



Iola Regnier Gomez

November 24, 1952 - June 12, 2022

Iola Regnier Gomez, of Bourbonnais, passed away Sunday (June 12, 2022), at the age of 69.

Born Nov. 24, 1952, she grew up in the Kankakee area, and lived for a time in Louisville, Ky.

Iola was a graduate of Bishop McNamara High School.

She was an avid gardener and decorator. She never met a patch of earth or a room she could not leave brighter.

Preceding her in death were her father, Russell, and mother, Rose; and husband, Matthew, and son, Andrew.

Surviving are her son, Rob (Stacey); brother, Stephen (Deborah); sister, Lynne (Jim), and sister, Karen (Michael); grandchildren, Jack and Amelia; nieces and nephews, Kimberley, Lindsay (Scott), Jillian (Chris), Zachary (Chelsea), and Scott; and great-grand-nephew, Connor.

Her family said, "Although she left us far too soon, she did not leave us empty handed. We have a lifetime of memories, card games and backyard croquet matches to remember and cherish. When we think of our sister, Iola, we replay poignant images of 'da Bears,' shrimp dip, angel food cake, handmade dough Xmas ornaments, black raspberry pie, French crepes with Karo syrup, a garden meticulously sculpted, tomato plants, lasagna from Tucci's, cherry coffee, pot brownies, noodles and dressing, Due's pizza, golf at Shamrock, Downton Abbey, Puff the Magic Dragon, air guitar, Etta James, and her beloved porch swing. Each image carries a story, an iced tea or two, and a smile."

Occasional "sib weekends" were the stuff of legend, a chance for Karen, Lynne, Steve and Iola to visit, bond, eat Jaenicke Hot Dogs, cheat at cards, tell and retell stories of family

lore and, most of all, laugh at themselves.

Though the family mourns it's loss, they take solace knowing that she is reunited with son, Andrew, and husband, Matthew, somewhere pure that is free of struggle, pain and frustration. Beneath her gruff and sassy demeanor was a gentile soul who believed in the connection of lives for fun, joy and love. She endured far more heartache than one person should ever have to bear and still continued to love unconditionally. She lived authentically and showed family and friends that being yourself is the only way to live.

"The mind always replays what the heart can't delete. We celebrate and will always hold dear the true gift this lady was. Be at peace, dear sister. Your pilgrim soul has found home, Lola Regnier Gomez," her loving family said.

Tribute Wall

SG

“ Aunt lola, I remember dancing with you at my Mom's wedding last year and you sharing a loving memory of yours with Andy. It struck me in that moment what a simple dance meant to you because of the symmetry in motion. I realize looking back now I almost always felt that same yearning when I'd hug you at holiday parties or family gatherings: A mother so deeply missing her son. I won't lie, the first thought I had when I heard you passed was that you could finally wrap your arms around Andy and have a dance with him now, too.

I also hold dear a memory of calling you the day my father died and hearing your consoling voice through the phone. I could tell then and ever since we shared the connection of losing someone we love, a loss that makes it hard to go on without.

The ache I've felt in my heart for your suffering ever since Andy's funeral has been hard to bear, but I found it inspiring how you fought to live on without him and were able to find solace in the little things in life. Your sense of humor and candidness were always refreshing and your love for my Mom was always so deeply felt from afar. I'm grateful for who you were in my life and will miss you. Yet I feel so at peace knowing you're with Andy and your loved ones, now.

-Scott Gleeson

Scott Gleeson - June 25 at 05:24 PM

EB

“ My deepest condolences to the entire Regnier family and all who knew and loved lola. We were friends for almost 60 yrs and even when we lived far from each other, it was a comfort to know she was still in the physical world. We both really looked forward to our lunches together and conversation time on the porch swing. I will miss her immensely. My world is somehow diminished without her in it but I know that she rests safely in the arms of those she loved who went before her, Russ and Rose, Matthew and her darling boy Andy. Rest well, my dear friend.

Ellen Blomer - June 20 at 12:29 PM

WM

“ Deepest sympathy to her her family and her friends. Prayers your way.

William Maass - June 18 at 05:16 AM

LS

“ I cannot believe that I will never see you again, lola. In the past 9 years, we have probably seen and done it all in the best possible way.....together. No more dancing in the aisles of Michaels, eating your favorite lasagna at Tucci's, going antique shopping, eating breakfast at Yolks & Berries, playing cards and most of all.....laughing until our sides ached. The only thing that offsets my grief is knowing that you have been reunited with Andy, Matt, Mom and Dad. Words will never do justice to the love I have in my heart for you, but something tells me that wherever you are right in this moment, you know the full extent of that love. My last image of you was a peaceful, restful and calming one and for that, I am eternally grateful.

Thank you for everything you brought to my life, Sister, and I will keep a constant vigil awaiting those little "signs" that you are here visiting from beyond!



Lynne Skinner - June 16 at 05:26 PM