



Gladis Barahona Martinez

November 22, 1965 - August 18, 2025

Gladis Barahona Martínez was born on November 22, 1965, in canton La Isla, near the city of Metapán, in Santa Ana, El Salvador. Gladis passed away on the afternoon of August 18, 2025, in the company of her daughter, Melany Cervantes Barahona.

At the age of 17, Gladis emigrated from El Salvador to Los Angeles, California to start a new life with her siblings. Like many immigrants, she arrived with no money, no knowledge of the English language, and no formal education. What she did bring with her was a strong will to succeed and a resilient hope for new opportunities in a new country.

After working a full-time job during the day, she assiduously attended night school to study English. She did this all because her sister, María, refused to translate a letter for her. She was always stubborn and proud: the surest way to get her to reach a goal was to tell her she couldn't do it. That's how she ended up being successful at so many things. She started with English, which she mastered over her lifetime and used valiantly to stand up for herself and others whenever necessary. She followed this with sewing, becoming a master seamstress and working for decades making garments for high-end brands like L.L. Bean.

Later in life, even after losing her sight and being declared legally blind, she

never stopped being creative. Even though her eyesight was limited, she spent her time knitting and working on other projects. Throughout her life, she never stopped learning.

She loved designing clothes, dressing up, wearing heels, and perfume — but those who had the pleasure of knowing her well know that what she loved most was laughter. She shared her joy, her anecdotes, and her jokes with everyone — even with the doctors and nurses who cared for her in hospitals and clinics.

Above all else, she loved passionately and showered her love and affection on her daughter, her siblings, and her nieces and nephews. Her absence now leaves a huge void in our hearts and lives, but we will always remember our beloved mother, sister, aunt, and friend with the greatest affection.

May she rest in peace.

The family invites friends to join them for the wake, which is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc., 309 N Queen Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701. The funeral service will take place on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 810 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

The interment will take place in Maplewood Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Maplewood Cememtery

1621 Duke University Rd
Durham, NC 27701

Previous Events

Wake

AUG 26. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.
309 N Queen St
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 682-1171
scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com
<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

Service

AUG 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
810 W Chapel Hill St
Durham, NC 27701
<http://icdurham.org/index.php/en>

Tribute Wall

GM

“ *Mi amiga Gladis, was one of the kindest, most generous people I've ever known. Despite facing many challenges, she never let her struggles define her. She was always smiling, always positive, and always giving.*



One of the things I'll never forget is how, even with limited means, she made sure to bring Christmas gifts for my kids and for me. It wasn't about the presents—it was about the love behind them. That's who she was: someone who gave from the heart, no matter what.

When I would visit her, she loved to talk—and I loved to listen. She had so many stories to share, and being with her felt comforting and real. Her voice, her laughter, her warmth—those are things I'll carry with me always.

Though I wish I had the chance to see her one more time, I find comfort in the memories we shared and the kindness she showed me. Her spirit and lessons of love and strength will stay with me forever.

Gladis taught me what it means to be strong, to be kind, and to care deeply for others. I miss her deeply, but I'm so grateful to have known her.

Gladis Y. Martinez - August 26, 2025 at 11:12 AM

GM

“ Gladis Martinez purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Gladis Barahona Martinez.



Gladis Martinez - August 26, 2025 at 10:38 AM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Gladis Barahona Martinez.



August 26, 2025 at 01:00 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gladis Barahona Martinez.

August 26, 2025 at 01:00 AM

TF

“ The Ramos Family purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Gladis Barahona Martinez.



The Ramos Family - August 24, 2025 at 02:28 AM

BJ

“ Betty Jones lit a candle in memory of Gladis Barahona Martinez



Betty Jones - August 23, 2025 at 06:21 AM

LA

“ Condolences to the family of Gladis. She had an extraordinary life.

Lawanda - August 20, 2025 at 08:02 AM