

## Ilse Reissner

January 26, 1929 - July 24, 2021

Ilse Reissner was born in Barranquilla, Colombia. Her parents Pablo Reissner and Rosa Heins were of German descent. She had an older sister, Beatriz Reissner. They grew up speaking German and Spanish and traveled with their parents to Germany every year. Her love of traveling began in her childhood.

After graduating from high school, she and her sister attended LSU where they studied English, and Ilse earned a degree in accounting. After college she returned to Colombia where she met and married Pedro Vicente Garces. They had 5 children. Mary Steffens, Mario Garces, Paulina Doran, Monica Faucheux and Beatriz Garces. After 12 years the marriage ended in divorce. Ilse decided to seek a better life and she emigrated with her five children to the United States.

They settled in Miami, FL. Ilse got a job with DOW chemical in the controller's department that oversaw their Latin American operations. After almost 30 years with DOW she retired and moved to Orlando, FL where most of her grown children lived.

In retirement Ilse dedicated her life to her children and grandchildren. She traveled extensively all over the world and took many of the grandchildren on trips to Europe and other places. She had 15 grandchildren, and 22.5 great grandchildren at the time of her death. She was "Oma" to all of them.

In addition she became involved in the Contemplative Prayer Outreach when it was just beginning. She became one of their leaders and helped it grow to the large ministry that it is today. She led retreats in Florida and Latin America, translated books for Fr. Keating, was the head of three different groups in Central Florida, and organized many pilgrimages to Israel, Greece, Italy and other parts of the world.

She taught by example that what's most important in life is to love God and your family, and that you can achieve your dreams by hard work, integrity and determination. She will be dearly missed by all her family and friends!

In lieu of flowers my mom wanted donations sent to one of these:

1> [contemplativeoutreach.org](http://contemplativeoutreach.org)

2> Extensión Contemplativa Internacional

Attn: Marilu Ason

1643 Brickell Ave. Apt 1901

Miami, FL 33129

3> The Sharing Center

600 N US Hwy 17-92 #100

Longwood, FL 32750

4> Annunciation Catholic Church

1020 Montgomery Rd

Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

The family of Ilse Reissner invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in her loving memory.

# Previous Events

## Public Visitation

JUL **28**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel

9001 N. Orlando Ave

Maitland, FL 32751

(407) 695-2273

todd@degusipe.com

<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

MV

“ He estado pensando en lise por meses y hoy María Victoria me ha mostrado este mensaje  
Mi cariño y mis mejores deseos siempre han estado con ella porque ha sido muy importante en mi vida  
Se que está feliz y satisfecha en su descanso  
Bendiciones y abrazos a todos  
Minerva

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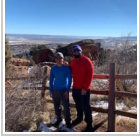
**Minerva Vazquez** - April 21, 2022 at 08:30 PM

GL

“ Dear Oma, I wanted to thank you for changing my life. You showed me from a very young age what ambition, strength and courage looks like in a woman. Your tenacity in raising your children alone while pursuing a successful career at the same time set a powerful example for me. When you took Me to Europe as a child and exposed me to art and culture, languages and travel, it shaped my love of travel, and established an awareness that there are so many beautiful places in this world. It also influenced how I want to raise my children now, with memorable experiences in other countries and with people from all backgrounds and origins. I think of you often, and have over the years consistently had these moments where I know it's because of your example that I am the way that I am. I just wanted to make sure you know the impact you've had on my life. I love you and I'm so sorry that you are suffering now. I'm so glad EJ and me and the kids were able to see you in June. We will cherish our experiences and all of our memories with you. Nixie still tells me often how beautiful you are. I wish you peace and pain free rest now. I Love You, Gina

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**Gina Steffens Lubno** - July 30, 2021 at 11:34 PM



“ For almost 41 years Oma has simply existed. I’ve never known life without her. It’s a slightly unsettling reality to settle into. While I know it’s part of life and I know I will be fine it makes me wish I had her now more than ever. Having lived in Jacksonville for the last 15 years or so I didn’t spend nearly enough time with her but I know she never stopped caring for and loving me. Of this I am certain. The sentiment was mutual.

