

**Lolita L.
Gallagher, 81**

Dec. 8, 1935 - April 14, 2017

GLENDALE, CA – Lolita "Lee" Gallagher was born on Dec. 8, 1935 to Henry and Cecelia Laube in St. Louis, MO and moved to Harlan before high school.

Lolita married Gerald Gallagher on June 29, 1957 in Harlan after college and together they bravely moved to Los Angeles, CA in 1958 to secure teaching jobs, settling in Glendale, CA for the remainder of their lives.

The love of Lee's life was her family. She was a strong, smart and loving mother to her four children and a devoted wife, who always put their needs first. She created a special home where everyone who visited felt welcomed, cared for, and well fed. Lee was as gracious and generous as they come. She was a great cook and created many happy memories and meals for so many. No one was a stranger in her home. Lee also loved adventure and with her family spent many happy summers camping across the United States. She was keenly dedicated to her German heritage and loved to explore remote cemeteries looking for lost relatives. She viewed the remotest of dirt roads as an exploration opportunity and she instilled that same sense of spirit in her family. After retirement, she and Jerry spent many years traveling all over the US and the world with family and good friends, she especially loved trips to see her grandchildren.

Lee was the planner, resourcer and driver of her family. Be it a birthday event or a rehearsal dinner, she would skillfully organize the entire affair and deliver it with skill and consistency never taking credit for any of it. She truly epitomized the consummate, skillful mother.

Lee was a true lifelong learner and teacher. Her formal education started at the Iowa Teachers College and culminated with a Master's Degree in Child Development from Pacific Oaks College. She was a dedicated, respected and beloved Kindergarten teacher at Mark Keppel Elementary School in Glendale. She was a champion for her students and their families and made sure that their education included not only the ABC's but, nature, art and especially music and dancing. Lee also loved collaborating with her fellow teachers and remained close to many of them even after retirement.

Lee was an active parishioner at The Church of the Incarnation for many decades and her Catholic Faith was central to who she was.

Lolita "Lee" passed away on April 14, 2017 in San Jose, CA. She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 57 years, and her 'West Coast mother' and dearest friend Marie. She is survived by four children: Timothy (Linda) of Anchorage AK; Ellen Robinson (Cindy) of San Jose, CA; Carrie Landry (Kevin) of Star, ID and Matthew (Eleni) of Sierra Madre, CA and grandchildren Michelle, Andrew, Aaron, Audrey, Alexander, George, Molly, Keller, Grant, and Connor.

A Funeral Mass will be on Saturday May, 20 at 12:30 p.m. followed by a reception in the church hall at St. Rita's Catholic Church, 318 N Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre, CA, 91024-1203.

Interment will be on Monday, May 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery 11160 Stranwood Ave, Mission Hills, CA 91345.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution "In Memory of Lolita Gallagher" to: Alzheimer's Association, PO BOX 96011, Washington DC 20090 - www.alz.org, 1-800-272-3900

