



Asela E. Gejo

March 5, 1928 - April 27, 2020

Asela Gejo, age 92, passed away from Coronavirus peacefully on April 27, 2020 at the Chelsea of Tinton Falls, where she resided since 2013 after suffering a stroke. Asela was born and raised in Cuba. She and her husband, Ariel, were blessed with 4 children and came to America in 1962 to escape communism. Two months after arriving in Miami, the Asbury Park Presbyterian Church sponsored the family to relocate in New Jersey on the 4th "Freedom Flight" taking Cubans from crowded Miami to other cities. This was the first Flight to New Jersey. Asela was a teacher in Cuba for 18 years and she was a proud teacher's aide in Bond Street school in Asbury Park until she retired.

Asela was predeceased by her loving parents Acela and Daniel Rodriguez; her brothers Daniel and Juan Francisco; her husband Ariel; and her son Ariel Jr.; as well as two sons-in-law Charles "Buddy" Tetti and Daniel W. Anderson, Jr.

Asela was blessed with her surviving daughters: Mirta Anderson, Alicia Hartmann and her husband Bill, and Glady Falco and her husband Joey; 9 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are her two sisters: the oldest is Aida, and the youngest is Arely, both from Florida; and many nieces and nephews.

Raised Presbyterian all her life, Asela peacefully welcomed life in her eternal home alongside her creator. She solidly believed John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall

not perish but have eternal life.” Asela was a model of a person, she was a happy and loving lady, adored by all who knew her. Her passions were her Bible, her family, reading, movies, sewing, and going to the beach. She was an excellent cook though she hated the task. She cherished her time with her family, and enjoyed all children.

For online condolences, please visit Asela’s memorial page at www.bongarzonfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

ST

“ I am sorry to hear of the passing of Asela. I had the opportunity to meet her while I did some volunteer work at Cheslea this summer. Being a teacher myself, I always enjoyed listening to her stories of when she taught in Cuba and then in Asbury Park. I also loved her enthusiasm during BINGO! I didn't know her well, but I know she was a sweet woman. My condolences to you and your family.
Stephanie L.

Stephanie - May 29, 2020 at 05:20 PM

AK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Angel Kames - May 20, 2020 at 03:40 PM

RR

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing, Gladys. I remember her even to this day and haven't seen her for over 50 years. I will always remember her teaching me how to count to ten "en Espanol" at Bond St School in Asbury Park. She was one on my kindergarten teachers and I remember her fondly. May she rest in eternal peace and may God give you comfort at this sad time.

Renata Rasp

Renata Rasp - May 13, 2020 at 10:19 AM

IR

“ I had the pleasure of meeting and worshiping God with Asela when she attended the First Hispanic Presbyterian Church, Prince of Peace in Asbury Park. She was always cheerful and loving. My condolences to her family. The world has lost a lovely lady. May she be in God's loving presence.

Sincerely,
Iris Quiñones-Ramos

Iris - May 12, 2020 at 03:36 PM

AK

“ My condolences to the dear family Gejo. Asela was a dear and wonderful friend. She was always full of energy and ready to always help. We shared many memories of our Cuba and struggles in our arrival to the USA. A great cook and at times bringing some to school to share on special occasions. Asela cared very much about her family, students and friends. She always had a beautiful smile. She left behind a beautiful garden of joyful memories. RIP dear amiga.

Mr. Angel Kames

Angel Kames - May 11, 2020 at 11:24 AM

PJ

“ My condolences to the Gejo family she was a wonderful person and an extraordinary educator. It was an honor to have worked with her and I have many memories of her. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. 🙏🙏

Peter J.Cheney - May 08, 2020 at 02:11 PM

RR

“ I have the privilege to be her pastor for many years in the Prince of Peace First Hispanic Presbyterian Church Asbury Park . I share many memories . Rest In Peace .
Rev. Carmen M Rosario

Rev . Carmen Rosario - May 08, 2020 at 01:42 PM

RC

“ My condolences to all of Asela's wonderful family. She was a gem of a woman. She was energetic, passionate, resourceful, tough, fearless, responsible, fun loving and always a lady., Over the years she had shared,with me some of the problems that she had to deal with after arriving in the U.S. She was remarkable and I had great admiration for her. You are so fortunate to have had her as your matriarch. May your thoughts of her bring you joy and strength.
In sympathy,
Roberta Cavallo

