



## Patsy "Pat" Herrera

November 13, 1942 - August 12, 2019

PATSY GUSTAMANTES HERRERA, 76, passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, August 12, 2019, surrounded by the love of her family.

Patsy was born on November 13, 1942, to Richard and Genoveva Gustamantes. After the early death of Genoveva, Richard married Susie Vigil who was very special in Patsy's life. In July of 1965, Patsy married Jose Delfin Herrera. They spent 33 years married and raised four children together. Jose preceded her in death in 1998.

Patsy was born in Roswell, where she worked alongside her family of ranchers until they moved to Cortez, CO, in 1956. Raised in a ranching family, she learned the importance of hard work and understood what it meant to be stewards of the animals in her care. Pat graduated Valedictorian of Cortez High School and was the first in her family to go to college. After seeing her crippled cousin come home on crutches after spending time at Carrie Tingley Hospital, she knew the profession she wanted. In 1966, Pat graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Occupational Therapy. Early in Pat's career, she worked at Colorado State Hospital, Tri-Counties Regional Center for the Mentally Challenged in Lompoc, CA, and University of Utah Medical Center.

After Jose's retirement in 1987, the family moved back to Roswell where she worked for the Roswell Independent School District for six years. After seeing the desperate need for therapists in the southeast part of the state, Pat had a vision. In 1993, Patsy and Jane Batson were instrumental in the creation of

the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at ENMU-Roswell, which Pat directed until her retirement in 2008. During the fifteen years under her leadership, the OTA program graduated more than 250 COTAs, including her son Jose, and brother Frank. Even after retirement, you couldn't keep Pat away from therapy. She enjoyed retirement by working part-time for Los Pasitos as well as for her brother, Frank at A-Z Therapy Services.

In 2017, Patsy was recognized at the national American Occupational Therapy Association's meeting in Philadelphia, PA, as being a pioneer of women in Occupational Therapy. She dedicated over 50 years to the profession while transforming minds, bodies, and spirits. Although Pat devoted her life to therapy, Pat's greatest achievement and joy was her unending love and support for her children and grandchildren. Patsy's generous heart and unselfish demeanor will be what is remembered most about her.

Those left to cherish Patsy's memory are her children: Genevieve Herrera, Jose (Luisa) Herrera, Jr., Suanne (Anthony) Mestas, and Gabriel Herrera; brothers: Senovio (Presella), Ray, Joaquin (Mary), Richard Jr. (Frances), Frank (Cynthia), Felipe (Lisa) Gustamantes; sisters: Beatrice Lopez, Lisa (Moses) Medina, and Veronica (Hector) Macias; grandchildren: Angelica, Amanda, Stephanie, Christopher, and Steven Herrera, Christian (Lisa) Martinez, Rose (Joe) Castillo, Jessica (John) Olivo, Marissa Herrera, and Ryan and Isaiah Mestas; great-grandchildren: Anthony Joe, Destiny, Joe-Joe, Arianna, Luis, Mia, Gabrielle, Jose, Carlos, Leandro, Chris Jr., Marcella, Xavier, Estrella, Mia, Ezmie, and Adrian.

Pallbearers are Christian Martinez, Anthony Joe, Steven & Chris Herrera, Jessica Olivo, and Ryan Mestas.

Honorary Pallbearers are Destiny Martinez, Marissa Herrera, and Isaiah Mestas.

A Viewing will be held at Anderson Bethany Funeral Home on Friday, August 16, 2019, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, followed by a Rosary at 7:00 PM. A Funeral Mass will be held at Saint Peter's Catholic Church on Saturday,

August 17, 2019, 10:00 AM. Interment will follow at South Park Cemetery.  
In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations to be made to the Down  
Syndrome Foundation of SENM in Patsy's name.  
Patsy's tribute was written in her honor by her loving family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory  
2609 South Main  
Roswell, NM 88203  
(575) 622-5888  
abfh@andersonbethany.com

## Service

AUG 17. 10:00 AM (MT)

St. Peter's Catholic Church  
111 East Demming St.  
Roswell, NM 88203  
(575) 622-5092

# Tribute Wall



“ *Patsy "Pat" Herrera*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your mother, Pat. I so enjoyed working with her at Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell. Pat was a beautiful and kind soul, and she will not be forgotten. May the Lord bring you and your family the much-needed comfort and peace during this sad time. My condolences to you and your family.*



*Diane Klassen*

**Diane Klassen** - August 20, 2019 at 05:41 PM



“ *Patsy was a great friend. Always going above and beyond to help someone. She will be greatly missed. May she live on in through your hearts. Gaby and Linda Nasrallah*



**Gaby and Linda Nasrallah** - August 20, 2019 at 12:07 PM



*Thank you so much!*

**Suanne Mestas** - August 20, 2019 at 04:53 PM

MS

“ PAT WAS TH MOST AWESOME INSTRUCTOR AND A BEAUTIFUL PERSON INSIDE AND OUT. ALWAYS NEVER HESITATED TO LISTEN AND TO TRY TO HELP RESOLVE ANY SOLUTION TO MAKE IT MORE HELPFUL AND EASY FOR YOU. SHE WILL BE DEARLY MISSED . BUT I KNOW WITH ALL MY HEART SHE IS SMILING AND LAUGHING NEAR OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. GOD BLESS TI THE FAMILY .  
MICHELLE SANCHEZ

MICHELLE Sanchez - August 19, 2019 at 04:48 PM

SM

*Thank you so much.*

Suane Mestas - August 20, 2019 at 04:53 PM

ID

“ *Irma Dutchover lit a candle in memory of Patsy "Pat" Herrera*



Irma Dutchover - August 17, 2019 at 03:12 PM

ID

*Thank you Ms. Pat for all of your support in Occupational Therapy. Will miss you always my friend.*

