



Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards

September 19, 1938 - July 9, 2012

A memorial service for Nancy Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards, 73, of Kankakee, will be held at noon Friday, July 20, at the Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene, where she was a member. The Rev. Edward Heck will officiate. Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorials may be made to the Ric and Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards Scholarship Fund at Kankakee Community College. She died July 9, 2012, at her home. Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee, is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Baspiñeiro-Edwards was a longtime Spanish teacher at Bishop McNamara Catholic High School and Kankakee Community College. She was born Sept. 16, 1938, in Spain, the daughter of Abel and Raquel Irahola Baspiñeiro. She became a U.S. citizen in July 1964. She was the first Hispanic board member for Kankakee School District 111. She was a past board member for the Kankakee County Museum and Kankakee County Historical Society. She was an emeritus member of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. She received many awards, honors and nominations throughout her 33-year career. Surviving are her husband, Richard C. Edwards Jr., of Kankakee, whom she married May 20, 1962, in Oruro, Bolivia, South America; one son and daughter-in-law, Richard Carlton and Dina Edwards, of St. Anne; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; one sister, Lourdes (Willy) Baspiñeiro-Camacho, of LaPaz, Bolivia, South America; and several additional relatives in Bolivia. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorials may be made to the Ric and Sonia Baspinerio-Edwards
Scholarship Fund at Kankakee Community College, Foundation Office, 100
College Drive, Suite L257, Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **20**. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N.Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1.naz.org>

Tribute Wall

MK

“ *Michael Kohan lit a candle in memory of Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards*



Michael Kohan - July 24, 2012 at 09:07 PM

JS

“ *Jamie Sudikatus lit a candle for Sonia*



Jamie Sudikatus - July 23, 2012 at 09:10 PM

AN

“ *On behalf of Fr. Mario Quejadas and the parishioners of St. Martin of Tours Kankakee, I would like to express our sincerest condolences to your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*



May God's blessings of love and peace be upon you.

Aimee Flor Nellas - July 23, 2012 at 11:08 AM

DV

“ *Don Veeseer lit a candle in memory of Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards*



Don Veeseer - July 20, 2012 at 06:13 PM



Dear Ric,

I always enjoyed my times working for you and much of it was because how very Pleasant it was to be around a couple who Mutually, Truly cared for and Loved Each Other. That stands out for me as a Rarity and a Treasure in this world. I'll miss Sonia's most positive attitude and the sense of humor that you both shared with me.

God has Her, and God Be With You, Ric

*From My Heart,
Don Veeseer, Limestone*

Don Veeseer - July 20, 2012 at 06:28 PM

RE

Thank you for your words of comfort. she is at peace. Ric

Ric Edwards - August 04, 2012 at 09:08 AM

LT

“ *Senora Edwards was one of a kind. The kind of teacher you only have once in a lifetime. Although small in stature, she had a mighty presence in the halls of Bishop McNamara. I was blessed to be in her Spanish class all four years while attending Bishop Mac. She pushed and inspired her students to be better, work harder and reach higher than they ever thought possible. I am so very thankful for her drive, her friendship and commitment to her students. I recall the name of the Spanish Honor Society she established at Bishop Mac, "El Sueno Impossible". She instilled in all of us the confidence to know that, indeed, nothing was impossible.*

Muchas gracias, Senora Edwards! God Bless you!!!

Linda Golowski Talley - July 19, 2012 at 05:49 PM

LT

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Linda Golowski Talley - July 19, 2012 at 05:37 PM

DF

“ Dear Ric and Carlton,

I am so sorry for your loss. I think the word that comes to my mind when I think of lovely Sonia was "classy". She always carried herself with such dignity and grace. She always took time to smile and hug me...I loved our chats about anything and everything. You two were an amazing couple and I so enjoyed any social encounters we were blessed to share. Take care of yourself at this most difficult time. Sonia blessed so many by her discipline, love of life and ability to continue to pour her life into those around her. I will miss her...be assured of my prayers for your peace and strength...Debra Pomon Foulks (BMHS secretary to Fr Yarno) and mother of 2 alumni

Debra A Foulks - July 19, 2012 at 04:03 PM

LB

“ I was never in her class and yet, she taught me so many things. She was the ultimate teacher's teacher----- with mentorship as wide as her thoughtful heart and as deep as her ability to inspire and inform--simultaneously. Having established a Ric Edwards Fan Club early in my life, I met Sonia a little later and let me simply say----she had me at "hello" too. In her, I could see what excellence in education looks like when it is wrapped in a lifetime of grace and elegance. From her, I gathered perspective in both teaching and learning and with her, I celebrated a passion for the chance to see a woman so gifted, she enhanced the very profession she loved with enduring lessons in community leadership, communication, and dialogue. Luckily, I was able to join the beautiful couple for lunch in their grand home one hot summer day in Deep Riverview. It was the perfect place to see panache tucked in every corner of the home while I tasted delicious fare prepared as though it was simple----but it wasn't---and I knew it. Midway through the delightful conversation, I heard a nuances in their wonderful voices which went far beyond context and into a world of mutual understanding, appreciation, and sacred respect for life, love, and one another. To you, my dear Ric---my heartfelt prayers are with you now and always. To Carleton and Family---my sympathy and condolences. To my dear Sonia----my loving appreciation of your model and your message which---to me--were always pure magic. Lana Weiss Brown

