

Izaura “Hazel” Pinto Fernandez Obt.

COOKEVILLE — Izaura “Hazel” Pinto Fernandez, of Cookeville, passed away peacefully in Tampa, Florida, Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

Born March 7, 1930, Mrs. Fernandez is survived by her devoted **husband of 49 years, Dr. Gilbert Fernandez of Cookeville**; daughter, Paula (Bill) Lutes of Tampa; grandson, William Austin Lutes of Tampa; step-grandson, Kyle Lutes of Seattle; sisters, Sally Mancini, and Celeste (Gordon) Sylvia; and brother, Amado Pinto, all of New Bedford, Massachusetts; goddaughter, Debra Mancini of Tiverton, Rhode Island; brother-in-law, Joe (Irma) Fernandez of Tampa; cousins-in-law, Eugene (Doris) Fernandez, and Elsa (EJ) Salcines of Tampa; and numerous nieces and nephews. She is also survived by loving cousins in Vila Real, Portugal; family in Asturias, Spain; and former students.



She was preceded in death by her parents Ines and Joao Pinto; her brothers, Manuel Pinto, Candido Pinto, and Antonio Pinto; her sister, Laura Pinto; and her step-grandson, Andrew Lutes.

Mrs. Fernandez was a first-generation American, born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to Portuguese parents. She spent her childhood in New Bedford, Massachusetts, graduating with highest honors from New Bedford High School. She received the highest award for the study of the Portuguese language from Escola Oficial Portuguesa de New Bedford. She graduated from Bridgewater College (Massachusetts), where she received her bachelor and masters degrees. She also pursued graduate studies at Boston University and Tennessee Tech University. Her true passion was teaching and she spent over 40 years teaching English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Latin, in classrooms around the world. With the U.S. Department of Defense, she taught at American Air Force base schools in France, Japan, Germany and Spain, where she met her husband. Upon returning to the states in 1968, she taught at Monterey High School and Cookeville High School until her retirement. She was a dedicated and consummate educator, avid reader, supporter of the fine arts, and loved following politics. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 29, at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 421 N. Washington Ave., Cookeville. She will be laid to rest at Centro Asturiano Memorial Gardens, Tampa, Florida, in a private ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, the family appreciates your prayers or donations in her honor to the Bryan Symphony Orchestra, 123 W. Broad Street, Suite 4, Cookeville, TN 38501 or to the Andrew Lutes Endowment for Gracepoint, established to further the cause for mental health care and awareness among children. www.cftampabay.org/gracepoint.

Boza & Roel Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, 813-877-7676.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

<http://www.ajlambert.com>