



SSG (Ret.) Lourdes B. "Lou" Cruz

December 10, 1953 - February 27, 2023

Lourdes "Lou" Barbara Cruz was born on December 10, 1953 in Piti, Guam. As a young girl, Lou grew up in Guam and attended school. For a short time during her teenage years, she lived in California before moving back to Guam.

At the age of 20, Lou entered the United States Army and served her country faithfully until her retirement in 1993. She had attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and earned several awards and commendations; some of which include: Army Commendation Medal – 2nd Award, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal – 6th Award, National Defense Service Medal – 2nd Award, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon – 2nd Award, Southwest Asia Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, and the Expert Qualification Badge M-16 Rifle.

During her time in the military, she was stationed at several different duty stations: Ft. Ord, CA; Ft. Jackson, S.C.; Ft. Sill, OK; Hanou, Germany; Ft. Bragg, NC; Heidelberg, Germany; Desert Storm; and Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.

While stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, Lou met the love of her life, Joseph Francisco Cruz, who was also a United States Army soldier. They were united in marriage on January 23, 1976 in Lawton, Oklahoma. They shared over 47 years of marriage together and were blessed three children: Anthony, Louanna, and Therese.

After retiring from the military, Lou worked for a time at the Piney Ridge Center in Waynesville before beginning to continue serving her country as a civil service employee in 1996. She served for 20+ years until her retirement.

In her spare time, she enjoyed playing Bingo and going fishing, but her main passion was her family and spending time with her grandchildren. She loved them dearly and looked forward to every chance they could spend together.

Lou passed away Monday, February 27, 2023, in the Dixon Nursing and Rehab Center in Dixon, Missouri having attained the age of 69 years. She will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved her.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory, her husband, Joseph Cruz of Dixon, MO; three children, Anthony D. Cruz (Nanette) of Tipp City, OH, Louanna Rawaekklang (“Noon”) of Land O Lakes, FL, and Therese Hell (Justin) of South Korea; ten grandchildren, Tyler, Gavin, Joey, Sophia, Brae, Aly, Jayvian, Kaili, Jace and Scarlett; four siblings, John Cruz, Vicky Reyes, Anne Salas, and Mary Sills; a number of nieces and nephews; as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

Even though she is gone from our sight, Lou’s love of country and family will live on in our hearts forever.

Services were held at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2023 in the St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church of St. Robert, MO with Father Michael Murphy officiating. Burial with military honors followed in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery of Waynesville. Military honors were provided by the United States Army of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of SSG (Ret) Lourdes Cruz and may be left at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO 65583

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 8. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert
202 Historic 66 W.
Waynesville, MO 65583
(573) 774-6111
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

Funeral Service

MAR 8. 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
367 Old Route 66
St. Robert, MO
(573) 336-3662
office@strobertcatholic.com

Tribute Wall



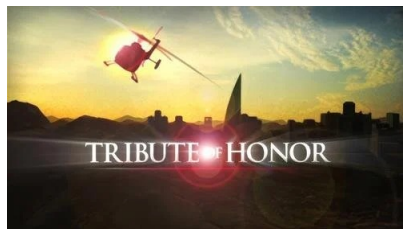
“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of SSG (Ret.) Lourdes B. "Lou" Cruz*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - March 10, 2023 at 11:26 AM



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of SSG (Ret.) Lourdes B. "Lou" Cruz*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - March 10, 2023 at 10:39 AM

MJ

“ Our deepest condolences go out to Joe and his family. We are so very sad to hear about the loss of their loved one "Lou". Please know that our hearts and prayers are with you all. May God give you comfort and peace during this difficult time. Si Yuus' Ma'ase Lou! For all that you have done while you were here in this world. You will be greatly missed by many who love you and will always remember you in their hearts.



