

In Memory Of

Hilda (Vella) Gayton

October 19, 1941 – January 6, 2010

Hilda Gayton



Longtime Alaska resident Hilda Gayton, 68, died peacefully Jan. 6, 2010, at the home of her daughter in the presence of her family after a brave fight with brain cancer.

In honor of her wishes, no memorial service will be held.

Hilda was born Oct. 19, 1941, in Laredo, Texas, and eventually moved to Waco, Texas, where she graduated from Waco High School.

During her life, she worked for various companies and eventually retired from the State of Alaska. She had a passion for gardening, dancing with the German Club and taking long bike rides with her best friend, Marty.

In earlier days, she enjoyed painting, sewing and cooking.

She will be deeply missed by friends and family. Mom will always be remembered as courageous and full of life. No task was too difficult to accomplish. She loved to learn new things, particularly in the areas of construction and aspects of health.

She is survived by her daughters, Sheri Higbee, Cindy Gayton and Brenda Gayton-Wilmes of Anchorage; her son, Eddie Gayton of Pascagoula, Miss.; grandsons, Scott, Colin and Devin Higbee of Anchorage; granddaughter, Jacqueline Gayton of Pascagoula; as well as longtime friends she considered family.

She is also survived by her sisters, Edwina Kruckeberg of Anchorage, Elena Vela of Puerto Rico, Irma Gouchenour of Sacramento, Calif., and Elia Harris of Australia; and her brothers, Hector and Ramsey Vela of Sacramento.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hector and Catalina Vela.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Amedisys Hospice, 3909 Arctic Blvd., Suite 102, Anchorage 99503.