



Irma Leora Esparza

October 5, 1923 - January 27, 2015

Irma Leora (Rawlins) Esparza was born October 5, 1923 on a farm near Sidney Iowa. She was the oldest child of five siblings born to Edmund Rawlins and Irene (Hill) Rawlins. She graduated from Sidney Iowa High School on June 1940. That Fall she attended Peru State Teachers College Her first teaching position was in Nebraska the following year, After that year she took a trip to California. She found a job and began working as a Civil Servant In Oakland, CA. During this time, she met Frank Esparza Jr. who was in the US Navy stationed at Alameda Naval Air Station. They were married January 23, 1944. They had two children, Delores Irene and James Kevin. .

Irma was no ordinary school teacher. She began teaching in a one-room school house. Irma was 18 at the time. Not only did she have full teaching responsibilities but she had custodial duties. Thru the years, she taught at Corona CA schools, Bakersfield CA schools and Santa Barbara CA area schools. After 33 years in teaching, she retired and substitute taught for a time. She lived on the Santa Barbara Mesa for 34 years.

Her first child, is Delores Esparza Valencia. Delores lives with her husband ,Ernest Valencia, in Cayucos CA. Their second child is their son James Kevin Esparza who lives in Santa Barbara. James was born in Bakersfield CA. He is married to Marivel Zamabrano Esparza. There are 3 grandchildren: Anna Louise, James Kevin Jr. and Kira Alvina. Esther Bond is her sister married to Milton Bond. Her brothers are Layton Rawlins. He is married to wife Elizabeth Rawlins. Her brother Larry Rawlins is married to Melanie Rawlins. She leaves

numerous nieces and nephews who love her dearly. Irma had a loving heart for her own family's children and her students at school. She had a beautiful relationship with them all.

Irma is predeceased by her husband , Frank Esparza Jr. and brother Kent Rawlins. Irma was married to Frank for 60+ years.

Her most wonderful relationship is with Jesus Christ - her Lord and Savior. She will never be forgotten.

Cemetery Details

Santa Barbara Cemetery

901 Channel Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
(805) 969-3231

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Mass

FEB 5. 10:00 AM (PT)

Holy Cross Catholic Church
1740 Cliff Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
(805) 962-0411