



## Elba "Beba" Bejarano

September 30, 1934 - September 5, 2020

Elba "Beba" Zaldivar Bejarano, age 85 of Milledgeville passed away on September 5, 2020.

She was a native of Cuba and had made her home in Milledgeville since 1972.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. Jose Roberto Bejarano; daughter, Lourdes B. Suggs (Ricky) of Milledgeville and son, Robert Bejarano of Miami; brother, Armando Zaldivar M.D. of Camaguey, Cuba; grandchildren, Ashley Marie Avant, Victoria Lucero (Brian), Ricky Lee Suggs (Amber), Kristopher Suggs (Kelly), Amber Holder (Derek); nieces, Elsy Martinez (Raul) and Maria Christina Zaldivar.

A few tidbits of a wonderful mother and wife that you might not know...

Elba loved horses, particularly Arabian horses. Her father taught her how to ride in his ranch in Camaguey, Cuba. She taught my father how to drive on a Jeep Willy at El Estribo. The cattle ranch.

She attended Catholic School, in Camaguey at the Order of Saint Teresa or Teresianas in Spanish, and graduated with a law degree from The University of Havana in 1956.

Never a quiet person, she convinced a hijacker not to release a live hand grenade in the plane we were in and helped my baby sister and I escape from the plane through the emergency exit. Varadero, Cuba December 1965.

She was instrumental in getting us out of Cuba. She would go almost daily to Department of Immigration to insist they let us leave the country. This went on for ten years.

She was an avid reader and taught me to love books. She taught both, my sister and I the importance of an education.

In Spain after leaving Cuba, while we waited to come to the States, she exposed us to as much culture as possible. We saw many castles, cathedrals and of course, museums. Knowledge to her was an asset.

In Georgia, she became a teacher and got her Master's in Education, graduating Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude from Georgia College.

When we woke up to go to school, she would still be sitting at the kitchen table with the books open. Writing term papers by hand, Then type them on an old-fashioned typewriter. No Word or Windows at the time! She would stay up all night studying after taking care of the family all day.

She taught Special Education in Baldwin County for nineteen years, no easy feat, and was elected Teacher of the Year in 1981

A fantastic cook and hostess, she and my dad introduced many to an old-fashioned Cuban conga line at their many parties.

Married to Dr. Jose R. Bejarano for sixty years and having dated for over nine years, they were together for close to seventy years..

Our parents loved travelling and shared many wonderful moments with my sister and I.

She was kind and generous to all, going out of her way to help others no matter if they were family or friends. Famous for her Cuban Black Beans and Flan which she graciously shared with many in town.

We will always miss you, Dr.B, and children.

# Tribute Wall

RW


“ First of all ,Lourdes,,I was just thinking about your wonderful mother and her kind heart. She welcomed me into the world of education.As her assistant so much was learned.ITime slipped away so fast and keeping in touch should have been a must..but I am so fortunate to have shared times and have precious memories of her.She is always in my heart... God Comfort your family Always..  
Randy Washington

Randell M Washington - October 12, 2020 at 07:48 AM

CS


“ Dr. Bejarno, Robert, & Lourdes....Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Te quiero mucho! Cliff & Aurora

Cliff Scott - September 15, 2020 at 02:16 PM

 Liz Robayna

“ We met Beba and her beautiful family through her niece Elsy. She always made us feel like family. Always checking up on us. Like many, we were fortunate to be the recipients of her gracious hospitality and her delicious Cuban Cuisine while in town for an over night stay in her home in Milledgeville. I will remember her for her elegance, strength, determination, compassion and vibrant personality. It was a life well lived, helping others and doing what she loved. God speed. May Your soul have eternal light “Beba” My deepest condolences to her family especially, Jose, Robert, Lourdes, Rick, Ashley, Elsy and Raul.

