



Emma A. Hendrickson

December 11, 1933 - July 9, 2022

Emma Aurelia White Hendrickson was born on December 11, 1933 in Camaguey, Cuba to her parents Ellen Wilkens Harris and Aaron White. Emma was the youngest of 7 girls and 1 boy. Being the baby of the family meant that Emma was very spoiled and she totally enjoyed that. Emma's older sisters told the story of how a very young Emma would be fed breakfast at home every morning but then she would go to all the neighbors to get the breakfast that they saved for her each day. This began a life time of loving to be around people and being the life of the party.

When Enid, the oldest sister, converted to Seventh-day Adventism, the rest of the family slowly joined the church, including Emma. She became an active member of Iglesia de la Vigia SDA Church in Camaguey where she was the first youth leader for the church and planned wonderful programs for the church. Emma had a beautiful alto voice and sang in many groups and choirs. Emma went to El Colegio de Las Antillas where she studied education and started her lifelong career as a teacher. She was a teacher and principal for the church schools in Central Manati and Alabaisa, Camaguey. When the Cuban revolution began, Manati was one of the areas that was hard-hit by the revolutionary fighters. The fighting was so bad there, that Emma often had to protect her students by shielding them with her body or taking them to a neighbor's cellar to keep them safe from flying bullets. With angels protecting them, not one student was hurt under her care.

Three of the sisters left Cuba and migrated to New York City before the Cuban Revolution began. These sisters worked together to get the rest of the family, including Emma, out of Cuba and brought them to New York in 1968, in a miraculous way. She met her husband Jaime Hendrickson here and married him in 1972. Emma became a member of the Bay Ridge SDA Church and again lent her talents in singing, teaching Sabbath School and planning beautiful programs. She continued her education in the US by attending Adelphi College and earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education. Emma worked at several Adventist Church schools in the New York area including Hanson Place SDA, Gold Street and Westchester Area Schools. In the 1990's, she started teaching in the New York Public School System and worked as the Bilingual Educator for PS 224 until she retired.

Emma loved people and especially children. As an educator she had the privilege of teaching hundreds of children (including her nieces and nephews) from grades one through eight. In 2002, she retired from her life long passion of teaching and moved to Orlando, Florida where she purchased her home. She was known for hosting parties, get-togethers and Christmas holidays in her home and it was not uncommon for her to have as many as 50 people under her roof. She was the life of the party and the happiest when she was around her loved ones and friends. Emma was known for her three great dishes; arroz con pollo, dumplings, her amazing meatballs along with her sorrel. Her family (especially Olivia) looked forward to these dishes when they visited her and they looked forward to being able to take some home with them. Emma became a member of the Sheelar Oaks Seventh-day Adventist Church and spent most of her time there, never missing a Sabbath service or special program.

Emma loved her scriptures, mangos, bananas and her "special sodas and hot drinks" at night. She loved socializing and singing tunes around her house that

she loved, and often said “God gave this house to me.” She loved to look beautiful and went to the hairdresser at least two times a month to get her hair and nails done to always look her best. Although she had no children of her own, she had a plethora of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews who loved her dearly and did their best to care for her as she aged.

Emma’s health started to worsen earlier this year and after two back-to - back hospitalizations, she took her last breath at home surrounded by her family.

We thank God for the life of our Aunt and friend. Her fierce love for us, an example of what God can do with your life when you let Him lead you. We are grateful for her smile, laughter, wit and common sense which never wavered even when she was ill. We will miss her and look forward to reuniting with her and the rest of our family in heaven.

She was preceded in death by her Mother & Father Ellen Harris & Aaron White. As well as her sisters; Celia Harris, Isoline Harris, Caridad Ford, Doris Crow, Enid Shelton, Maria Falloon, Olga Farquharson. Her brother Telly Lawrence, niece Elena Ford and nephew Ian Hodge. She leaves to mourn her nieces and nephews: Bertha Hodge, Rosa Harris, Mirtha Erin (Emmanuel Erin), Janet Jones (Isaiah Jones), Jimmy Lawrence and her brother-in-law, Albert Falloon.

Also left to mourn are her grandnieces and grandnephews: Tiesha Saunders, Shamala Hodge, Adrienne Jones, Arielle Freels, Tabitha Hodge, Beverly Lawrence, Michelle Llewellyn, Emma Monk, Steve Saunders, Abdiel Erin, Alberto Falloon, Jr., Jonathan James, Qwinten James, Jayden James, Patrick Ford, Alex Farquharson and Tariq Taylor; as well as great nieces and great nephews: Olivia Hodge, Zion Freels, Zayah Freels, Valarie Farquharson and Arianna Taylor.

Emma also had numerous cousins and of course many, many friends that will treasure her memory always.

Cemetery Details

Highland Memory Gardens

3329 E. Semoran Blvd.
Apopka, FL 32703

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 18. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Sheeler Oaks Spanish Seventh-Day Adventist Church
1822 Sheeler Avenue
Apopka, FL 32703

Service

JUL 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sheeler Oaks Spanish Seventh-Day Adventist Church
1822 Sheeler Avenue
Apopka, FL 32703

Tribute Wall



“ *Emma A. Hendrickson*

October 22, 2023 at 05:49 PM

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Was always happy and outgoing. Her laughter was contagious even when you were upset about a matter. She always planned and directed the holiday plays at Westchester Area School which the parents looked forward to see their children talents shine. Mrs. Hendrickson was creative and smart when teaching the lessons to her students, which made her the go to teacher for everyone. I pray she fulfilled all her teaching aspirations, because she was truly blessed as a person and a teacher to her students. Rest in Paradise with our Lord !!!!

a former student - November 01, 2023 at 01:59 PM