In Loving Memory

Marilyn Irene Garcia

Aug. 23, 1937 – Oct. 6, 2026



Marilyn Irene Garcia, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and matriarch, passed away peacefully on October 6, 2026, in Indio, California, at the age of 89.

Born on August 23, 1937, in Nevada, Iowa, to Haynes and Lola McClellan, Marilyn lived a life defined by creativity, grace, devotion to family, and an extraordinary gift for making every occasion feel special. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 60 years, Charles Raymond Garcia; her parents; and her cherished brothers, Haynes, Kenny, and Max McClellan.

Though born in Iowa, Marilyn spent most of her life in Tracy, California, where she and Charlie raised their six children and built a home that became the heart of a large and loving family. Together, they created a home where everyone was welcome, traditions were treasured, and memories were made around the table. Their home was filled with laughter, lifelong friendships, and gatherings that became lasting memories for family and friends alike.

Elegant, stylish, charming, and endlessly creative, Marilyn had a remarkable ability to make people feel welcome and cared for. Family was at the center of everything she did. Holidays were not simply celebrated in the Garcia home; they were lovingly crafted.

Christmas and Thanksgiving were beautiful occasions filled with special details, treasured traditions, and exceptional food that brought family together around her table year after year.

A gifted cook and baker, Marilyn expressed her love through hospitality. Alongside Charlie, she hosted countless gatherings over the years, including their legendary annual Tracy High School Homecoming parties. Friends, teachers, coaches, and neighbors would gather to celebrate, reconnect, and enjoy homemade enchiladas long into the evening. Those gatherings became a cherished Tracy tradition and reflected Marilyn's joy in bringing people together.

Her creativity extended well beyond the kitchen. Marilyn was a talented seamstress who lovingly designed and created beautiful clothing and costumes for herself and her children. She enjoyed gardening, painting, decorating, and transforming ordinary spaces into warm, inviting places where memories were made. Her eye for beauty, attention to detail, and generous spirit touched every aspect of her life.

As a young woman, Marilyn served as Drum Major at Tracy High School, a role that reflected her confidence and spirit. In her younger years, she enjoyed golf and bowling, and later devoted countless hours to volunteering for her children's schools and athletic programs, often taking leadership roles in fundraising and special events. She remained active in her community throughout her life and was a dedicated member of Beta Sigma Phi in Blythe, California, serving as Chapter President in 1999.

Of all her accomplishments, Marilyn's greatest pride was her family. She delighted in the achievements of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and found her greatest joy in watching them grow and thrive. The foundation of love that she and Charlie built remains one of the greatest gifts they leave to future generations.

More than anything, Marilyn's family will miss her presence. Her elegance, warmth, creativity, wisdom, and unconditional love were woven into every celebration, gathering, and family tradition. Though her absence leaves an immeasurable void, her legacy lives on in the family she cherished, the traditions she created, and the countless memories she leaves behind.

Marilyn is survived by her children, Charles Raymond Garcia Jr. (Sheila), Stephen Paul Garcia (Tina), Vincent Haynes Garcia, Pilar Annette Garcia, Adam David Garcia, and Sabrina Lola Dimond (Matt); her grandchildren, Amanda Michelle Garcia, Natalie Irene Garcia, Neely Michelle Garcia Rios, Heather Whitaker, Melinda Watson (Jeremy), Stephen Garcia (Fontine), Sarah Simon (Steve), Daniel Pearson (Anna), Forest Rezayani, Michael J. Brenkwitz III, Nicholas Brenkwitz, Abigail Lewis (Tomas), Emily Thimmesh (Joshua), Jessica Marilyn Garcia (Nicolette), Adam David Garcia Jr., Gisele Rose Garcia, Sophia Sabrina Nestande, Hayden Charles Nestande, and Isabella Analiese Dimond-Garcia; and 24 great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass celebrating Marilyn's life will be held on Friday, October 30, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Bernard's Catholic Church, 163 W. Eaton Avenue, Tracy, California.

Interment will immediately follow at Tracy Public Cemetery, where Marilyn will be laid to rest beside her beloved husband, Charles.

Following the burial, family and friends are warmly invited to gather for a Celebration of Life at Windmill Ridge Winery in Tracy, where stories, memories, and the joy Marilyn brought to so many lives will be shared in her honor.

The family welcomes all who knew and loved Marilyn to join them in celebrating a life well-lived and a legacy of love that will continue for generations.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Marilyn's memory to the American Stroke Association or to an organization of your choice.