



Evelia "Evie" Permesang

February 13, 1934 - June 10, 2023

Evelia "Evie" Permesang, age 89, of Holland, passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

Born one of twelve children in rural Panama, Evie was sent to Panama City at age 13 to earn money for the family as a maid and restaurant worker. In her late 20s, she met a handsome young U.S. soldier working at the Panama Canal, and she and John were soon married. She came to the United States at 27 years of age speaking very little English. Their interracial marriage was illegal in over half of the U.S., but they settled in Michigan where it was allowed. John was the love of her life, and she mourned him deeply when he passed at age 58.

Evie was a force of joy whose passion for life was infectious. From dancing on stage during celebrations to teaching her grandchildren how to dance, she was a person in constant physical, spiritual, and emotional motion. She has been described as a "mother to all" as she embraced all children, took daily care of many, and joined them in play as a supervisor during recess at St. Francis de Sales Elementary School. A member of St. Francis de Sales for over 60 years, her faith was ingrained in all she did. In her last ten years, she struggled with dementia, but the disease never took away her loving essence.

Evie is survived by her children: Dawn Permesang, Mary Ann (Derek

Emerson) Permesang, James (Kari) Permesang, Laura (Todd Turner) Permesang; grandchildren: AJ Garcia, Kyle Garcia, Kayla Garcia, Gray (Kim Jongsma) Emerson, Maria (Lee Villalpando) Emerson, Dov Emerson, Raissa (Matt) Turner, Haley (James) Bradford, Adria (Joe) Paggi, Gabi Permesang, Eli Permesang, Nicholas Turner; great-grandchildren: Scout Villalpando, Easton Turner, Ryo Garcia, Mason, Marlie, and Jordy Bradford ; and siblings and extended family members in Panama.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Permesang, and grandson, Oliver Emerson.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 16, 2023, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 195 W. 13th St. Holland. Visitation will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. prior to the service, also at the church. Burial will be in Graafschap Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be given to St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church.

Cemetery Details

Graafschap Cemetery

32nd Steet at Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **16**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church
171 W. 13th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Funeral Mass

JUN **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church
171 W. 13th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Evelia "Evie" Permesang*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - June 12, 2023 at 02:00 PM

EC

*Great women
I was so impressed as a teenager her home I remember her piercing in my ears. My mom sent me down to go get my ears pierced by her. I have the fondest memories of her.*

Estela Castro - June 16, 2023 at 10:03 AM

DB

“ *So sad to hear about the passing of a wonderful soul and neighbor*

David Lewis Bruins - June 19, 2023 at 10:55 AM

ER

“ *We are very sorry to hear of the passing of "Tia Neya" as we affectionately called her in Panama. We pray peace to her soul and resignation to her family.
Condolences from the family of her brother
Emiliano Rodriguez*



Eyra Rodriguez - June 13, 2023 at 10:19 AM

BT

“ *Bob and Barbara Turner purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Evelia "Evie" Permesang.*



Bob and Barbara Turner - June 12, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Evelia "Evie" Permesang.*



June 12, 2023 at 01:01 PM

PF

“ *Our sincere condolences to your entire family.
The Fabiano Family
Holland Peanut Store
Holland, Michigan*

Paula Fabiano - June 12, 2023 at 12:42 PM



Rogelio
Guardia

“ *I'm sorry for auntie Evie. Love from Panama.*

Rogelio Guardia - June 12, 2023 at 12:32 PM

BR

“ I am so sorry for the loss of my dear friend Evie. this breaks my heart for the entire family. i have known evie many years and she was like family to me than just a resident i took care of. i loved her very much. i will never forget all our little jokes, stories, hugs, dancing and just being around each other daily! she was very special to me and so many here. Fly high my sweet angel. u will be missed!

- love you , Brooke (Brooks)

brooke - June 12, 2023 at 12:24 PM