



## Marie Garcia Shaffner

June 25, 1951 - May 16, 2026

1951-2026

My name is Marie Garcia Shaffner, aka Ms. Likovic, former kindergarten teacher. I was born on June 25, 1951 and passed away on may 16, 2026, surrounded by so much love and all my family. I had an amazing life. I was born and raised in Tome, NM, and have many family, friends and memories there. I love to travel and host family gatherings, garden, bake, arts and crafts, watch sports, family ancestry, and put smiles on my family members faces. My career included teaching kindergarten and Elementary School at Belen Consolidated Schools. I was a principal, and Central Office Administrator for Belen Consolidated Schools. I retired as Superintendent of Belen Consolidated Schools. I loved all my jobs, especially teaching kindergarten. I was blessed with a wonderful husband, Jim; an amazing son, Alexander, devoted brothers, Mark and Ray, nephews, Casey (LeAnn), Dante and Nico Sauve; great nephew, Tristen; and great nieces, Lynae and Aria Lynn. My family made me the happiest. I was preceded in death by my parents, Casimiro and Erlinda Garcia and brother, Richard Garcia. I was diagnosed with cancer 4 years ago. I put up a good fight. Cancer sucks. Please do not send flowers but donate to cancer research in my name. please send positive thoughts and prayers to those who are battling this disease. A private Interment ceremony will be held at Santa Fe National Cemetery. A celebration of life can be held each day. Enjoy your life, family, and friends. The time to be happy is now.



# Tribute Wall

TS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Theresa Sanchez** - June 11 at 12:14 PM

TS

*Ms.Likovic was my kindergarten teacher.i am the one in the back with the ponytails. I have thought of her often over the years. In August, it will be 49 years ago since she taught me. I will never forget her. May she Rest in Eternal Peace.*

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**Theresa Sanchez** - June 11 at 12:20 PM

AJ

“ *Alma Jaramillo lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner*



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**Alma Jaramillo** - May 28 at 09:06 PM

PL

“ Dear Jim, Alexander, Mark, Ray and Family:

*I am deeply saddened to hear of Marie's passing, she was an extraordinary individual who personified the good in everyone she met.*

*I have always been honored, like so many, to call her my friend, through high school and through our teaching/administrative careers. Marie was the ultimate professional, whether in the classroom or the board room, she was a mentor for so many of us! Throughout her career, Marie touched so many people's lives in such a positive way, each of us will always be grateful for her love, her guidance, her friendship, and the wonderful lasting memories.*

*My condolences to each of you, may you find peace in the many loving memories you have, hold them close and in turn you will hold her close, she loved each of you so much!!!*

*Many Blessings to each of you, and thank you for sharing Marie with so many of us, we have been Blessed by knowing her!*

*Paul T. Luna*

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**Paul T. Luna** - May 26 at 12:06 AM

BC

“ My most sincere condolences to the family of Marie Garcia Shaffner. I first knew Marie when she was my son Bernie Jr's kindergarten teacher at the Red Brick School Building in Belen. She was the most amazing teacher to our kids, they all loved her, as did the parents. A few years later she went to teach at Gil Sanchez School, she got to teach two of my other kids. I don't know of anyone who didn't love this woman, she was a great teacher and a great person  
She made a huge impact in my children's lives and they are mourning her loss along with everybody else whose lives she touched. Fly High Mrs. Marie Garcia Likovic Shaffner. 🙏

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**Bernie and Jean Chavez** - May 25 at 12:24 PM

JT

One of the best people ever, had fun with Marie when Alex and Brett were playing 7th and 8th grade basketball !

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**Jeff Trembly** - May 30 at 09:31 AM

“Marie was a Mentor and Dear friend. I first met her when we moved to Belen, she was the Principal at Central, I was Homeschooling the girls, and met to discuss Curriculum. Very shortly after meeting her she became the Curriculum Director. I was a parent advocate and she believed strongly that parents role in education should be at the forefront. She invited me to be a part of the parent group. She would sponsor Parent, Teacher and Student nights, easily over a hundred would attend. She made sure that all were feed and her inspiration, valuable professional message was delivered. She truly had a love for students and insured that each student and siblings left the parent night with an age appropriate book.

