvet) Terusa, born on March 9, 1951, passed peacefully with her family by her side on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 in her Mission Viejo home after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease

Mariann was born in Newburg, New York. She was the first daughter of six children, two girls and four boys. When Mariann was 8, the Calvet family moved across country from upstate New York to a farm in Sylmar, California. There she grew up with cows, chickens, goats, horses and her cousins. While at St. Didacus Elementary School she joined the Girl Scouts and took piano lessons. When Mariann was 13, the Calvet clan moved to Granada Hills.

At Bishop Alemany High School, Mariann was truly a girl of the 60's. She was known as the sweetest, nicest and most beautiful girl at school. Everyone truly loved Mariann. She was a JV and Varsity Song leader in her Senior year. She attended dances, sock hops, Junior Prom, Senior Prom and in 1968 was crowned Homecoming Queen. Mariann was truly American's sweetheart!

It was at Bishop Alemany where Mariann met her future husband and the love of her life, Tom Terusa. Mariann and Tom fell madly in love and wanted nothing else in life but to be together. Tom accompanied Mariann to both Homecoming and Senior Prom. She never left his side.

After graduating high school in 1969, Mariann wound up working for the SBA loans association. Tom worked briefly for Universal Studios, then went to work right below Universal for his Dad at Dick and Hanks Mobil Gas Station – "Where the stars get gassed." It wasn't long after this that Tom and Mariann set the date! On October 3, 1970, Tom and Mariann were married at San Fernando Mission. After they said their marriage vows, they decided to buy their first house in Granada Hills where they immediately started their family. After 3 kids, Tom and Mariann realized their growing family was getting too big for their little house in the Valley.

In 1979, the Terusa family headed for "the California Promise" – the newly built community

called Mission Viejo. It was a difficult time for Tom and Mariann. Not only were they making a big move from Los Angeles to Orange County, but Mariann was just about to give birth to her fourth child while the other three kids all had the chicken pox! In the heat of summer! But they persevered, as they always did.

Mission Viejo is where Mariann and Tom found their roots and grounded themselves for 40 years. Mariann was very active with the kid's activities. She made sure to be on the sideline of every baseball game, soccer game, concert, marching band performance and was even found cheering on Tom at his evening softball games (which was probably more of a social gathering for the wives, but still). Mariann and Tom enjoyed many camping and fishing trips with the family as well.

Even with the kid's busy schedules, Tom and Mariann always found time for one another by having date nights every Friday night. Their eldest child, Jenny, recalls watching her mom get all dressed up, with the biggest smile on her face (probably knowing that she didn't have to change a diaper for the next few hours), excited to spend an evening with her love, Tom. Mariann and Tom set such a lasting impression for their kids, by showing them that even in the hurricane of the Terusa family life, there was always time for the love of one another.

As the children got older, Mariann decided to take on a few odd jobs to help support the family. And then Mariann and her good friend Laurie Bolduc decided to go into the flower business together. They had a flower cart on the campus of Cal State Fullerton for years. They were friendly faces to all of the students who saw them regularly on campus. The beauty of Mariann and flowers went hand in hand.

Mariann then landed her dream job – at Lake Mission Viejo, where she worked for 21 years. She started in the registration department, where she was able to meet almost every resident of Mission Viejo. Mariann was perfect for this position. As a people person, she enjoyed speaking with every single person that walked through those doors. Mariann was in charge of taking the pictures for the membership cards. It's no wonder that every resident had a big smile on their faces for those pictures. Mariann was promoted to Events Coordinator for The Lake. Not only was she assisting executives, but she was also in charge of coordinating concerts at The Lake. Mariann absolutely loved her job at The Lake. Not only was it a beautiful setting every day, she also met the most amazing people. The Lake was Mariann's heaven. She spent 40 hours a week working there and would turn around and bring the family there on the weekends. Some of the greatest Terusa memories were spent at The Lake for parties, barbeques, concert events, fishing, swimming, boating, etc. You name it, The Terusa's were there doing it and Mariann's

smiling face was there for every moment.

Mariann was a shining light that touched everyone she knew. She was full of energy, grace, compassion, beauty and mostly love. The selfless love she had for her children, grandchildren and most of all for her loving husband, Tom, is unparalleled.

This world has lost a shimmering light, the smile of all smiles, a great beauty and a loving heart. But rest assured that the heaven's above have received their greatest angel.

Mariann is survived by her husband, Tom and their four children, Jenny, Tony, Joe and Vince. She is also survived by her four grandchildren, Nicolas, Ellena, Mallory and Anthony, her mother, Ann, and her five siblings, Doug, Bill, Jeanne, Charlie and Al. She was known to family and friends as Mariann or "M.A." ... "Mom" to her children and "Nana" to her grandchildren.