Roberta Cavallo - May 01, 2020 at 02:06 PM

GM

“Asela was a sweet nurturing soul. Her big smile and kind heart made her the kind of person that everyone loved. Asela and my Mom met in church and from there began a wonderful friendship. Asela became friends with our entire family. Words can not express my gratitude for all that she did for my mom and for me. She would drive mom to the doctors so that I didn't have to miss work. They would go to the same doctor then go for lunch and shopping. How my mom looked forward to those outings. I would come home from work and find them in our kitchen talking and laughing while having cookies, like two teenagers. Even after my mom passed, Asela remained a good and close friend to our family. When Asela went to live at Chelsea Manor, I was honored to go visit and bring her Holy Communion from our church. I looked forward to seeing her smile and our chats each month. Even though she had some health issues, she never let it dampen her positive attitude and wonderful smile. I will truly miss our visits. Chatting about our families, our children and grandchildren and in her case great grandchildren. It was a special time for me. Asela's faith was evident in everything she did and in every person she met. She was an example of a life well lived. I thank God for bringing her into our lives. May the Lord bring an inner peace to all of her family.

Gee. McCormick - April 29, 2020 at 02:06 PM

CC

“ To all my beautiful family,

Even though I didn't get to spend a lot of time with you all, we are family and we have a bond that is still strong today. Both Tia Ase and I share something that is our name, Asela. For me it was an honor to have that in common with her. We both love hard and family is very important. I will miss my tia a lot and I know she will be missed. I love you all and my prayers are with you all.

Love you all

Chela

Chela Calves - April 28, 2020 at 03:16 PM

JS

What a beautiful tribute, so lovely. Prays to all of you for your loss. Gladly, I know how very much you loved her and how much she will be missed, May she Rest In Peace. Love, Jill

Jill Strollo - April 29, 2020 at 08:12 AM

KT

“ *Although I only knew Asela in her later years, I describe her as an angel on earth. Her spirit and laughter was infectious. She adored her family more than words. I will truly miss her.*

Katherine Tommaso - April 28, 2020 at 02:57 PM



“ *I was her Facita she was my Mami. She would delight in telling people when we were out, then later at Chelsea that I was her oldest Irish daughter. It made me feel special. She was loving caring and understanding. It was such a joy to know her. She will always be in my heart. I know God has a special place for her just wish he could have waited a little longer.*

Faith Chambers - April 28, 2020 at 01:37 PM

LT

“Asela Gejo” is inscribed on a gold-plated bell that sits upon my desk in my third grade classroom. The bell was given to Asela (my Abuela) when she retired from her many years of education, and Abuela passed it on to me. It’s been resting on my desk for over 20 years, a symbol of so many lessons to be taught each school year. I refer to the bell often; I refer to Abuela often. I tell my students how Abuela threaded a proud and dignified family that grew up and expanded, knowing nothing but limitless love for each other. I carve in to my lessons examples of how Abuela withstood incredible hardships for the comfort, safety and well-being of her family. I tell my students how Abuela used her knowledge and brilliance for decades to teach children across two countries, teaching a vast array of skills and values, and changing young lives forever.

By consistent example, Abuela instilled lessons of goodness, kindness, honesty and perseverance in to the hearts and minds of countless students, friends and - most precious and perfectly - to family. Although it’s hard to understand why God took Abuela during such a difficult time, in a way it makes total sense. As humanity wonders “why”, it’s simple to reflect on Abuela’s life and realize exactly what the God she loved so much expected when He put us on this earth. Abuela lived a life that reminds us of what humanity stands for and what a stellar journey in this life should look like.

Abuela’s bell will continue to ring in my classroom, in my life and in my heart as I trudge on, extending her journey with my family and, of course, my own life.

Te quiero much, Abuela! 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Laura Tracey - April 28, 2020 at 12:50 PM

D&

I’m crying, this is a beautiful tribute! She made many sacrifices, keep that bell 🛎 ringing.

Daughter # 1 💎💎 - April 28, 2020 at 01:26 PM

HM

Beautiful Laura. Just beautiful.

Heather Moschberger - April 28, 2020 at 04:15 PM

HM

“*Abuela was an amazing, beautiful and loving person of whom I had the pleasure of knowing for all of my life. When I was a child, Abuela and Papi taught me my first Spanish words. I remember gathering together with the whole family and hearing the thunderous laughter of the Gejo’s, Anderson’s, Tetti’s, Falco’s and us – the MacDougall Family - who were welcomed in with open arms to this amazingly loving and remarkable family always enjoying each other’s company. I will never forget the smile that was always on her dear face and her big hugs and her sweet “hello Mami” she would greet everyone with along with a great big kiss. I am so thankful to have had the pleasure of knowing such a wonderful, sweet person such as Abuela. Truly an angel. My heart aches for all of you. I agree with the other sentiments that even at 92 she was taken too soon. Now she is in heaven, no longer suffering, and joining the ranks of amazing human beings who went too soon before. Imagine the party and the laughter Abuela will be sharing with Papi, Uncle Ariel, Uncle Buddy, Uncle Danny, and my dad. She is in very good company. To all of you -my lifelong friends- (no-make that family), my thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. I love you all very much and I know you will find the strength in each other to lift you as you are one of the strongest families I know. No doubt, due to the strength that Abuela instilled in all of you. I love you all.*

Heather (MacDougall) Moschberger

Heather Moschberger - April 28, 2020 at 12:15 PM

LT

This is so beautifully written, Heather! Thank you so much! I’m sure Abuela is smiling down on you!