As a young boy, Oma would on occasion, pick me up from school and take me to lunch, just her and I. We’d usually end up at Sizzler Steakhouse but not for a steak as one may think. Instead, she would tell me to “get the salad bar” so I didn’t “get fat”. I was a bit portly back in those days. As instructed, I’d go to the salad bar to get my lunch. What I’d come back with, was a HUGE plate of salad, with more toppings than anyone needed, all smothered in French dressing. She would simply smile and nod while she ate her modest portion and chatted with me about my day. I know now, that what was on my plate, was probably more calories than a double cheeseburger and fries but Oma didn’t care or criticize. She was teaching me to eat healthy, even if I wasn’t very good at it back then. Oma was always there for the “stuff” - birthdays, graduations, marriages, divorces, etc. and I’m proud to have been the one to introduce her to her first great grandchild. She, however was not overly thrilled at being a “great” grandmother and insisted on simply remaining “OMA”. While I didn’t see her as often as I would have liked over the last 15 years, when I did visit with her, she never ceased to make sure I knew she loved me. She would call me a “monster” or a “giant” and squeal or shriek that I was going to “crush” her when I’d give her my “big grizzly bear hugs”. She’d look me right in the eyes and ask me, “Why...are you...so big?”. She’d playfully (some times painfully) pinch me while I played with her flawless hair, “fluffing it” and telling her how soft it was. Eventually she’d simply stand there in silent protest until I stopped. I was fortunate to visit Oma frequently from 2016-2018 as work took me to Orlando often for that two year stretch. I typically wouldn’t tell many people I was in town so that I could stay focused on work, but I always, always made a point to go visit my Oma. I’ll always

*remember her surprised and super excited, smiling face when she'd open the door and unexpectedly see her "monster" standing there with outstretched arms. She will be missed and always loved. I'm thankful to have had almost 41 years with her and happy she is finally at rest. I love you Oma.*

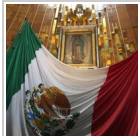


**Kevin Steffens** - July 30, 2021 at 11:21 PM

PM

“ *Querida Ilse, tu presencia cálida, sonriente, generosa vive y vivirá en el corazón de los que tuvimos el honor y la gracia de conocerte. ¡Gracias! Un abrazo fuerte, solidario a su familia y a toda la comunidad de Extensión Contemplativa desde México Centro.*

**Paty Mota** - July 29, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Mercedes Camelo** - July 29, 2021 at 01:12 PM



“ *Mi querida Ilse, le doy gracias a Dios por tu fructífera vida, por tantos corazones que enseñaste a contemplar a Dios, y porque te conocí en este camino de vida.*

*Gracias a ti por tu acompañamiento, tus enseñanzas y tu amistad.*

*Gracias por tus viajes a Monterrey.*

*Siempre te recordaré con gran cariño. Tu ahora gozas de la contemplación eterna y en unión con Él nos bendices.*

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**Mercedes Camelo** - July 29, 2021 at 01:06 PM