Services will be held on

March 16th, 2019

9:45am Rosary/10:30am Mass

Saint Kilian Church

26872 Estanciero Drive

Mission Viejo, CA 92691

A reception will follow directly after the service in Hughes Hall

In lieu of flowers and gifts, we kindly ask that donations be made to The Parkinson's Foundation at <https://parkinson.org/ways-to-give>



# Comments

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mariann Rena Terusa.



March 15, 2019 at 07:26 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Al Calvet** - March 12, 2019 at 10:46 PM

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“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mariann Rena Terusa.



March 12, 2019 at 10:02 PM

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“ Mariann & I were in the same class at Alemany (along with my husband, Al). She was a sweet girl and well liked by all. She was a cute Songleader and our dear Homecoming Queen. It was after high school that we became close friends. Al & I started going to Alemany football games and that is where we started hanging out with Mariann & Tom. The four of us became close friends and the rest is history. One of the things I loved about Mariann was her laugh. There were so many times during our friendship that we had so many laughs. What was great about those special moments was we could relay the same stories over and over again until the four of us had tears from laughing so hard. We had so much fun on our trips to Vegas. The first time we went together, we didn't have much money so the four of us stayed in the same room at the Westward Ho. We enjoyed playing Bridge and Pinochle and we have fond memories of our families together at the lake. She was a special lady

who dearly loved Tom and her family. We will miss you, Mariann.

Anita Bazar - March 09, 2019 at 04:15 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Anita Bazar - March 09, 2019 at 03:10 PM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Don Mertens - March 05, 2019 at 05:33 PM

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“ So, here's the deal with the Terusas.....Mariann and Tom's house was always "party central"! They were one of the first of us couples to own their own house. The Halloween parties they used to throw are still being talked about. I will post a couple of relevant pictures. When all of the Alemany OC guys played on a softball team, we would often gather at Mariann and Tom's for post game fun.

Mariann was always in the middle of all of the fun times, as witnessed by the 3rd picture I am posting.

RIP, sweet Mariann. We will all miss you forever!

Don Mertens - March 05, 2019 at 05:31 PM

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“ Terii, Tom and family,  
What a beautiful tribute to Mariann. She was, and is, a special angel! I, like Marina, admired her so much at Alemany and wish you all peace and love and many blessings in your deep sorrow.  
The Terusa family (all those "T"s) was a wonderful family to be associated with at

Mary Immaculate. I have lots of terrific memories of those days and am happy Mariann was part of such an awesome tribe.

Much love to all of you,  
Pamela (Stephenson) Dudzik

Pamela (Stephenson) Dudzik - March 05, 2019 at 01:11 PM

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“ Dear Mariann,  
We have many people in our life that we come to know and love. Some of them become someone we admire as well. For me, you have been one of those people. In high school, you were that happy, peppy songleader, with a welcoming smile and a natural ease with everyone. When you became part of the Terusa family, you were like another sister to all of us. Mom and Dad adored you. And it was more than just how happy you made Tom. You just fit right in.  
As the years passed, you were faced with more than your share of challenges. You lost your first child in a miscarriage. You suffered through cancer and the difficult follow up treatments. Then during more recent years, you were diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, your most difficult challenge of all. Yet through all of this, you kept on living life. You met each of these issues head on with strength, grace and, thanks to Tom, even humor. You are an example to us all, a reminder that there is always some joy to be found in each day.  
You and Tom are, in my opinion, the epitome of what it means to truly hold fast to your marriage vows. Through the good and bad times, you two always stood together, managed the ups and downs, and still had a heck of a lot of fun in the process. Love and loyalty to family and friends and, especially, to each other was always a priority. For better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and health...you both modeled these vows daily, with quiet consistency.  
All this to say, Mariann, it's been an honor and a privilege for me to have spent part of your time here on earth learning from you. You've been a friend, a sister, a life lesson. So I guess everyone needs closure. Maybe this is it for me. I love you MA and I'll miss you. But I won't say goodbye. We'll be meeting again one day. So save a place for me at the table.  
Love,  
Terii

