



Tomasa Martinez

March 7, 1937 - November 26, 2025

With deep love and heartfelt sorrow, we announce the passing of Tomasa or as she preferred to be called, “Tomasita” Martinez Sanchez, 88, of Ellenville, NY who passed away peacefully on November 26, 2025.

Born March 7th 1937, in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, Tomasita grew up surrounded by the values that shaped the rest of her life—family, faith, hard work, and compassion. She carried those values proudly and shared them generously with everyone around her.

Tomasita will always be remembered for her kindness, sense of humor and generosity. She took immense pride in her work as a seamstress for Playtex in New York City, where her skill, attention to detail and steady hands helped shape garments worn by women across the country. She found joy in cooking traditional Puerto Rican dishes like pasteles, alcapurrias and pastelillos and sharing them with her family and friends, neighbors at Glusker Gardens, and doctors and support staff at Crystal Run Healthcare. She also loved music, dancing salsa, gatherings and the memories created in those moments will continue to bring comfort to all who loved her.

Family was at the center of everything for Tomasita. Her hope was that forgiveness would guide her family back together. She is survived by her devoted and committed husband, her first love, Claudio, whom she grew up

with. After many years apart, they found their way back to one another later in life, discovering that their love had never faded. Claudio was a constant source of strength for her, remaining by her side through her final days.

She was lovingly cared for by her daughter, Carolyn Jorge, son-in-law, Edgardo Jorge, and granddaughter, Margarete Schaut, who stood by her side with tenderness and unwavering devotion until the very end of her life. Their presence brought her comfort, peace and love during her final years. She found great friendship, joy and comfort from numerous members of her congregation and had a special bond with, Rafael and Becky Benitez, who were present throughout her late life.

She is also survived by her sons, Noel Castro, Bany (Marceline) Castro and David (Kelly) Castro. Her grandchildren, Jocelyn Castro (Michael), Celines Jorge-Gecewicz (Greg), Edgardo G. Jorge (Alexis), David Castro Jr., Michelle (Doug) Youmans, Jason Castro (Alexa), Mikey Castro, Sabrina Castro, Margarete Schaut (Michael), Anthony Castro, David Castro, Sonia Irizarry, Ariana Castro, Leon Castro, and Isabella Noelia Castro. Many great-grandchildren including, Matthew, Savanna, Bryant, Brigid, Alexandra, Camila, Josiah, Jahlio, Nicholas, Juleus, Jaline, Myah, Ava, Jaden, Star, Ivy, Eve, Grayson Anthony, Landon Jay, Anthony Kenneth and Camden Richard. Her large and loving family will carry her legacy forward with pride.

The family also wishes to recognize her devoted caregivers at, Putnam Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, whose compassion, patience, and tender care brought her comfort, dignity, and peace in her final days.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Juan Sanchez and Maria Sanchez Carcano, her aunt that lovingly raised her and her twin sister- Felicita Sanchez (Abuela Fela), her stepsisters- Milagros and Vicenta Caballero, her favorite and closest first cousin- Rafael "Rafi" Sanchez Melendez, her brother-in-law

Pedro "Pedrito" Martinez, and her grandson, Anthony B. Castro.

A public visitation service will be held on Friday, December 5th from 5:00-8:00 PM at Martinez-Morse Funeral Home located at 33 Railroad Avenue Middletown, NY 10940, where family and friends will gather to honor a beautiful life and celebrate the lasting legacy she leaves behind. Internment will be December 6th, 2025 at 1PM at Hillside Cemetery, located at 50 Mulberry Street Middletown, NY 10940.

The family deeply appreciates all expressions of sympathy. Donations may be made in Tomasita's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

May the accepting, forgiving and loving nature of Tomasita continue to live on in all of us.

Previous Events

Public Visitation

DEC **5**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Martinez-Morse Funeral Home
33 Railroad Ave
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 343-6918
martinezmorsefcs@gmail.com
<https://www.MartinezFuneralHomes.com/>

Burial

DEC **6**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Hillside Cemetery
Mulberry St
Middletown, NY 10940

Tribute Wall

“Tomasita's Eulogy:

Thank you for being here as we gather to honor and lay to rest a woman who meant so much to all of us—my grandmother. Standing here today feels surreal, because how do you sum up a lifetime of love, lessons, and memories in just a few minutes? But I'll do my best, because she deserves to be remembered with the same care and devotion she showed to all of us.