FS

“ I met Ilse Reissner when she was 36 that was back in 1965 so we knew each other for 55 years, related for 52. She definitely was a very intelligent, competent, hard worker, driven And also a fun person. She played the piano and the accordion and even talked me into singing while she played the piano. She came to this country with barely nothing with five kids in tow as a single Mom. She succeeded in business at the time when the glass ceiling was predominant in bussiness, I think she was part of Cracking that glass! Her parents had sent her to LSU where She got her accounting degree that's one of the reasons I root for the LSU Tigers! I saw her, prosper through her perseverance and hard work not only in her business life but in her personal life, in spite of her medical issues through all those years. She loved the Lord and her Contemplative Outreach ministry. Christmas became very special when we all started having kids, her Grandkids, eventually All of us came to call her Oma which is grandmother in German. We did butt heads in our early years, a 21 year old trying to date her oldest 15 year old daughter! So we did it her way! Double dated with Mario! I was driving so he got the best part of that Deal! We became close after Mary & I married and we were all living here. I was her computer fix it guy, good at finding her lost files! She really touch me when she told me once that she had had a 6th child, one after Mario at seven months that did not survive and they were going to name him Fred which happens to be my name and that she welcomed me as that son! I am saddened that she is no longer here with us but I'm also glad because I know that now she is in a better place than being here with the health issues that she had! She finally has gone home never to be uprooted again so in a sense I'm trying to go beyond myself and trying to be happy for her and not sad for me because I know that where she is right now she is happy and God loves her and she is in a position to talk with him one on one and there's nothing more rewarding than to be able to talk to God your creator face-to-face so I love you Oma looking forward to seeing you again.

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Fred Steffens - July 29, 2021 at 07:14 AM

MB

“ *Ilse was an extraordinary and wonderful woman! I was in a Centering prayer group with her for many years. She shared her lived faith with us which was filled with wisdom, knowledge, understanding and above all love.*  
*I have wonderful memories of the pilgrimages she led to Israel, Greece, Turkey, Spain, Portugal and France!*  
*I learned so much from her presence and sharing..*  
*I can only imagine how much your family will miss her. You have my deepest sympathy and heart-filled prayers.*  
*I regret that I will not be with you today to celebrate her beautiful life as I am in New Hampshire recovering from surgery.*  
*God bless and comfort you.*  
*I loved your wonderful mother.*  
*Mary Bishop*

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**Mary Bishop** - July 29, 2021 at 06:32 AM

MS

“ *Guerrera incansable de la fe y del movimiento de oración contemplativa. El Señor la recibe con alegría en su regazo. Ilse es de esas personas que sabemos fue derechita al cielo. La echaremos de menos, especialmente en nuestras reuniones de los viernes. ¡Hasta pronto, Ilse!*

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**Maria S.** - July 27, 2021 at 08:35 PM

KG

“ *Beautiful woman inside and out. Build a very strong family . She will be missed .*

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**Karina Garces** - July 27, 2021 at 07:38 PM

BG

“ *Ella fue una de las personas que nos apoyó con el estudio de Biblia en los comienzos en Saint Mary Magdalen cuando era el padre Rick en año 2010 Gracias a ella pudimos completar el proyecto con el apoyo de su material. Que Dios la tenga en su reino*

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**Betty Guerrero** - July 27, 2021 at 01:58 PM

CB

“ *Candace Brako lit a candle in memory of Ilse Reissner*



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**Candace Brako** - July 27, 2021 at 10:47 AM

GZ

“ *Gracias Querida Ilse , nos encantaste con tus historias, tu sabidoria, generocidad y carisma. Te deseo paz en tu nueva morada. mis condolencias a familiares y amigos*  
*Guido Zamorano*

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**Guido Zamorano** - July 26, 2021 at 09:40 PM

ME

*Una bellizima persona por el tiempo que la conoci que Dios la tenga en su gloria y mis condolencias a toda su familia*

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**Maria Enriquez** - July 27, 2021 at 03:28 PM

CC

“ Clara S. Diaz Del Castillo lit a candle in memory of Ilse Reissner



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Clara S. Diaz del Castillo - July 26, 2021 at 08:11 PM

RV

*ilsa was the reason I traveled to Europe, Israel, Italy, France and Greece. What wonderful memories of her leadership and patience with us Pilgrims. She was a leader of Contemplative Prayer and there were many retreats and days of prayer I remember, always seeing her smiling face. God food and cafe la leche! I know God is welcoming her and has a Casa already for her to greet all those who have gone before her, Fr. Thomas and Fr. Menninger will be first in line. May God bless all her family and loved ones who will miss her earthly person but never forget her Spirit.*

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rosemary vanpelt - July 29, 2021 at 01:45 PM