We became close friends and her impact in my life was strong. She encouraged me to go back to teaching, and get my Administration license. There are so many memories to list them all.

As an Administrator she would always tell me....if you have a “bright “ idea and you can’t get a hold of me, don’t let the moment pass.. implement it, you can always ask for forgiveness, but the moment will pass. Every New school year she would visit teachers classroom, with a big smile, treat and positive word of encouragement for us and our students. She supported teachers- It was her vision to have A Teacher’s Resource Center. That vision became a reality years after she had left Belen Schools, but she was there for the ribbon cutting. She was truly one of the best Superintendent’s Belen had the opportunity to hire. She represented loyalty, integrity, fairness, kindness and passion in her day to day job.

In case of an emergency ( no cellphones then) and she might have to walk for help,

she always had a pair of tennis shoes in her trunk.

We would tease her that what she needed was a man in her life. I remember she and her Mom praying a Novena and some of us joining her in prayer. A few months later she met Jim. He was a big blessing in her life.

Marie took the time to care not only about you, but your entire family unit. She was sincere every time, famous words “and how’s the family?”

*I was blessed she was a big part of my life, loved her and proud she was my friend. 🕊️❤️*

**Patricia Castillo** - May 25 at 04:16 AM

DC

“ *Diane Chavez lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner* ”



**Diane Chavez** - May 25 at 03:13 AM

MC

“ *Magdalen Chavira-Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner* ”



**Magdalen Chavira-Sanchez** - May 24 at 12:40 AM

GR

“ *Gilbert N Beverly Romero lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner* ”



**Gilbert N Beverly Romero** - May 23 at 10:53 PM

AB

“ Marie was afraid of heights, and yet braved her way along a challenging trail of narrow ledges and ladders to accompany her guests from the East Coast to the most amazing cliff dwelling known as Eagle's Nest. Although she couldn't quite manage the last few steps, this is how I remember one of the most courageous women I ever met.



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Anne (Tocky) Wetherill Bialobrzeski - May 22 at 10:13 AM

PA

*Marie was my Mentor and Dear friend. I first met her when we moved to Belen, she was the Principal at Central, I was Homeschooling the girls, and met to discuss Curriculum. Very shortly after meeting her she became the Curriculum Director. I was a parent advocate and she believed strongly that parents role in education should be at the forefront. She invited me to be a part of the parent group. She would sponsor Parent, Teacher and Student nights, easily over a hundred would attend. She made sure that all were feed and her inspiration, valuable professional message was delivered. She truly had a love for students and insured that each student and siblings left the parent night with an age appropriate book.*

*We became close friends and her impact in my life was strong. She encouraged me to go back to teaching, and get my Administration license. There are so many memories to list them all.*

*As an Administrator she would always tell me....if you have a "bright " idea and you can't get a hold of me, don't let the moment pass.. implement it, you can always ask for forgiveness, but the moment will pass. Every New school year she would visit teachers classroom, with a big smile, treat and positive word of encouragement for us and our students.*

*In case of an emergency and she might have to walk for help, she always had a pair of tennis shoes in her trunk.*

*I would tease her that what she needed was a man in her life. I remember she and her Mom praying a Novena and some of us joining her in prayer. A few months later she met the love of her life- Jim. He was a big blessing in her life.*

*I was blessed she was a big part of my life, loved her and proud she was my friend. 🕊️❤️*

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**Patricia** - May 22 at 12:51 PM

ER

“ *I'll never forget the kindness and warmth Marie Garcia Shaffner showed us as Principal of Tomé Elementary. She was an amazing special person! Condolences to the family. ❤️*



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**Esther Rael** - May 22 at 09:30 AM

BE

“ *BeatriceCarabajal lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner*



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**BeatriceCarabajal** - May 21 at 11:25 PM