Lana Weiss Brown - July 19, 2012 at 03:06 PM

RE

You were always a friend and one who took time to let us know we were on the right track. Thank you
Ric

Ric Edwards - August 04, 2012 at 09:18 AM

TD

“ Terry, Amanda and I want to express our sincere condolences to you, Ric and Carleton, in the loss of your wife and mother. We will be praying for you.

Terry and Toni Diel
Amanda Diel Tangeman



Terry Diel - July 18, 2012 at 06:03 PM

HH

“ Herb & Marilyn Hunn lit a candle in memory of Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards



Herb & Marilyn Hunn - July 18, 2012 at 09:07 AM

JL

“ Rick and Carlton:
I am currently traveling in Montana/Idaho when my son, Jon, called with the news of Sonia's passing. Having worked with Sonia during all of her 33 yrs at Mac. I came to know Sonia and her amazing teaching skills. We laughed together, cried together, complained together, and rejoiced together as we both "hung" around Mac for many years. Sonia was the epitome of a great teacher and her students were the beneficiaies of her many talents. I know this first hand as Sonia taught my own children and I witnessed her work with them. Please accept Vicki and my deepest sympathy in this difficult time...I may not be home for the service, but my thoughts are, and will be, with you both.

Jim Laurenti Mac employee 1965-2009

jim laurenti - July 17, 2012 at 10:31 PM

WG

“ I'm so glad I had the opportunity to get to know Sonia (and Ric) while working at KCC. I always enjoyed chatting with her when she passed my office or I passed hers. She also had me help her with a photo project there, which was sweet of her to ask me. Some people leave wonderful lasting impressions, and she is definitely someone who I'll remember fondly forever from my days at the college.

Ric and family, I'm so sorry for your loss and will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Wendy Goeckner - July 16, 2012 at 05:56 AM

JD

“ Rest in Peace to one of the most wonderful teachers in life. You taught me to love other cultures, love the Spanish language and most of all, believe in myself. I had the pleasure of visiting the beautiful country of Spain with you twice during my high school years and I will always be grateful for the life lessons that you taught me on those trips, in your classroom and throughout life. Your dedication to your students was of the utmost level and the passion that you had for the language and for us will never be forgotten. You are a woman of dignity, compassion and one that will forever leave a huge mark on me as a person and a professional in this community.

Una amiga y una mentor... mucho amor!

Jaclyn Dugan-Roof - July 15, 2012 at 03:12 PM

PT

“ Dear Ric and Carlton,

I was saddened to learn of Sonia's passing. I extend my deepest sympathies to you. I have warm memories of her as a faculty colleague at Bishop McNamara, and feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with her.

Sonia's dedication to develop her students was unwavering, and enviable. For this, she garnered the respect and admiration from the many, many people she taught who echo this in their tributes. This must provide some degree of solace in your grief.

I regret that I am unable to attend the memorial service as we will be moving one of our children to the East coast. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Paul Tutt

Bishop McNamara Faculty, 1978-1984

Paul Tutt - July 15, 2012 at 09:12 AM

FC

“ To Richard and Carlton,
My sympathy to you on the death of your beloved wife and mother. As a Viatorian teaching at Bishop McNamara High School from 1973 to 1978, it was my delight to come to know Sonia. She stood out as an excellent teacher and faculty member. What a strikingly authentic person she was, someone it was a delight to be around. She was most gracious and hospitable to me and my Viatorian confreres inviting us to her home for a wonderful dinner in season and out.
Know that I shall keep you in my prayers that the Divine Source of Life and Love will nurture you at this time and bring you peace. I will offer Mass for Sonia in the next days.

Sincerely,

Father Robert Erickson, C.S.V.

Father Robert Erickson, C.S.V. - July 14, 2012 at 02:48 PM

LS

“ As one of Sonia Edward's adult students in KCC's Spanish courses, I was impressed with her self-discipline, passion and high expectations for her students. Her no-nonsense, no-excuses approach belied a deep caring for each of us. Senora, gracias. I am fortunate to have known you as my teacher and friend.

Laurel Soper - July 14, 2012 at 07:19 AM

BW

“ I had the pleasure of getting to know Sonia when I began working at KCC, though I had heard of "Senora" for many years from her former students. The theme was always the same - she was tough, but there was never a teacher who impacted their lives more than she did. I knew her to be a woman who cared deeply about education, about her students, and about giving the best of herself to enrich their lives. It has been my honor to know she and Ric, and we will miss her terribly.

