



Lina Quan Llacer

December 24, 1923 - March 9, 2017

Longtime Staten Island resident Lina Llacer passed away in her sleep on the morning of Thursday, March 9. She was 93.

Born Lintay “Lina” Quan in the southern Chinese city of Kew Keang (or “Nine Rivers”), Lina moved with her parents in the early 1920s to the island of Jolo in the Philippines, where her father’s company exported pearls from that region’s clear waters.

When Lina’s father died suddenly of cholera three years later, her pregnant mother brought Lina, along with Lina’s younger sister, north to Manila, where they reestablished themselves with the help of an American pastor.

Lina’s mother opened a small eatery in Pasay City outside of the Philippine capital and taught her children never to bang the pots and pans if they wanted good luck — a lesson Lina took to heart. Lina took her lessons at school to heart, too. She excelled academically. Later in life, she would sometimes recite for her grandchildren long chunks of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s epic poem “The Song of Hiawatha,” which she memorized at school during this time.

When war came to Manila, Lina was forced to recite the Japanese national anthem by memory instead. Her mother fell ill with tuberculosis and died soon

after World War II ended. Now an orphan at 22 and left to look after her teenaged siblings, Lina chanced upon a distant relative and old business partner of her father's in Manila. The man recognized Lina and arranged for her to study nursing at Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong, and for her siblings to be cared for as well.

Lina departed for Hong Kong to stay with a cousin, Chan Lau Yung, and on her first day of nursing school, April 1, 1949, Lina met classmates who would become her lifelong friends, including Daisy Pan, Helen Kan and Violet Chin. For decades afterward, they would keep up lively correspondences via both letter and postcard.

At the time, however, Lina was more interested in exchanging letters with a friend she had met in Manila after the war. Francisco Lee-Llacer, a square-shouldered war veteran and survivor of the Bataan Death March, was determined to start a new life for himself as an accountant. He was equally determined to marry Lina.

When Lina graduated from nursing school at the top of her class — she insisted that if she grasped the material any more quickly than her peers, it was only because she was slightly older than most of them — Francisco came to Hong Kong to meet her and proposed. Taken with his daring, Lina said yes. Francisco and Lina were wed in Hong Kong on July 26, 1952 and enjoyed a long boat ride back to Manila.

Their first child, Mary Ann, was born in 1953, followed by Mary Jane in 1956, Mary Rose in 1958 and Mario Brian in 1960. During this time, Francisco's accounting business started to take off. His first client was a new soy sauce company called Central Foods, followed by a series of furniture makers and printers. He later earned a law degree and even started a ranching business. Lina meanwhile would help administer shots as a volunteer nurse at Mary the

Queen Church's Catholic Women's League in Manila's Little Baguio, and for others who would come by her home. She demonstrated sterile procedure for her onlooking children and helped inspire two of them to pursue careers in medicine.

After Francisco died suddenly of a heart attack in 1984, Lina split her time between Manila and the United States, where three of her children would eventually move. She volunteered for a time at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn and with the Legion of Mary at Sacred Heart Church on Staten Island.

In later years, Lina most enjoyed spending time with her six grandchildren, Robert, Christopher, Megan, Alfred, Andrea and Francis — all of whom she helped raise — and her great-grandson Massimo. She loved them and they loved her “two, three, four,” as she was fond of saying.

Lina was predeceased by her husband Francisco Lee-Llacer, her younger sister Chun Tay “June” Choy and her younger brother Foo Wah “José” Quan, and survived by her children Mary Ann Naef, Mary Jane Lacist, Mary Rose Lee-Llacer of Staten Island and Mario Brian Lee-Llacer.

Visitation is scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15 at John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, located at 28 Eltingville Blvd. in Eltingville. A funeral mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 16 at the Church of St. Rita, located at 281 Bradley Ave.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station)
Staten Island, NY 10312

Visitation

MAR 15. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station)
Staten Island, NY 10312

Service

MAR 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Rita's Church
281 Bradley Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314

Tribute Wall



“ *Lina Quan Llacer*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *I just now learned of Lina's passing. She was a gentle and devout soul often seen in the Sacred Heart congregation. Thankfully, she had a long and loving life. Condolences! to the extended family.*

Charles, Ella and Jonathan Miller

Charles Miller - September 16, 2018 at 03:34 PM



“ *Maryrose, Mary Jane, Mary Ann, I've known Maryrose geessh I'd like to say 29 years and recently met her 2 sisters...my pleasure...my deepest condolences to all of you and Susan (cousin)...when loved ones pass on sometimes words are hard to find but in this case because I'm the person I am you will all understand...they say in time all wounds heel and this too shall pass...wounds don't heel they get softer, look at pictures smile remember the moments because that is when you will still feel the presence of Lina..Be safe in your travels taking Lina home to rest...Always Maureen*

Maureen Alfano - March 18, 2017 at 02:28 PM

“ Dear Mary Rose, Mary Ann, and Mary Jane,
I know that you miss your Mom but what you may not know, I miss her too. I can't say the words that will assuage the pain and loneliness of your loss.