Liz Robayna - September 12, 2020 at 04:56 PM

 Margie  
Headley

“ *Bejarano family. Beba was treasure and it was truly a privilege to have known her for many years. She was kind and corageous. I remember that no matter who the person was who fell ill or into hard times Beba was there to help, with food or whatever was needed. I have no doubt that the Lord received her as one of his favorite children. I am so sorry for your loss, and can only imagine what you all are going through. Much love...always.*

*Margie Veiga Headley*

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**Margie Headley** - September 11, 2020 at 12:16 PM

AC

*Dear Bejarano family. I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember when your family arrived in Milledgeville. We haven't been there too long either. One day, afternoon, there was a knock on the door, there were FIFO and Beba, came to meet us. To me that was a great act of friendship and kindness. She was a true lady and being an attorney like she was, she spoke her piece when needed to very diplomatically. I love this family, although I haven't seen them for a while when I moved away. My prayers are with all of you during this time of sorrow. Hugs and love to all of you!*

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**Ana Castillo** - September 12, 2020 at 04:42 PM

HM

“ *Dr. Jose Bejarano and Family:  
We were saddened upon the passing of Elba "Beba"  
Bejarano, please accept our deepest condolences and heartfelt  
sympathies, we will always remember Elba "Beba" for her caring  
and sincere friendship, you are in our thoughts and prayers.  
Maria and Humberto Mejia.  
Estimados y apreciados Dr Jose Bejarano y Familia:  
Reciba nuestro mas sentido y sincero pésame por el deceso de  
Elba "Beba" ,noticia que recibimos con profunda tristeza y a quien  
siempre la recordamos con mucho cariño apreciando mucho  
nuestros lazos de amistad.  
Maria y Humberto Mejia.*

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**Humberto Mejia** - September 10, 2020 at 10:08 PM

SS

“ *Sheila Suggs lit a candle in memory of Elba  
"Beba" Bejarano*



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**Sheila Suggs** - September 10, 2020 at 11:41 AM

JH

“ *"Beba" was always a joy to be around. Years back I was fortunate  
enough to attend several of their parties. Emphasis on hospitality  
and delicious Cuban food. The whole hog roasted in the ground was  
unforgettably delicious. Her Cuban flan was delish. She introduced  
me to the delicacy.  
She was beautiful inside and out. She was caring towards everyone  
and had an awesome smile. Thanks for sharing some of her many  
accomplishments. She deserves praise for them. So RIP "Beba" .  
You have left quite a wonderful legacy..*

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**JoAnn Hartley** - September 09, 2020 at 05:02 PM



Nancy Floyd

*Very well said as a kid she was very kind, very friendly, and most of all very loving to all people she encountered with a BEAUTIFUL SMILE!!!! She will be greatly missed but what AWESOME MEMORIES SHE LEFT BEHIND!!!!*

Nancy Floyd - September 10, 2020 at 08:47 AM



*“ Eloise Griffin sent a virtual gift in memory of Elba "Beba" Bejarano*



Eloise griffin - September 09, 2020 at 03:15 PM



*“ My love and prayers for the family! Beba was a very special woman and loved by many!*

Louise Hall Layson - September 09, 2020 at 01:09 PM



*“ Frank and I are so sad over the news that "Beba" passed, she was a good friend, with a wonderful and compassionate heart. We will miss her dearly. We will remember your family in our prayers. I know Beba is in God's embrace right now. Frank and Marta Rodriguez*

Marta Rodriguez - September 09, 2020 at 11:09 AM



*“ Dr. B, so sorry for your loss. Such a gracious and special lady, she never met a stranger, and she made you feel like a part of her family!! Stephe Bowers!❤️❤️❤️*

Stephen Bowers - September 09, 2020 at 11:01 AM

LM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss and am praying for peace and comfort today and in the days ahead for those whose hearts are broken.*

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**Linda Morrison** - September 09, 2020 at 10:33 AM

KK

“ *I worked with Elba at the Learning Center for many years. She was a wonderful teacher and person. She will be missed*

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**kathy King** - September 09, 2020 at 09:56 AM