



Esther Rebecca Theis

December 13, 1949 - February 18, 2021

Esther (Ruiz) Theis, 71, of Turlock, passed away Thursday, February 18, 2021 after a 14-year battle with breast/liver cancer. Esther was born in Newman, CA to Frank and Rebecca Ruiz, the youngest of four siblings. Esther grew up on the family dairy in Stevinson, CA and attended schools in Hilmar graduating from Hilmar High School in 1968. She went on to barber college and became a barber working in Ray Kinzie's Barber Shop on Lander Ave in Turlock.

In 1969 she married Jim Theis. Together, they relocated to St. Cloud, MN in 1972 and then continued to move around the country with Jim's employer, Armour Food Company/ConAgra for the next 11 years, living in Lampasas, TX, Phoenix, AZ, and again in St. Cloud. Esther and Jim's first son, Marcus, was born in 1977 in Phoenix, AZ. In 1984, they had the opportunity to move back to Turlock – an easy choice to return to family over snow and subzero temperatures! A few years later, in 1987, they welcomed their second son, Matthew, in Turlock and they were home to stay. Esther was always up to the challenge of relocating the family and developed lasting friendships wherever she went.

Esther will always be remembered as a kind and caring person, with an unrelenting devotion to her family and friends. She was so proud of her two sons and found immense joy in spending time with her grandchildren and watching them grow. Over the last several years, she was an active participant in the Cancer Support Group at Emanuel Medical Center and

would always make time to meet with individuals that were first diagnosed to provide words of encouragement and guidance.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Rebecca Ruiz, and two brothers, Arthur and Robert Ruiz. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Jim Theis; her sons Marcus and Matt (Amanda); sister Anita Mitchell (Mike); nieces Bonnie Adkins, Mary Margaret Woodrum; nephew James Ruiz; and grandchildren Betsy and Ben Theis, who were the light of her life.

Many thanks to Dr. Naresh Patel at Kaiser Oncology in Modesto for his relentless efforts in extending Esther's time with family and friends, Pastor Dave Larson for his compassion and words of comfort, and the staff at Community Hospice who were so responsive in Esther's last days.

Turlock Memorial Park & Funeral Home is handling arrangements, however due to COVID-19 circumstances, private services will be limited to family members. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donating in honor of Esther Theis to Community Hospice or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Turlock Memorial Park

575 N. Soderquist Rd.
Turlock, CA 95380
(209) 632-9111
<http://turlockmemorialpark.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Esther Rebecca Theis*

January 28, 2023 at 09:01 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Esther and I were cheer leaders at the same time while in high school. I was a Senior and she was a Sophomore. Her brother Robert was in my class. Esther and I both married Turlock guys from the class of 67. Esther was always fun and bubbly. I would reconnect with Esther at high school reunion for our husbands class. Esther was an amazing and loving person. Claude and I send our condolences to Jim and the family. You are in our prayers. Gini Elmquist Gunsch, South Lake Tahoe*

Gini Gunsch - March 10, 2021 at 07:41 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Esther Rebecca Theis.*



March 01, 2021 at 04:43 PM

DH

“ *Esther was a wonderful friend to many, and I've been missing her for a few months since her tough final fight. I'll remember her always and all our fun times with our cancer support buddies. She was so giving of her time and smiles among us during lunches, swim times and different programs through the Emanuel Cancer center as well as our walks for Relay for Life. The love will never go away Esther...miss you my bestie!*
Debi

Debi Hediger - February 25, 2021 at 09:17 PM

CF

“ *Words cannot express ones sorrow - nor provide the consolation for Jim, Marcus and Matthew and her close families as one would hope in the death of Esther. Today's Mass Reading for February 25th happens to be from the Book of Esther Ch 12: and verse 25 , perhaps, has Saint Esther's words to God for her Family: " Save us; turn our mourning into gladness and our sorrows into wholeness ..." May God give each of you His Peace and Comfort in Christ Jesus.*
Christopher and Sandra
The Freeberg Families

Christopher Freeberg - February 25, 2021 at 05:03 PM

CH

“ *I met Esther while we both were taking TaiChi classes in Turlock. She was a true inspiration to me and to so many other people. When she first was diagnosed with cancer, I would go with her for her chemo treatments, she was a true inspiration and always held onto her faith in God ! She has changed so many lives and spread the true words of her faith to so many. She was truly an Earth Angel in human form and a dear friend . Sending prayers to the family.*

conny Himenes - February 24, 2021 at 11:18 PM

CE

“ *Esther had such deep faith, compassion and grace. Having her in my life was a privilege.*

Clare Evans - February 24, 2021 at 10:30 PM

MB

“ *Sorry to hear of the passing of Esther. Our prays are with the family as u remember and celebrate her life Blessing from Lee and Marsha (Mord) Barkhousen*

Marsha Barkhousen - February 22, 2021 at 06:05 PM

MS

“ *What a wonderful person gone to soon . I met Esther at chair yoga at Turlock Cancer Center she was always so up beat and positive about life. She lifted all of us up with her smile and wit. She will be missed by those she touched . My heartfelt prayers go out to her husband and family.*

marcia fowle smith - February 22, 2021 at 02:28 PM