



## Helen Esperanza Catubig

August 18, 1946 - October 28, 2016

HELEN ESPERANZA CATUBIG (1946-2016)

DEVOTED WIFE, LOVING MOTHER & DEDICATED TEACHER

Helen Esperanza Catubig was born on August 18, 1946, to Monico Villatuya Esperanza and Patrocinio Reodica Romana in Makati City, Philippines.

Raised in a family with four brothers and one sister (Amor, Harry, Samuel, Ronaldo, & Ruby who passed away on Ash Wednesday 2015), Helen grew up in what she described as “an innocent, wonderful life in the Philippines.”

Helen’s upbringing helped her overcome the obstacles of living in the U.S.

She attributed her success in America to her father who encouraged her to go to America and “get that education, despite the unknown hurdles.” Also, Fely Bacani (her mother’s sister who passed away in 2015) was a “moving force” in coming to America. Helen earned a B.A. in Psychology from the University of San Francisco and later earned an M.A. in Education while raising kids.

In 1969, she met and fell in love with Ernesto Antalan Catubig, a wounded U.S. Army combat veteran who lost his right arm in the Vietnam War. “I will be your lost right arm,” she said to him. On June 6, 1970, Helen and Ernesto became one through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in San Francisco. This year, they celebrated 46 years of marriage. They testified to the great beauty and joy of marriage and family life. All 5 children were born in San Francisco: Marissa, Daniel, Tove Ann, James John, and Stefanie Jane. They moved to Vallejo in 1988. The parents instilled in their children the importance of God, family, education, and service. In a

text message in September, Helen wrote to one of her kids, “No matter what happens, you are my best kids in the world. That, never forget when the time comes.” She and Ernesto taught their kids how to pray the rosary even into their adulthood.

Helen retired in 2005 after 35 years of teaching for the San Francisco Unified School District (Balboa High; Denman Middle; Longfellow Elementary) and is listed in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. She served as an exceptional leader in numerous Filipino American community organizations in the SF Bay Area (e.g., Filipino Community of Solano County, Inc.; Fil-Am Retired U.S. Armed Forces Association; Sekder Day Pangasinan; Luisiana Association).

Helen had a long battle with multiple illnesses, including Diabetes, Kidney Disease, and Congestive Heart Failure, to name just a few. Over the past year, Helen was in and out of the hospital and rehabilitation center numerous times, which became longer and more frequent over the past three months. She thought of others, especially her grandkids, during her illness.

Helen returned home from the hospital on Friday, October 28. It was the Feast of St. Jude, patron saint of impossible cases, and Tove Ann’s birthday. During the ride home in the ambulance, Tove Ann quietly prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for her mom. When Helen arrived in the family room, family members immediately said, “You’re home, Mom! Welcome home, Mom!” because they knew that it was her dying wish to pass peacefully in her own home. Within minutes, as her son Daniel hung a crucifix above her bed, Helen took her last breath. Stefanie Jane described Helen’s final moment as if “she took her last breath as a sigh of relief” for she was finally home. Helen passed away during the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

#### VIEWINGS

Thurs., Nov. 3 \* 1-9pm

Twin Chapels Mortuary, 1100 Tennessee St., Vallejo 94590, (707) 552-6696

Fri., Nov. 4 \* 2-5pm

St. Catherine’s Catholic Church, 3450 Tennessee St., Vallejo 94591, (707)

553-1355

PARISH SERVICES & VIGIL

Fri., Nov. 4 \* 5:30pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Hour w/Devotional Prayers & Benediction

St. Catherine's Catholic Church, 3450 Tennessee St., Vallejo 94591

Fri., Nov. 4 \* 7pm

First Friday Mass

St. Catherine's Catholic Church, 3450 Tennessee St., Vallejo 94591

Fr. Gerome Hernandez, MSP

(The family asks for prayers at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Mass intention will be for Helen Catubig.)

