



Mrs. Maria O. Peters

May 12, 1921 - November 11, 2015

Maria O. Peters was born on May 12, 1921 in Ponce, Puerto Rico to Juan Eladio Soto, son of Juan Eladio Soto and Manuela Pruneda and the Amparo Torres, daughter of Tomas Torres y Pacheco and Monserrate Gonzalez, and was named Maria Antonia Soto y Torres. Her Godfather was the Francisco A. Sabater, her Godmother Aida Carbonell. She was baptized on July 8, 1923, in the Church of our Lady of Guadeloupe, in Ponce, P.R by Father Don Ciriaco Berasategui. At 94 years of age she passed away to be with her Maker, ancestors and the loved ones that went before her, on November 11, 2015 at 6.07pm at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, GA. Funeral Mass will be held at St. Teresa's Catholic Church, 421 Edgewood Lane, Albany, Georgia 31707 on Monday November 23, 2015 at 2:00 pm with The Rev. Finbarr Stanton officiating. Mrs. Peters entombment will take place immediately after at Crown Hill Mausoleum, 1907 Dawson Rd Albany, GA 31707. The day prior, Sunday November 22, 2015 at 6.00 pm, a Rosary will be held at Kimbrell-Stern at the same Dawson Road address with visitation to follow till 7:30 pm.

Maria moved from Puerto Rico to New York, the Bronx, with her parents, brother John Soto and her sister Palmyra Martinez in what is believed the 1930's. She must have been the Maria that Leonard Bernstein drew upon for West Side Story. She and Gerald (Gerry) O. Peters, who originated from Silvolde in the Netherlands, married on December 16, 1956 in New York City, NY and they were together in love for 34 years until his passing on November

14, 1990. Before that time they had moved several times, always with Gerald's work as a teacher, from New York City to Greensboro, Connecticut to Rome, Georgia to find their last home in Albany, GA in 1979.

Maria was a religious woman; her rosary was always with her, as it will be in her resting place. In Albany, Maria was very active in her church. She was instrumental in forming and promoting a Spanish ministry which she oversaw for many years. She was a communion minister and a member of the Friday morning Rosary Group, a prayer line member, a member of the Council of Catholic Women. She and her husband were active in the Knights of Columbus for many years. For her exceptional and humble services to the Catholic people and being always eager to go out of her way to be of service to her Church, Maria was the recipient of The Annual Bishop Gartland Award presented to her by the Bishops in Savannah on November 20, 2005.

Her family and friends remember her as a sweet woman with a great sense of humor. She liked to dress well, look well, and was always very interested in how other people were doing everyone and was welcoming to all who came to visit, whether from far or close by she gave her guests her care, attention and love. Together with Gerry she traveled on numerous school trips to Europe, often taking the opportunity to visit the family in the Netherlands to celebrate holidays and to experience family events. In recent years, not being able to travel anymore and her laws in much the same circumstance contact between them was limited to phone calls and letters, both much enjoyed and appreciated by all, especially her husband's oldest brother, the late Ben Oostendorp kept in regular contact with her. Also in recent years, she was blessed with the care and grace of her good friend Marlene Duke, who was there when she needed help most, and that of the staff at Phoebe Memorial Hospital, Wynfield Park and Evergreen Assisted Living. All that met her were touched by her and felt blessed knowing her.

We will remember Maria Antonia Soto y Torres, Maria O. Peters in our prayers and hold her dear in our memories. May she rest in peace.

Cemetery Details

Crown Hill Mausoleum

1907 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Previous Events

Prayer service and Visitation

NOV **22**. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
1503 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Funeral Mass

NOV **23**. 2:00 PM.

St. Teresa's Catholic Church
Albany

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Maria O. Peters*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Maria O. Peters*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Her picture and obituary all describe Mrs. Peters so well and is so beautifully written. What a blessing to have known her and Mr. Peters. I was only 18 when she and Mr. Peters moved across the street from my childhood home where I still lived. I recall the complete devoted love they had for each other. I recall their devotion for the pets they had through the years. I always recall Mrs. Peters looking so good and always with a smile like the one in this picture. She was there for my Mother when her house across the street flooded. She was always willing to help. I recall the glow Mrs. Peters had when she selected Christmas gifts for my youngest two children when they were younger. She wanted to give them something because she had not had the pleasure of having children herself and always wanted to know how they were doing. My children cherish those gifts to this day. So grateful to have known her, but I also know there is a joyous reunion in heaven when Mrs. Peters arrived as I am sure Mr. Peters was waiting anxiously for her. Lifting prayers for the family and her many friends.*

Anne Marie Bishop - November 18, 2015 at 06:08 PM