Irma Dutchover - August 17, 2019 at 03:16 PM

SM

*Thank you Irma.*

Suane Mestas - August 19, 2019 at 04:26 PM



“ Pat was an amazing person. She tried to make the world a better place one person at a time. She would give you the shirt off of her back if you needed it. I cant say enough good things about her. I'm so thankful to have worked close with her for several years as my boss. Everything I learned from her is priceless. I am forever grateful for her mentor ship to me as a teacher and then a co-worker and last a friend. She taught me things in OT and about OT that will last a lifetime. I only wish I had more time to learn from her but know she is in a better place. I'm so sorry for your loss. She was an amazing woman, person, friend, teacher, mom, grandma, aunt, neighbor. Kelley Johnson

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**Dusty Johnson** - August 16, 2019 at 10:15 PM

SM

Thank you Kelley for your beautiful words about my Mom.

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**Suanne Mestas** - August 19, 2019 at 04:27 PM



Loved Pat. She was a real community worker.

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**Theresa Hills Brewton** - August 20, 2019 at 10:28 AM

YL

“ I want to offer my sincerest condolences to all of Pat's family. I'm so saddened by her passing and know my life will not be the same without her. I had the privilege of working together with Pat in the OTA Program where she taught we so much by her example and how she led her life. She continued to be my life-long friend and mentor. The world is a better place because of her.

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**Yolanda Lopez** - August 16, 2019 at 05:46 PM

SM

*Thank you so much Yolie. Oh how we will all miss my Mom.*

Suanne Mestas - August 19, 2019 at 04:26 PM

GN

*“ I am very sorry for your loss. Pat was also a great inspiration for me during my time in her classes. She was always there when I needed her. She had great patience and never gave up on me. She will always have a place in my heart. She always called me grasshopper.*

Gloria Noles - August 16, 2019 at 03:22 AM

SM

*Thank you very much.*

Suanne Mestas - August 19, 2019 at 04:25 PM

CD

*“ CDC lit a candle in memory of Patsy "Pat" Herrera*



CDC - August 15, 2019 at 11:18 PM

CF

*“ Ms Pat was my teacher and mentor for Occupational therapy classes. Incredibly knowledgable lady and loved talking about how patients weren't like "Twinkies" and we shouldn't ever treat them that way. I still use that saying, 20 years later. Rest in Peace, Ms Pat Herrera. Praying for comfort n strength for Jose and family*

Carrie Furrow - August 15, 2019 at 10:52 PM

SM

*I love this. I don't know how many times I heard, "We're not dealing with twinkies here." I will miss her. Thank you for the kind words about my mother.*

Suanne Mestas - August 19, 2019 at 04:24 PM

DC

*Pat was my teacher & mentor for Occupational Therapy classes at ENMU-R. She was an amazing women. She was an inspiration to everyone she came in contact with. I consider her an angel & a saint... I will never forget her. Many prayers for her family's loss.*

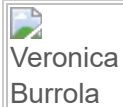
Deborah Komm Corn - January 06, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Patsy "Pat" Herrera.



August 15, 2019 at 10:44 PM



“ She was my teacher when i was little girl i will truly miss her she help me to be a better person



Veronica Burrola - August 15, 2019 at 05:12 AM

SM

*Thank you for your kind words. <3*

Suanne Mestas - August 19, 2019 at 04:24 PM

SG

“ *My Sincere sympathy to the Herrera Family!!!! Pat was such a great person always wanting to help... We will Miss her dearly!!!! May she RIP With much love Tavo, Sylvia Garcia and Family.... prayers.....* 😭



Sylvia Garcia - August 15, 2019 at 12:38 AM

SM

*Thank you very much. You were great neighbors to my Mom.*

Suanne Mestas - August 19, 2019 at 04:23 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Patsy "Pat" Herrera.*



August 14, 2019 at 10:37 PM

MT

“ *Pat was an inspiration to all the COTA's that went through her program. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for her. She taught me to never give up and to believe in myself. She will TrueType be missed. — Mary Tomas, OTR/L*

Mary Tomas - August 14, 2019 at 08:17 PM

SM

*Thank you Mary! ❤️ Proud to see the OTR after your name now. I know my mom was proud of you too.*

Suanne Mestas - August 15, 2019 at 12:03 AM



“ *The Endless Sky Spray was purchased for the family of Patsy "Pat" Herrera.*



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August 14, 2019 at 08:03 PM



“ *I had the honor and privilege of working with Pat when we started the COTA Program. She was a wonderful, kind, generous person. She was a delight to work for, have lunch with and work with. The world is a sadder place without her.*

*Kathe*

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**Kathe Determan** - August 14, 2019 at 06:37 PM



*Thank you Kathe.*

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**Suanne Mestas** - August 15, 2019 at 12:03 AM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Patsy "Pat" Herrera.*



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August 14, 2019 at 04:42 PM

PM

“ Pat was a wonderful friend and an amazing mentor to me. I will never forget the life lessons she taught me by example, friendship, and dedication. I will miss her.

Pam Miller - August 14, 2019 at 04:05 PM

SM

Thank you Pam. You were a dear lifelong friend of my moms.

Suanne Mestas - August 14, 2019 at 05:29 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Patsy "Pat" Herrera.



August 14, 2019 at 03:03 AM

CD

“ Corinne Duran lit a candle in memory of Patsy "Pat" Herrera



Corinne Duran - August 13, 2019 at 11:54 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patsy "Pat" Herrera.



August 13, 2019 at 07:34 PM