



## Gloria Ann (Luzzi) Maher

January 8, 1935 - June 26, 2026

Gloria Ann (Luzzi) Maher, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, educator, and former vice principal of Benicia High School, passed peacefully into eternal rest at the age of 91.

Born on January 8, 1935, in San Francisco, Gloria was the cherished daughter of Joseph and Rose Luzzi. Her lifelong love of learning began at Lawton Elementary School in the city. After her family relocated to Santa Cruz, she attended Mission Hill Junior High and graduated from Santa Cruz High School with the Class of 1952.

Gloria continued her education at Monterey Peninsula College, earning her Associate of Arts degree in 1954, followed by a Bachelor of Arts in Business Education from San Francisco State College in 1956. She later earned a Master's degree in Vocational Education from Sacramento State University in 1977.

Her remarkable work ethic began early. From selling cherries on her family's farm in Santa Cruz to working part-time during high school for California Pacific Title Insurance Company and Rieter Berry Farms, Gloria learned the value of dedication and service. After college, she worked for Pacific Far East Shipping Lines preparing ships' manifests and later served as an Executive Secretary for Reynolds Metals in San Francisco.

Although encouraged immediately after graduation to become a business

education teacher by her former mentor, Larry Lawrence, Gloria believed she first needed real-world business experience before teaching others. A year later, Mr. Lawrence again invited her to join the Business Department at Santa Cruz High School. She accepted and began her teaching career as a business education instructor, teaching typing, shorthand, bookkeeping, and business English.

On April 12, 1958, Gloria married the love of her life, Patrick W. Maher, at Old Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Capitola. While Patrick began his career in insurance claims, Gloria worked in the San Diego State University typing pool before choosing to devote herself to raising their growing family. From 1959 to 1968, she embraced life as a stay-at-home mother, often saying those nine years were the happiest of her life.

When she returned to education in 1968, Gloria received teaching offers from both St. Francis High School in Sacramento and Benicia High School. She chose Benicia High, beginning what would become a distinguished 32-year career. For 18 years she inspired students as a beloved Business Education teacher before becoming Benicia's first female Vice Principal. She faithfully served in that role for 14 years, helping lead the school during its recognition as a two-time California Distinguished School, before retiring in 1999. During her career, Gloria taught more than 20,000 students and positively influenced thousands more as an administrator. Her compassion, fairness, and unwavering commitment to students left a lasting legacy throughout the Benicia community.

Beyond her career in education, Gloria was an essential partner in the Maher family's businesses, North Bay Adjusters and Motorhome Specialists of American Canyon. After long days at school, she spent countless evenings typing invoices and insurance claims while helping raise five sons.

Retirement allowed Gloria to devote more time to the things she loved most:

gardening, reading, camping, cooking treasured Italian family recipes, singing in her church choir, hosting large family gatherings, and creating lasting memories with her family in Santa Cruz. Her greatest joy was being "Noni" to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A woman of deep Catholic faith, Gloria traveled to her ancestral homeland of Italy nine times. One of the most meaningful moments of her life came in 2001 when she met Pope Saint John Paul II, an encounter that further strengthened her lifelong faith. She also became the cherished bridge between her American family and long-lost relatives in Italy, reconnecting generations through love and heritage.

Gloria was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Patrick W. Maher; her parents, Joseph and Rose Luzzi; her sons, Daniel J. Maher and infant son Gerald Maher; and her brother, Adrian J. Luzzi.

She is lovingly survived by her sons, Thomas (Nancy) Maher of San Francisco; Patrick (Cindy) Maher Jr. of Ogden, Utah; James (Tracy) Maher of Grand Coulee, Washington; and John D. (Tammy) Maher of Plymouth, California. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Danny, Sean, Brendan, Kelsey, Kimberly, Hannah, Margaret, Joseph, Kristen Young, Shannon Taylor, Conor and Bridget; seven beloved great-grandchildren: Madison, James, Andrew, Matthew, Olivia, Winter, and Declan; along with many extended family members, friends, former students, and colleagues whose lives she touched.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2026 at Twin Chapels Mortuary, 1100 Tennessee Street, Vallejo, CA from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. A Catholic Rite of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, July 3, 2026, at Saint Basil's Catholic Church in Vallejo. Visitation will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Rosary at 8:45 a.m. and Funeral Mass at 9:00 a.m. Interment will follow at

10:30 a.m. at All Souls Catholic Cemetery in Vallejo.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Gloria's memory to Smile Train – [smiletrain.org](http://smiletrain.org) – to help provide life-changing cleft palate surgeries for children around the world.

# Cemetery Details

## All Souls Cemetery

550 Glen Cove Road  
Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 644-5209

# Upcoming Events

## Visitation

**JUL 2.** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Twin Chapels Mortuary  
1100 Tennessee Street  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 552-6696  
twinchapels@aol.com

## Vigil Service

**JUL 3.** 8:30 AM (PT)

St. Basil's Catholic Church  
1230 Nebraska Street  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 644-5251

## Mass of Christian Burial

---

JUL 3. 9:00 AM (PT)

St. Basil's Catholic Church  
1230 Nebraska Street  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 644-5251

# Tribute Wall



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gloria Ann (Luzzi) Maher.*



---

1 hour ago



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gloria Ann (Luzzi) Maher.

---

1 hour ago