Fri., Nov 4 \* 7:30pm

Vigil (to begin the Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church)

St. Catherine's Catholic Church, 3450 Tennessee St., Vallejo 94591

Deacon Dennis Purificacion

(Helen's son-in-law)

[Refreshments will be available in the Parish Life Center from 2:30-9:30pm.]

FUNERAL & RITE OF COMMITTAL

Sat., Nov. 5 \* 10am Funeral Mass

St. Catherine's Catholic Church, 3450 Tennessee St., Vallejo 94591

Fr. Resti Galang, MSP

Rite of Committal (Interment)

All Souls Catholic Cemetery, 550 Glen Cove Rd., Vallejo 94591, (707) 644-5209

Fr. Resti Galang, MSP

Special Request: Before she passed away, Helen requested that people please wear the bright colors of purple, white and yellow at the funeral and avoid wearing black as much as possible. Thank you.

HELPING THE CATUBIG FAMILY

Many people have asked how they can help during this difficult time. Before Helen's death, the national cemetery in Dixon was first chosen since there were no expenses for veterans. However, after Helen's passing, Ernesto changed his mind and decided he wanted the family to be closer to Helen's gravesite at All Souls Cemetery in Vallejo instead. This meant an unexpected significant increase in funeral costs. Your assistance will help greatly during this time of need. Your donations can be deposited/wired into Ernesto Catubig's Wells Fargo account (Routing #121042882 & Account #610-664-8477). Contact him for more information @ (707) 655-6804. Thank you

# Cemetery Details

## All Souls Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 3. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (PT)

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

## Visitation

NOV 4. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

St. Catherine's Catholic Church  
3450 Tennessee Street  
Vallejo, CA 94591

## Service

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NOV 4. 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM (PT)

St. Catherine's Catholic Church  
3450 Tennessee Street  
Vallejo, CA 94591

## Service

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NOV 5. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Catherine's Catholic Church  
3450 Tennessee Street  
Vallejo, CA 94591

# Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Helen Esperanza Catubig.*



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November 04, 2016 at 02:27 PM



“ *Garden of Serenity Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen Esperanza Catubig.*



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November 04, 2016 at 02:44 AM



“ *From Evelyn & Hardie Perez and family purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Helen Esperanza Catubig.*



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**From Evelyn & Hardie Perez and family - November 02, 2016 at 07:12 PM**

LB

“ Mrs. Helen Esperanza Catubig was a faculty at Balboa High School and also an advisor of the Pilipino Cultural Club. She was my homeroom teacher for 4 years (89C). She was a good person and have a soft heart. She tries to understand you as a person and will comfort you. She was like a second mother to her students and loved by many. Our Condolences and Prayers are with he whole families. Mrs. Catubig you are now going home and will be joining Our Creator. May you Rest In Peace 🙏 Thank you for the 4 years of my high school life! Your memories will be remembered and cherished forever!! From Maria Lourdes Bautista and Family - Class of '89

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**Lourdes Bautista** - November 02, 2016 at 06:04 PM



“ You are my favorite teacher.my homeroom teacher for 4 years. Thanks so much for everything Mrs. Helen E. Catubig. I will never forget our memories together. Thanks for everything. Im glad i had a chance to talk to u on the phone thanks to arnold evangelista . Thanks for taking us to washington dc close up program and for being our pilipino cultural club adviser . I will cherish all the good times we had. Condolence to ur lovedones and friends. Love you, winnie class of 93 balboa high

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**Winnie Velasco** - November 02, 2016 at 05:04 PM

JV

“ Mrs. Helen Esperanza Catubig was a faculty at Balboa High School who were loved by many students. We praying for you, your family and friends during this difficult time. May God bless you with love, comfort and peace. We love you and you will be missed by all of us.



*From: The Ventura of San Francisco, CA--  
Lourdes and Ernesto  
Fe, Jane, Annie and Erwin  
Katarina and Jared*

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**Jane Ventura** - November 02, 2016 at 04:54 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Helen Esperanza Catubig.



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November 02, 2016 at 03:43 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Helen Esperanza Catubig.



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November 01, 2016 at 09:20 PM