With Deepest Sympathy,
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald R. & Mary Ann Manibusan Johnson

Mary Ann M. Johnson - March 07, 2023 at 06:33 PM



“ 790 files added to the album LifeTributes



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - March 07, 2023 at 12:41 PM

TR

“ My deepest condolences to Lou's family. I worked with her at the Truman Education Center. She was so sweet, and she loved her family and friends above all.

tanja Rains - March 06, 2023 at 06:44 PM

FL

“ *Condolences to my cousin and brother Joseph F Cruz and their children and families. Lou was like a sister to me I love her spirit for family. I will miss talking with her every so often because we live far apart but always remember the times when they come home to visit . I will miss her dearly. Adios che’lu rest in peace till we meet again.*



Faye Francisco Lopez - March 03, 2023 at 09:27 PM

LC

“ *Linda cole-schonbok sent a virtual gift in memory of Lourdes Cruz*



Linda cole-schonbok - March 03, 2023 at 08:56 PM

KH

“ *My deepest condolences to Joe and the Family on the loss of Dear Lou. I am so sorry, as Lou was a wonderful person and will be deeply missed by so many. Lou and I have been friends for over 20 years and she was so funny and caring. I very sad but I know she is with God now and making everyone laugh in Heaven and has no more sickness or pain. God Bless you Joe and the Family.*



karen Hall - March 03, 2023 at 03:00 PM

RC

Our Heartfelt Condolences to you Joe and Family. We were saddened to hear the passing of a Wonderful and Beautiful soul. Our Thoughts and Prayers will be with you in this trying time!! Lou will forever live in Our Heart!! 🙏❤️🙏

Ray & Raymonda Charfauros - March 05, 2023 at 10:13 PM

AT

“*Lou and I go back so far in friendship. Not only with her, but with family, as she was well accepted into mine, as I was with hers. Her sisters Vicky and Anne would know that when you saw one, you saw the other. We eventually decided to enlist in the Army's "Buddy System" program and be able to be stationed together on our first assignment. Lou was funny, smart, kind and a devoted friend who kept me from being late for formation at Basic Training (I wanted to sleep in). She and I created so many wonderful memories together and it will take the rest of my lifetime to recall every occurrence of our events together. Inclosing, to Joe and Children/G'children/Siblings & Cruz Families, my sincere Condolences and Deepest Sympathy over the passing of our Beloved Lou. To you my beautiful Friend/Sister, Lou aka Deding, I am so sorry that I am unable to be at your side to bid you a final farewell, but I too, have been battling Stage 4 Lung Cancer and receiving Chemotherapy and unable to travel, my sister. You are in my heart, mind and Prayers. I will see you again. REST IN PEACE WITH LOVE.*



Anne Sablan Topasna - March 03, 2023 at 02:53 PM



“ *Lois Jester-lofton lit a candle in memory of Lourdes Cruz*



Lois Jester-lofton - March 03, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ *Pulaski Camp Gideons lit a candle in memory of Lourdes Cruz*



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - March 03, 2023 at 11:04 AM



“ *I have known Lou since we worked together at the 43rd, and she was always a classy lady. After she went to ACS, I would search her out for her incredible advice. Lou will be missed by all that met her 😭*



Kathy Goodman - March 03, 2023 at 10:35 AM



“ *Pamela Cox sent a virtual gift in memory of Lourdes Cruz*



Pamela Cox - March 03, 2023 at 09:43 AM



“ *Lisa Hafner lit a candle in memory of Lourdes Cruz*



Lisa Hafner - March 03, 2023 at 09:27 AM

LM

“ *Our deepest condolences 🌸 to uncle and the family. We love her dearly and will cherish our memories with her forever. Keeping her candles 🕯️ light forevermore.*



Laurie Manibusan - March 03, 2023 at 08:43 AM

SH

“ *Mrs. Lou had a smile that lit up a room, she was always so friendly and warm. I will miss my sweet friend. My prayers are with Lou's family at this time. May GOD watch over you and give you all strength and love.*



Suemarie Herron - March 03, 2023 at 05:41 AM