LA

“ *Lorraine Archuleta lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner*



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**Lorraine Archuleta** - May 21 at 10:10 PM

LA

*I remember meeting Marie when her wonderful hubby and my work colleague, Jim Shaffner, introduced her to me at an event at NM Tech. She was so gracious and personable with a beautiful smile. May she Rest in Peace and she will be missed.*

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**Lorraine Archuleta** - May 21 at 10:12 PM

CS

“ *I remember sitting in the BCS boardroom (at the old Belen Hospital) when Marie was named the new BCS superintendent. I was just starting my career as a teacher and was so excited and proud that a Hispanic woman who attended a 3-room schoolhouse in Tomé, NM with my mom had been appointed to the top spot. It was inspiring! I know Marie lived her life on the right side of history and humanity. To her loved ones, please accept my deepest condolences for your loss.*

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**Carolyn Serafin-Abeyta** - May 21 at 09:09 PM

CS

“ I remember sitting in the BCS boardroom (at the old Belen Hospital) when Marie was named the new BCS superintendent. I was just starting my career as a teacher and was so excited and proud that a Hispanic woman who attended a 3-room schoolhouse in Tomé, NM with my mom had been appointed to the top spot. It was inspiring! I know Marie lived her life on the right side of history and humanity. To her loved ones, please accept my deepest condolences for your loss.

Carolyn Serafin-Abeyta - May 21 at 09:08 PM

SY

“ We were best friends in high school. Marie, Diana Jones (DJ) and myself. We had a lot of laughs and memories! Marie's parents were always so welcoming. A trait handed down to Marie! As life went on, sadly we lost track of one another. She often ran into my brother Steve at Albertsons. That's how we sort of kept in touch! I was so saddened to hear of Marie's passing. That big, warm smile of hers will always be the way I remember Marie!❤️  
Cancer sucks

Shirley Yonemoto - May 21 at 07:35 PM

BC

So true Shirley! She was such a great person! Beverly

Beverly Castillo - May 31 at 07:04 PM

MS

“ Maxine Barela Schmock lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner



Maxine Barela Schmock - May 21 at 01:44 PM

CB

“ Marie Garcia was a Special Educator. I knew Marie for many years when I worked for Belen And schools. May she rest in Peace with our Heavenly Angels.

Connie Boyd - May 21 at 10:36 AM

BS

“ Betty Trujillo Sanchez sent a virtual gift in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner



Betty Trujillo Sanchez - May 21 at 08:34 AM

TP

“ My father and Marie worked together as administrators at Belen Schools, and I had the privilege of knowing her family well. I knew her son Alex well, and I was fortunate to learn from her brother Mark. Marie touched many lives through her kindness, dedication, and service to the community. My heartfelt condolences go out to her entire family. God bless!

As Stuart Scott once said: “You beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and in the manner in which you live

Tomas Padilla - May 21 at 08:16 AM

BC

“ Beverly Castillo lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner



Beverly Castillo - May 20 at 10:33 PM

RM

“ Renee Montoya lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner



Renee Montoya - May 20 at 04:04 PM

TS

“ Theresa Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner



Theresa Sanchez - May 20 at 01:45 PM

AT

“ It saddens me to hear of Marie’s passing. I had the pleasure and privilege of working with at Belen Schools Administration Office. She was wonderful to work with and always so humble and kind. Rest in Peace my dear friend 🌹 My sincere condolences to her family.

Angie Torres - May 20 at 01:30 PM

LE

“ Lenore lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner



Lenore - May 20 at 12:59 PM

JS

“ RIP Marie. Cancer sucks. 🙏



Janet Sanchez - May 20 at 12:58 PM

KP

“ Kevin & Emma Pena lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner



Kevin & Emma Pena - May 20 at 12:38 PM

AS

“ Aurora And Roberta Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Marie Garcia Shaffner



Aurora and Roberta Sanchez - May 20 at 11:59 AM

BM

“ Thank you, Marie. God bless you ✝️ 🙏



Bernice



Bernice Montoya - May 20 at 11:52 AM