

A Life Well Remembered

Araceli Ruiz Ives

Loving wife, mother and grandmother

Araceli "Sally" or Celi R. Ives, 85, passed away suddenly on Monday, March 19, 2012 in McAllen, Texas. Cremation rites have been accorded.

Araceli was born on October 19, 1926, to Mateo and Josefina Ruiz in Manila, the Philippines. She was the eldest of nine children. Celi led a remarkable life that took her from her humble beginnings to nearly every corner of the globe. As a young woman, while living in Manila, Celi was a flight attendant for Philippine Airlines, and it was during this time that she met and married Cpt. James L. Harper, with whom she had two daughters, Joanne and Roberta. After residing in the Philippines, Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong and California, they settled in Berwick, Iowa in 1969. Sally embraced her Berwick residence as her most permanent and trusted home, and it was here in Iowa that she found peace and roots, calling Berwick home for over forty years.



Those lucky enough to have their lives enmeshed with Sally's were blessed and strengthened, as was she by them. She was respected, admired, and loved for her compassion, kindness, generosity, home-cooked delicacies, intelligence and sassy sense of humor. For those who didn't know Araceli, a hundred descriptive words are inadequate. For those who did, no words are necessary.

Sally was widowed from her first husband, Jim, and then later from her second spouse Vern Gnade. Sally is survived by her third husband, Roy G. Ives, of Des Moines; two daughters, Joanne Vickers (Steve) of Ontario, Canada; and Roberta Bidney (Dennis) of Ankeny; Eight grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother.

A memorial service will be held in Des Moines at a date in May, yet to be determined.

Source: Des Moines Register, April 8, 2012