



## Alida VanDerGeest

July 24, 1918 - July 1, 2022

Alida M. (Van Tol) VanDerGeest, age 103, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2022 in her retirement home in Albuquerque, NM surrounded by many of her family members. She lived a long and happy life and is now reunited with her beloved husband, Jacob, of 56 years, who died in January 2000. Alida had been looking forward to her reunion with Jacob, two pre-deceased daughters and all her Holland siblings in heaven. She is survived by 6 children, 16 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Alida was born July 24, 1918 in Woubrugge, Holland or the Netherlands. She was the fifth child in a family of 8 and married into a family of 8. Alida never forgot her large family in Holland. She was forever writing and receiving letters and made many trips back to Holland and in return they visited America. Alida had a strong work ethic, shaped in part by the effects of WW1 & 2. Her first out-of-home work started with a local family in Holland at the age of 13, as a live-in nanny. The hard work continued when she married a dairy farmer, Jacob, in 1944. Alida and Jacob immigrated to America in June of 1956 with their 5 children and one more on the way. Although she spoke little English when they arrived, she quickly learned and became the interface for the family to the new culture of New Mexico. Alida's fluency in two languages also played out through her life with her children, who mostly understood Dutch, but also to tease the grandkids, who didn't. She never stopped learning with a voracious love of reading and instilled this same drive in her children. Alida's first home in America was in Velarde, NM, then in Albuquerque and Belen before settling

in Los Chavez. The family worked hard on multiple dairy farms until finally able to purchase one of their own in Los Chavez in 1964. Running their family farm, a dream born in Holland, meant there was always more work to be done. Alida could milk the cows, clean the barns, and return to the kitchen to create delicious dishes, all without missing a beat. Her recipes are still coveted and handed down today. She loved hosting family for get-togethers on Sundays and holidays. Family was everything to Alida. She never forgot those in Holland where she was the last survivor of her generation. Alida loved her growing family, with more great and great-great grandchildren on the way. She loved playing games and was very competitive! She always “played to win” and never took it easy on any crying grandchild. Despite life slowing down during stages of retirement from the dairy business in 1974, she never stopped walking miles a day and continued through the final stages of her life at Paloma Landing. She loved to give back to the church and volunteered at the Legion of Mary in Belen. With a tall family, Alida developed an interest in basketball and a love for the Lobos whom she would follow on TV and radio. She loved to watch Dancing with the Stars as it reminded her of dancing on ice. Alida ice skated with her husband in her younger days in Holland. Another favorite, Ninja Warrior, would get a cheer for their agility but also a laugh when people fell into the water. Alida leaves a legacy of love for our creator, God, and her wisdom to all of her surviving family, at home and abroad. The family will be looking for her guidance in heaven, along with God’s help. She will be remembered for her smile, sense of humor and never-ending love. In her memory many funny but heart-felt stories will be told. WE LOVE YOU OMA! In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to a charity in her name. There will be a Public Viewing at Romero Funeral Home on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. A Final Visitation will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 8:30 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at 9:30 a.m. at Risen Savior Catholic Church, 7701 Wyoming NE, Albuquerque. Interment will follow the services at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens where Alida will be buried alongside her husband. Please sign Alida’s online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.co](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.co)

m Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUL 6. 11:30 AM (MT)

Romero Funeral Home Chapel  
609 N. Main St.  
Belen, NM 87002  
(505) 864-8501  
romerofuneralhome@comcast.net  
<https://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com>

## Final Visitation

JUL 7. 8:30 AM (MT)

Risen Savior Catholic Church  
7701 Wyoming Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

## Funeral Mass

JUL 7. 9:30 AM (MT)

Risen Savior Catholic Church  
7701 Wyoming Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

## Interment

JUL 7. 11:30 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens  
101 N. 10th Street  
Belen, NM 87002



# Tribute Wall



“ Romero Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Alida VanDerGeest



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Romero Funeral Home - July 05, 2022 at 06:08 PM

CB

“ From the Blankenship family.  
Condolences going your way . I (clint) have wonderful memories of you mother. I was young, but my father(larry) took me to your dairy as he did preg testing and artificial insemination. I also grew up with her daughters.  
The family was( and is) of impeccable reputation. I admired and our family always held high regards.  
So sorry for your loss.

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Clint Blankenship - August 23, 2022 at 06:57 PM

DP

“ We would like to offer our condolences to the entire Van der Geest Family on the loss of our "Tante Alie".  
She was a beautiful person and we keep beautiful memories of her when she and her husband "Ome Koos" were back in Holland for a few weeks.

