



Zulema Plata

April 5, 1926 - November 1, 2024

Zulema Plata passed peacefully at age 98½ on November 10, 2024. Zulema was born to Maria Magdalena Plata, on April 5, 1926 in Nunchia, Colombia, South America. Zulema was an excellent student and graduated from The National University of Colombia School of Nursing with Honors, and then earned her master's degree from Del Valle University, certifying her as a nurse midwife and obstetrical nurse. Ms. Plata then became the head nurse at her local hospital.

Zulema was inspired by visiting professor, Lucille Mercadante, to come the United States to continue her nursing career. After mastering a course in English proficiency, Zulema then was determined to become a US citizen, which she accomplished in 1974. Zulema continued her work in OB until her retirement. Outside her nursing career, Zulema was an avid gardener and cook, and dog mom to several miniature poodles.

Best of all, Zulema was a part of the Mercadante family. We loved her like a sister, mother, grandmother. She was fiercely loyal. She loved deeply. She spoke her mind. Her determination set the bar high for all that met her.

Zulema is survived by Steve and Lynne Mercadante, Joe, Katie, Roman and CT Mercadante, and Mike, Krissy, Avery and Ashton Mercadante. She was preceded in death by Lucille Mercadante.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

NOV **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Gainesville
10900 SW 24th Ave
Gainesville, FL 32607

Burial

NOV **23**. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Forest Meadows Cemetery (West)
700 NW 143rd Street
Newberry, FL 32669
(352) 376-9552
<https://forestmeadowssf.com/>