Some may say that time will ease her memory from our hearts and relegate those shared moments into the halls of our aging hearts and be blown by the wind of forgetfulness.

We will never forget. But while it is always good to remember those moments; the pain will always be there in our hearts. And time will never be kind to us.

In the four scores and four years of my life I have lost so many of our dear relatives; from our grandparents down to the youngest one of them all. When I am alone in the silence of my home, I can not help the tears that flow from my eyes and flood my cheeks.

The brief poem that I am about to quote is the lament written by Mary Elizabeth Frey of Maryland which she wrote in 1932. I hope this will keep her memory alive in our hearts and soul:

“DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP
I AM NOT THERE; I DO NOT SLEEP
I AM THE THOUSAND WINDS THAT BLOW
I AM THE DIAMOND GLINTS IN THE SNOW
I AM THE TENDER AUTUMN RAIN
WHEN YOU AWAKEN IN THE MORNING HUSH
I AM THE SWIFT UPLIFTING RUSH
OF QUIET BIRDS IN CIRCLED FLIGHT.
I AM THE SOFT STARS THAT SHINE AT NIGHT
DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND CRY.
I AM NOT HERE; I DID NOT DIE.”

Let us not forget how much of herself she shared with us. Love! We wish it to be etched in every fiber of heart and soul. Then she shall always live and will never die.

Manoy Dado and Manay Zorayda

I remember during Mama Conching's 90th birthday your Mom asked me, "What is your Chinese name?" I responded, "Lee King Man."

Then she said, "That is not Chinese." I replied, "It is. I will show you." I showed her what I wrote. I know how to write 'Lee' in Chinese but King Man. So I created a pseudo Chinese calligraphy: a man with a crown. Mama Lintay , " Look a man with a crown." She laughed, saying, " I like that."

Reynaldo & Zorayda Lee-Llacer - March 15, 2017 at 11:03 AM

LA

“ Love, Casey & Amy purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Lina Quan Llacer.



Love, Casey & Amy - March 13, 2017 at 11:59 PM

KE

“ My name is Kelvin. I was 9 years old when I first met Auntie Lina during a visit to Manila. Never would I have thought that, a year later, she would take me into her home for the next 7 years. Auntie bought me my very first birthday cake and gave me my English name “Kelvin”, and from then on, I was known as “Little K” in her family. Throughout my teenage years in Manila, she never made me feel like an outsider — I was truly a part of her warm family. After I settled down in Vancouver, Canada, Auntie visited several times. Even as she aged, she was still the same kind-hearted and faithful lady who seldom missed a Sunday Mass. This rainy evening, as I passed by the porch of a storefront in Whistler, Canada, I was reminded of a time when Auntie and I sat at that very spot, chatting during her visit. Such an insignificant moment has now become a forever-cherished memory. The porch seats once occupied by us are now just rainy, cold and empty... I know life must go on, dearest Auntie. Thank you for taking care of me during my teenage years. Thank you for the many wonderful memories — I will treasure them in my heart forever, knowing God is there to carry you safely to Heaven.

Kelvin - March 13, 2017 at 09:58 PM



Mary Rose, Arthur, Alfred and family. The warm loving words from “Little K” says it all. Although we never met your mom we are sorry for your loss. Know that mom is now at peace and with God

Paul W Vause - March 14, 2017 at 07:46 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Lina Quan Llacer.



March 13, 2017 at 08:53 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Lina Quan Llacer.* ”



March 13, 2017 at 04:17 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lina Quan Llacer.* ”



March 13, 2017 at 04:09 PM



“ *The Dunns, Millers, Hardcastles, and Aunt Gert purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Lina Quan Llacer.* ”



The Dunns, Millers, Hardcastles, and Aunt Gert - March 13, 2017 at 12:22 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lina Quan Llacer.* ”



March 12, 2017 at 11:29 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lina Quan Llacer.*



March 12, 2017 at 11:26 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lina Quan Llacer.*



March 12, 2017 at 11:05 PM