Toos en Dammes van der Poel

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Dammes van der Poel - July 22, 2022 at 10:57 AM

JP

“ oktober 2005 Tante Alie naar Nederland,

*De reden hiervoor was om haar zus Flora op te zoeken, die ernstig ziek was. Zij was nog herstellende van een darmoperatie, maar ging snel achteruit.*

*Tante Alie was haar hierbij tot steun en verbleef er meer dan 3 weken. Ze was altijd opgeruimd en kon goed met haar zus en onze moeder overweg. Ze liep zelf ook nog wel een rondje Noordwijk Binnen.*

*We hebben haar toen goed leren kennen en zijn haar in Belen en later in Albuquerque 2 keer wezen bezoeken. In de laatste, haar elderly home gaf ze nog een pizza party omdat ze de loterij gewonnen had.*

*Dit was een echte familie reunie, op vakantie in Amerika.*

*Ze is later in 2008 met 3 dochters nog 1 keer in Nederland geweest*

*Fijn dat we onze tante zo hebben meegemaakt.*

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**Johan en Anneke Oudshoorn-van der Plas** - July 15, 2022 at 06:09 AM

CP

“ Castillo Phil lit a candle in memory of Alida VanDerGeest



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**Castillo Phil** - July 12, 2022 at 11:01 AM

CP

“ Alida and Norena were very good friends and neighbors in Los Chavez where they would have coffee and cookies and go for walks every now and then. They continued being next door neighbors in Albuquerque when Norena was at North Ridge. Alida would walk from Paloma to visit Norena at least once a week. I don't think Norena ever forgot Alida's voice. They would laugh together even though Norena was well advanced into the Alzheimer's disease. I know they are both in heaven enjoying their company with their beloved Jesus! Thank you Alida for being such a good friend to Norena and our family!  
Philip



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Castillo Phil - July 12, 2022 at 10:48 AM

PS

“ To JoAnn and John and the VanDerGeest family, I am so sorry for your loss. She was such a wonderful lady. When I would go with JoAnn to her parents house Mrs. VanDerGeest was always smiling and laughing. And I loved seeing all the wooden shoes outside the kitchen door.  
My thought and prayers are with you all.



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Petresia Stanford-Manso - July 11, 2022 at 06:08 PM

AG

“ Dear family, I was sorry to learn of tante Alie's passing. I send you all my sincere condolences. I only met tante Alie a few times, but in my memory she was a strong and cheerful woman. Her passing is a true loss for you. With love, Agnes van der Geest, Apeldoorn

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A. vd Geest - July 11, 2022 at 03:59 AM

CM

“ Dear John, Joanne and family,,  
Such a blessing for you all to have had your  
mom for such a long time. I especially loved  
hearing about her life! She was such a special  
woman. I remember from the good 'ole days at  
St. Mary's. I admired her forthrightness and  
strengths in teaching you many great disciplines and kindness. Both  
your parents were amazing. They passed on much love to all of  
you. Know that she has been enveloped with much love because  
she too gave much love. She knew how to pass it on. It is sad to  
see her gone but now she is complete.  
With much love and condolences May she rest in peace.



Cathy (Baca) McCartney

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Cathy McCartney - July 10, 2022 at 08:09 AM

MB

“ To the VanDerGeest Family. We are so very sorry to learn of Alida's  
passing. She was Wonderful to get to know at Paloma Landing and  
reuniting with her Family members that had crossed our paths at  
one time or another. Our fondest memory will be how she always  
kept a very large pair of Wooden Holland Shoes propping her door  
open at Paloma Landing. Go with God Alida and Rest in Peace.  
John Smatana and Families

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Monica Blaschke - July 08, 2022 at 06:46 PM

MC

“ Judy and family, so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was a wonderful  
woman. Prayers for comfort and peace for the whole family. Mary  
Gallegos Cornelius

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Mary Gallegos Cornelius - July 07, 2022 at 01:25 PM

ME

“ *What a wonderful life she had! My heartfelt condolences to all of her family who shared it.*

Michelle Ethridge - July 07, 2022 at 12:53 PM

GG

“ *Glen & Mary Gabaldon lit a candle in memory of Alida VanDerGeest*



Glen & Mary Gabaldon - July 07, 2022 at 12:01 PM

MG

“ *Mary Garcia lit a candle in memory of Alida VanDerGeest*



Mary Garcia - July 06, 2022 at 12:11 PM

RS

“ *Rayond Sinkew lit a candle in memory of Alida VanDerGeest*



Rayond Sinkew - July 06, 2022 at 08:33 AM

DG

“ Our sincere condolences go out to the entire VanDerGeest family. May fond memories bring comfort during this time of loss. Don and Diane Goldfarb

Diane Goldfarb - July 06, 2022 at 07:59 AM

DS

“ Condolences and blessings to the entire family. May the Lord bless her memory.

Danny y Loretta Sachs - July 05, 2022 at 03:44 PM

ML

“ Mark And Crissie Leyba lit a candle in memory of Alida VanDerGeest



Mark and Crissie Leyba - July 05, 2022 at 01:05 PM

DS

“ Doris Siemes lit a candle in memory of Alida VanDerGeest



Doris Siemes - July 05, 2022 at 10:16 AM



“ Remembering a Belen icon in the Van Der Geest family. What a lovely tribute to such a long and meaningful life! My deepest condolences to her entire family, especially to my classmate, James. Your mom and dad will always be fondly remembered for being the truly good people they were.

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**Theresa Montoya Marshall Czt** - July 05, 2022 at 09:17 AM



“ Adela Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Alida VanDerGeest



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**Adela Sanchez** - July 05, 2022 at 08:43 AM