My grandmother was many things—a mother, a sister, a wife, a friend—but to me, she was simply Grandma. And that word held so much meaning. It meant comfort. It meant home. It meant the one person who always managed to make me feel loved, even on the hardest days.

Grandma had a way of making everyone around her feel special. She didn't have to try; it was just who she was. Whether she was offering advice, telling a story, or simply sitting beside you, she had a presence that made you feel understood. She listened—not to respond, but to truly hear you. And that is a rare gift.

She lived her life with a quiet strength. She didn't need recognition or praise; she simply did what needed to be done and carried her challenges with grace. From her, I learned resilience, humility, and what it means to show up for the people you love. She taught her family through her actions: that kindness matters, that forgiveness matters, and that family—no matter how complicated—matters.

One of the things I will always cherish is how deeply she embraced and celebrated her Puerto Rican heritage. She carried that pride in everything she did—especially in the way she cooked. Feeding others was her love language. If she made pasteles, arroz con gandules, or alcapurrias, you knew you weren't leaving her house without a plate. That was her way of saying “I love you,” “I'm thinking of you,” and sometimes even “I forgive you.” Her kitchen was a place where she poured her heart into every bite, and sharing

that food was how she kept our culture alive and kept our family connected.

I'll remember her hands, always busy. Her warm voice calling my name. Her stories about the past, filled with wisdom, humor, and a lifetime of experiences that shaped her into the strong woman she was. I'll remember her generosity and the way she made even ordinary days feel meaningful simply because she was in them.

Today is painful, because saying goodbye is never easy. But as we stand here placing her to rest, I also feel gratitude. Gratitude that I had the privilege of growing up with her love. Gratitude for every memory she gave me. Gratitude that her lessons will live on in all of us—the way we care for people, the way we face challenges, the way we treat each other.

And though she is no longer physically here, her presence doesn't end today. She lives on in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She lives on in the traditions she passed down. She lives on in the values she instilled. And she lives on in the stories we will tell about her, again and again, so that future generations will know the incredible woman we were blessed to call Grandma.

As we say our final goodbye, I take comfort in believing she is at peace—reunited with loved ones who have gone before her, free from pain, free from worry, free from the limitations of this world. And I hope she knows how deeply she was loved, how profoundly she will be missed, and how beautifully she will be remembered.

Grandma, thank you for everything. Thank you for loving me, guiding me, and shaping so much of who I am. I will carry you with me for the rest of my life.

My beautiful Grandma, thank you for being my safe place, my teacher, and my friend. Part of you will walk with me wherever I go. Rest peacefully.

*Love Always,
Celi*



Celines Jorge-Gecewicz - December 20, 2025 at 08:50 PM

PM

“ Peter Myers purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Tomasa Martinez.



Peter Myers - December 05, 2025 at 09:19 AM

PM

“ Peter Myers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tomasa Martinez.

Peter Myers - December 05, 2025 at 09:19 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tomasa Martinez.



December 05, 2025 at 01:24 AM

IM

“ IW Local 197 Officers & Members purchased the Rays of Light Spray for the family of Tomasa Martinez.



IW Local 197 Officers & Members - December 04, 2025 at 10:11 PM

IM

“ IW Local 197 Officers & Members planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tomasa Martinez.

IW Local 197 Officers & Members - December 04, 2025 at 10:11 PM

JT

“ James P. Mahoney, General Treasurer purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Tomasa Martinez.



James P. Mahoney, General Treasurer - December 04, 2025 at 03:13 PM

DF

“ Delfin Martinez Jr and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Tomasa Martinez.



Delfin Martinez Jr and family - December 04, 2025 at 12:44 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Tomasa Martinez.*



December 04, 2025 at 11:48 AM



“ *Eduardo Caballero purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Tomasa Martinez.*



Eduardo Caballero - December 01, 2025 at 08:15 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tomasa Martinez.*



December 01, 2025 at 03:41 PM