



## Nelia Recto Hancock

January 9, 1946 - June 17, 2025

Nelia Recto Hancock, 79, of Winchester, died peacefully June 17, 2025 in Stephens City, with her two daughters by her side.

She was born January 9, 1946 in Manila, Philippines, the daughter of Eleuterio and Dolores Golimlim Recto. Nelia was the second eldest of nine children and was affectionately called "Baby" by her siblings, who have fond memories of her winning dance competitions and being a protective big sister. She moved to the U.S. in the early 80s, married and had two daughters, Abigail and Tiffany. She was warm and welcoming and could find joy and humor in any

circumstance. Food was her love language, and she made sure those she loved were always well-fed. She was bold, brave, and adventurous, excited for new experiences, even into the later years. She moved all across the country— from Washington state to Texas, then Alaska to Virginia— to be near her daughters and grandkids, who were her world.

Nelia was a loving, kind, and selfless mother. She was a constant cheerleader of her daughters and grandkids, proud of their big and small achievements - and she would share them all with anyone who listened. She was forever an optimist and full of faith that God could do anything, as He had proven time and time again in her life. Most of all, Nelia leaned on Jesus and exhibited the Fruit of the Spirit with her joyfulness, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness. Her legacy will be her love for Christ and the love she showed her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter Abigail (Ian) Cooper, of Goodyear, Arizona; Tiffany (Brent) Collier of Winchester, Virginia; grandchildren Maverick, Posey, Matilda, Farrah, Grant, and Bodhi; and her siblings Zenaida Recto, Arturo Recto, Armando Recto, Virginia Recto Groom, Josephine Recto Wurst, Patricia Recto, and Elenita Recto.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Roberto Recto. The family is hosting a private Celebration of Life this month at the Museum of Shenandoah Valley, Nelia's favorite place in Winchester.