Laura Tracey - April 28, 2020 at 01:18 PM

HM

I hope so

Heather Moschberger - April 28, 2020 at 04:18 PM

BH

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Asela E. Gejo*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - April 28, 2020 at 11:54 AM

DN

“ *Her beautiful smile and her love of her family and friends. Mami made this world a better place. She touched so many peoples lives. I am blessed to of had her in my life. Love you Mami* ❤️🙏

Debbie N - April 28, 2020 at 10:16 AM

JL

“ *Glady,*

So sorry to hear of the passing of your dear and beautiful mother. May her love for all continue to shine on her wonderful family and may she fly with the angels.

Joey Lebra

Joey Lebra - April 28, 2020 at 09:52 AM

IJ

“ So sorry to read in the Press today of your Mom's passing. I remember her with a constant smile on her face. Always enjoyed talking with her while at the Polished Look. I will keep her in my prayers tonight.
Irene Joyce

Irene Joyce - April 28, 2020 at 09:02 AM

JG

“ Asela, you were a beautiful person, inside and out. I have never meet a sweeter, more loving person, than you! You have passed that on to your entire family. They are all beautiful, just like you. I am glad that you, Ariel and Danny can be together now. That is a great comfort. I know your family on earth will miss you dearly, but they were all so fortunate to have such a loving person in their life! God bless and keep you in his loving arms!

janet grasso - April 28, 2020 at 08:29 AM



“ There are no words adequate enough to describe your beautiful heart & soul...never did I see you without your radiant smile. A kind & loving woman. You leave behind an amazing legacy & will be dearly missed. "Grief...I've learned, is really just love. It's all the love you want to give but cannot. All that unspent love gathers up in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and that hollow part of your chest. Grief is just love with no place to go." You are now at peace ~ I'm sure Ariel was waiting at the gates for you with open arms ready to take care of you. You are now queen of the angels. Rest well Mrs. Gejo xoxo

Rosemarie Panduri - April 28, 2020 at 06:54 AM

MM

“ *She was such a beautiful soul. What we have lost heaven has surely gained. She is now an angel in heaven as was here on earth.*

Mike MacDougall - April 28, 2020 at 06:43 AM

KM

“ *I remember growing up with her and I loved to see her smile. Her smile could make your day brighter if you were always having a bad day. I consider myself lucky to have known such a great woman all my life and I will miss her dearly*

Kelly macdougall - April 28, 2020 at 06:30 AM

JR

“ *My most recent memory with Abuela was on her 92nd birthday this year. After school I decided to suprise her. I stopped at Mc Donalds and I bought her favorite vanilla shake. We sat and drank our shakes together. We talked about our family and Cuba. She told me many stories. I told her that one day I want to go to Cuba and she told me "Cuba is a beautiful island, the weather is nice all year round, and it is a good thing to go to Cuba". In that moment I really enjoyed her company and I'm sure she enjoyed mine too. I will miss stopping by with milkshakes and word puzzles. I will miss her so much. Her family made her so proud and we will continue to make her proud. She had nothing but love to give for 92 years. I am so happy to be able to call her my Abuela. Now it is time for her to rest.*



Juliana Radisch - April 28, 2020 at 12:43 AM

LT

This is great, Jules! I loved hearing her stories of Cuba! 🇺🇸

Laura Tracey - April 28, 2020 at 01:46 PM

LT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Tracey - April 28, 2020 at 12:25 AM

D?

“ *She had such a lively spirit, always happy, and she had a never wavering love and trust in God. She was a great mom, and a good person to everyone. She loved life, but I know she brought that cheerfulness to share upstairs in her new home 🌹*

Daughter # 1 🙄 - April 28, 2020 at 12:10 AM

JR

“ *92 years of life and still way to soon to lose you. thank you for everything but mostly for being the one to start our big happy family. one of the strongest women i know, & we will all miss you terribly. fly high with Pipop and Uncle Ariel, say hi to them for us all. i'll love you forever, Abuela ☐*

jami radisch - April 28, 2020 at 12:01 AM

CO

“ *The women was an angel on earth that only ever displayed kindness! It was an honor to know her and call her Abuela!*

Cory - April 27, 2020 at 11:44 PM