

November 4, 1938 † July 29, 2024

Emily (Emmy) S. Ward

Emily (Emmy) S. Ward passed away peacefully on July 29, 2024, surrounded by members of her family. Emily was born on November 4, 1938, to Ignacio and Juana Gonzalez in Fresno, California. She and twin sister, Molly, were the last two members born to the Gonzalez family. The family eventually moved to Tracy where Emily attended New Jerusalem elementary school and Tracy High School. While at Tracy High she and her twin sister (also best friend) were majorettes in the Tracy High School marching band.

After graduation, Emily worked at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory as an executive secretary. It was while Emily worked at the Lab that she met her future husband, Richard Ward. They were married in 1969 and made their home in Livermore. While they never had children of their own, they enjoyed occasional visits from Rich's adult children from a previous marriage. Emily and Rich were avid San Francisco Forty-Niners fans and were season ticket holders. Over the years Emily accumulated an extensive collection of Forty-Niner memorabilia.



While continuing to work at the Lab, a highlight of Emily's career included being part of a team that travelled to Switzerland for work there. While there, she was able to travel to other parts of Europe that interested her. Her twin sister Molly was able to fly to join her for a trip to Rome, Italy, to celebrate their birthday together! Upon the death of Emily's husband, she moved back

to Tracy, continuing to work at the Lab until retirement. She was a parishioner of St. Bernard's Catholic Church, and became involved in various activities there, including fundraisers. Emily later met Walt Lillemoe, and they formed a relationship that lasted many years.

Emily loved travelling, and over the years she visited Italy, Germany, Spain, South Africa, and Mexico, as well as many cities in the U.S.

Emily is predeceased by her parents, husband Rich; brothers, Frank Gonzalez, Smiley Gonzalez; sisters, Lucy Crow, Molly Bell; companion Walt Lillemoe.

She is survived by sisters, Teresa Villasenor, Jennie Ryan (John); sisters-in-law, Dorothy Gonzalez, Mildred Gonzalez; many nieces and nephews.

Visitation Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 1:00-8:30 p.m. and Vigil 7:00 p.m. at Fry Memorial Chapel, 550 South Central Avenue, Tracy, CA. Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 11 a.m. at St. Bernard's Catholic Church, 163 W. Eaton Avenue, Tracy, CA. Interment following Mass at Tracy Public Cemetery, 501 East Schulte Road, Tracy, CA.

Fry Memorial Chapel had the honor of handling Emily's services.

Contributions in her name may be made to St. Bernard's Building Fund.