



Juanita (Jenni) Otero DiMaria

June 23, 1934 - May 23, 2024

Juanita Otero DiMaria, Jenni to all who knew her, embarked on her next adventure under the brilliant, diamond-white Flower Moon late on the night of 23 May 2024, a month shy of turning 90. A global citizen, she last resided in Lake County, Florida, where she was tenderly cared for by her devoted niece, Celia Ratta. Born on the mountaintop in Aibonito, Puerto Rico on 23 June 1934, Jenni made it by grindingly hard work to the high rises of the upper east side of Manhattan before enjoying her retirement in Oklahoma City and West Palm Beach. The ninth, youngest, and last surviving child of Juan Antonio Otero and Isolina Montañez y Figueroa, Jenni endured the ravages of the Great Depression and WWII on the family's finca before arriving in the Bronx during the Great Blizzard of 1947. She taught herself English by reading comic books and was for the rest of her life a sparkling bilingual conversationalist. She graduated from the school of hard knocks, overcoming generational family trauma and her own physical and mental health challenges, to become a pioneer yellow cab driver in New York City in the 1970s and one of the first female taxicab medallion owner-operators in NYC into the mid-1990s. She wasn't yellow, she went everywhere!

Predeceased by her siblings Pasquale Madera, Rufino Montañez, Jovita Marrero, Carmen Rosario, Francisca Quiñones, Maria Antonia Tompkins, Juan Antonio Montañez, and Bernarda Otero Montañez, Jenni is survived by her three children of whom she was quietly proud: Jerry Otero Davis who

honored her by taking her name, Robyn Davis McNichol and husband William McNichol, and Judd and wife Kyra Davis; her grandchildren, Joshua Davis, Angus McMillin, Leia Davis, and Nicholas Davis; and many beloved nieces and nephews scattered across the country. Jenni was their favorite “Titi” and their surest and most dependable truth-teller. Her extended family counted on her to be the compassionate, understanding, and totally cool advisor they often didn’t know they needed but were so grateful to have.

Jenni was a spitfire, filled with moxie and resolve and fueled by a deep sense of justice; for 40 years she practiced Buddhism and tried daily to live its tenets. She was also an effervescent, ebullient woman who always saw the humor in things and brought peals of laughter everywhere she went. She loved music and sparkly clothes and stylish hats and eating other people’s cooking. She will be grievously missed by those left behind and joyfully welcomed by those she follows. To honor her memory, have a good laugh, eat some shrimp, and enjoy a cold beer, preferably bottled.

She will be returned to the mountaintop in Aibonito, Puerto Rico on the 91st anniversary of her birth, 23 June 2025, and all are welcome to attend the services.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Tribute Wall



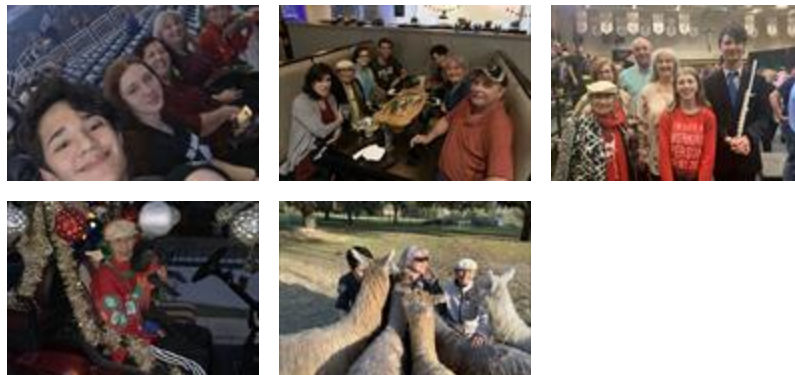
“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Juanita (Jenni) Otero DiMaria*



Beyers Funeral Home - July 24, 2024 at 12:26 PM

CR

“ Juana (aka Juanita) better known as Jenny to those that loved her dearly, was my biggest supporter, next to my own mother, her sister Maria. Jenny took on a pseudo Mom role to me and my family after mom died in 2006. Those 18 years, she was quick to come visit for any reason and had “her room” in our home, always! She became Ethan’s best friend and confidant, and often gave the best advice. She loved life, even though she didn’t have an easy first half of her own. She always showed grace & compassion, and preached the same. She loved anything colorful, especially if it glistened or glittered. She teased me for years about buying me a boat so I could take her on the water whenever she wanted. She loved lobster and beer, always a Corona or Heineken, and never in a glass! She always wanted to hear from the youth and often gave them a voice. She loved to travel. I have so many wonderful memories, I can’t really pic one. I will miss her greatly.



Celia Ratta - May 30, 2024 at 11:02 PM

DD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dr Judd Paul Davis - May 30, 2024 at 11:19 AM

TM

“ Our TiTi Jenny was indeed a Spitfire. One perfect example of this aspect of her character occurred one cold, dreary, snowy, slushy morning in the winter of 1989 or 1990. I left my upper west side apartment to trudge down to take the Westside subway down to my law school in Tribeca. It was a cold, dreary, snowy Monday morning; I was tired and dragging myself to school carrying a backpack of about 20 pounds of textbooks! As I'm trudging through the snow, I hear someone shouting loudly TERE! TERE! (Short for Teresita). I mean, Puerto Rican loud, and those reading this know exactly what I mean by "Puerto Rican loud." I turn to see a yellow cab with the passenger window rolled down, calling my name. God sent me an angel that morning. It was Titi Jenny, who shouted get in! get in!— and I was chauffeured to the front door of my law school. God bless her.

Teresa Marrero - May 27, 2024 at 12:13 PM

RQ

We go back a long way...I even got to ride in your cab, toast a beer on New Year's Day, share a laugh about something stupid, and grow up with your kids...if there was a party I could always count on you to say "that's a lot of hair spray... your hair doesn't move just like McGarrett...!" I was always glad to do lunch with you and Celia...It doesn't hurt that much...I know you're always around... just like you were... just as it should be...☐

Rubin Quinones - May 28, 2024 at 09:31 AM

AN

“ 1 file added to the album Juanita Otero DiMaria



Anonymous - May 27, 2024 at 08:47 AM