Terii Lewis - March 03, 2019 at 01:38 AM

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“ I always admired Mariann's lovely personality and how she cheerfully interacted with people. I was so sorry to hear of her passing at such a young age. I pray that Tom and their children will find solace in the condolences of their family and friends.  
Marina (Curry) Barnett

marina barnett - March 02, 2019 at 08:08 PM

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“ There are too many memories to share in one post. I will post some in this month of March, your birthday month sweet friend.  
I got a job at the FDA, Federal Disaster Administration, for emergency loans. It was the summer of 1971 after my sophomore year at Nursing School at Mount Saint Mary's College. The February 9th earthquake had devastated the Valley. They needed more hands on deck so I called my friend Mariann. She came in for the job interview & I couldn't make eye contact with her. When she left she stopped by my desk & said, "you didn't tell me it was 7 days a week! "(12 hours M-F & 8 hours Saturday & Sunday) She forgave me when she got her first paycheck & she & Tom were able to save \$ for their first house. I loved working with my friend that summer & going to lunch together. Love you Mariann. Your friend, Karen

**Karen Jackson** - March 01, 2019 at 12:48 PM

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“ Mariann and I grew up on the same street -Mid Oaks Road in Monroe, NY. Our houses were two houses apart on the same side of the street and we were constantly together the first 8 1/2 years of our lives. She was more than my cousin, more than my best friend- she was my rock. In kindergarten they separated us into separate rooms because they had a policy of splitting up family members. I cried all day that first day. The next day my mom came to school and insisted I be transferred into Mariann's room. And the principal agreed! I was so happy and although we didn't always play in class or on the yard together, I always kept her in my sight. She was my security blanket. Never again were we in the same classroom.  
Mariann and I were opposites-she was small, I was tall, but I always looked up to her. I feel so blessed to have had my cousin Mariann in my life. I love you so much dear cousin and I know we will reunite in Heaven. I send my love to my Aunt Ann, Tom, their children and grandchildren , & my cousins, Doug, Jeanne, Bill, Charlie and Al. May Our Lord comfort you in your grief and wrap his loving arms around you.

**Paula Calvet Dersom** - February 28, 2019 at 11:38 PM

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“ I knew Mariann in elementary school, I lived three blocks down from her in Sylmar, CA. I remember going over to play at her house and she was so much fun. I went to high school with her too, she was the best friendly smile on campus. Rest easy Mariann, I will never forget you friendship, Love, Mary(Dellecese) Robertson Class of 69' Alemany High School.

**Mary L Robertson** - February 28, 2019 at 09:08 PM

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“ My deepest sympathies to Jenny and the Teresa family. I never got to meet Jenny’s Mom, but the beautiful obituary and Jenny’s stories over the years makes me feel like I did. My thoughts and prayers are with you.



**Jenna Boley** - February 28, 2019 at 08:17 PM

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“ Mariann was a sweetheart, to be sure. I remember a camping trip with Tom & Mariann and how the wind almost blew our tents down...it was freezing! I also remember all the times Mariann would make a cake for a special event and Tom would sneak a piece, right in the very center of the cake, leaving an obvious hole in it! I was always amazed at her patience with him...she was mad and frustrated but ended up laughing it off. Tom, mister practical joker! I remember so many mornings over coffee and visiting with MA, Laurie, me, and sometimes others after we dropped our little ones off to school and/or preschool. So much fun.  
Rest peacefully, MA. You will be missed by many. Prayers for your family. Thankful for the many memories.  
Debi Gillan

**Debi Gillan** - February 28, 2019 at 08:02 PM

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“ Lori Floesser lit a candle in memory of Mariann Rena Terusa



**Lori Floesser** - February 28, 2019 at 05:19 PM

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“ Where has all the years gone. I still remember those great summers with my cousin Mariann staying with Aunt Marie and grandma. We were only about 12 years old and didn’t want to take naps anymore as grandmother wanted us too. We both loved the Beach Boys and the Beatles, and would ask Aunt Marie if she liked them too! Aunt

Marie wasn't too sure. We would sneak out of the house through the window and go play in the backyard/game room area. We would throw darts and sometimes just place the dart in the bulls eye just to get .50 in change to buy a snack. The most fun for us was when Aunt Marie would drop us off at the front gate of Disneyland and let us loose for days on end while Aunt Marie went to work. What fun!! And I always say I could have been a park attendant because we knew where all the bathrooms were. Then Mariann met Tom and I met Ken and we started our families and went our separate ways. Saw her only at family reunions and once at their home after winning many prizes from a TV show.

I know we will see each other again and it will never end. We will be with our loved ones and our Lord Jesus Christ for eternity. What fun!!

Love to all, Tom and Aunt Ann and family. Ken & Cathy Calvet Haskins

**cathy haskins** - February 28, 2019 at 04:36 PM

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“ RIP Mrs. Terusa. We never met but your daughter is one of my closest and long time friends. Jenny is beautiful and one of a kind and I can only assume she inherited that from you. May you find eternal peace on your new journey until you can meet up with your family and loved ones once again.

**Lori Floesser** - February 28, 2019 at 04:23 PM