Becky Wilder - July 12, 2012 at 05:27 PM

CM

“ She touched the heart and mind of anyone that stepped foot in her classroom or walked by her in the hall...she made anyone who was lucky enough to have her as a teacher a better student and more importantly a better person..tough as nails with higher expectations than anyone I've ever encountered...God bless!! And you will surely be missed by all...



Chuck Mussa - July 12, 2012 at 04:40 PM

MA

“ Mariza Avalos lit a candle in memory of Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards



Mariza Avalos - July 12, 2012 at 04:20 PM



“ Like Chris and others, I could go on and on about the challenges posed by Senora Edwards' to her Spanish students. Whether it was standing in front of the class saying the alphabet backwards, waiting for the plaster on our scaled model pyramid to dry hours before it was due, or attempting to cook culinary delights from far away lands, we learned the language and the cultures very deeply. Besides the challenging stuff, there was also the really fun stuff like ordering meals in Spanish while on field trips to Chicago, singing Christmas carols thru the school hallways, or my personal favorite high school project- the Spanish videos we produced!

The level of commitment and expectation Senora held for us and herself has been unparalleled in either my under grad or graduate studies. She pushed us hard not only to learn our verbs and tenses, but to learn what it meant to be an exceptional student.

By the time I went to college, I was a not only prepared for college level Spanish classes, but ANY college level curriculum. I found myself applying her expectations to my own work and excelling. You didn't seriously expect me to hand in something illegible or with a crinkled corner did you?!

Over the last few days, I have been reflecting on how Senora Edwards has affected my life. Its a subject area that I honestly haven't revisited in years. But as I look back now with the wisdom I've acquired as an adult living in the real world, I find I'm full of gratitude and respect. Senora molded her students into not only bi-lingual masters, but instilled an amazing set of values in us long before we would understand the depth of her efforts.

Vaya con Dios, Senora,

-Jason (Raul) Deno, Class of '90

July 12, 2012 at 03:40 PM

CP

“ *Senora Edwards. Wow, where to begin. As I read through some previous tributes, words like intimidating, demanding, passionate, caring, inspiring all jumped out and collectively speak volumes about the woman and teacher that Mrs. Edwards was.*

Entering HS, I had a small preconcieved notion about what expectations Senora Edwards had for her students (she had many of my older siblings). After four years, I understood why she had these standards. I could easily speak and read spanish fairly fluently. However--her classes were so much more--- from a trip to La Paella as a sophomore, reading (in spanish) Don Quixote and discussing its transendence as a senior and the large lesson on bull fighting and the symbolism throughout, I learned so much about another culture without stepping foot outside of Kankakee. It prepared me for the cultural changes I would soon face in college and in life beyond.

I think I speak for many: "Gracias a la Senora Edward por ayudarme a soñar el sueño imposible."

Chris Purcell, Class of 1988

Chris Purcell - July 12, 2012 at 03:00 PM

AT

“ *Amanda Diel Tangeman lit a candle in memory of Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards*



Amanda Diel Tangeman - July 12, 2012 at 12:23 PM

JR

“ *My deepest sympathies to you Mr. Edwards and Carlton. Fond memories of the times I shared with Sonia. God bless you.*



JENNY RODRIGUEZ - July 12, 2012 at 11:32 AM

PG

“ *Mrs. Edwards was such a wonderful teacher: tough , inspiring, with great expectations. She is probably one teacher that really prepared me for college. She also was a caring teacher and she taught me some of those values that I took with me to my own classroom later. She is one of those teachers that cannot be replaced, there is only one Senora Edwards.*

I went to Spain with her my Sophomore year and it is one of the most memorable trips of my life. She had such skill in showing us a difference in culture and architecture. She forced us to become immersed in the language. I still use my language when volunteering at the hospital with spanish speaking parents.

My deepest sympathy to your family for the loss of your wife and mother. She was such a great lady. May you have comfort knowing that she has greatly impacted so many lives. Prayers for your family! May she rest in peace.

Patty Juska Grandys

Patty Juska Grandys - July 12, 2012 at 11:19 AM

BO

“ *Bob De Oliveira lit a candle in memory of
Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards*



Bob de Oliveira - July 12, 2012 at 10:00 AM

DM

“Mrs. Edwards, Senora, was one of the most influential teachers I have ever had. She not only pushed, but pulled each of her students to reach their highest academic capacities. Performance at a level that she determined was below your capacity simply was not acceptable, *en punto!* How many times I heard, “Mr. Mackin, you need to look in your book!” Holding each student to her highest expectations, encouraging excellence, were her hallmarks. You knew that her singular, laser focus, was to have her students not only be able to read, write and speak Spanish, but, to also gain a cultural understanding of the many people who speak Spanish throughout the world.

I am forever grateful for her taking us to Spain when I was only 15 years old. It was a huge, life changing event, to see that there was a completely different world outside of the United States.

Through her good instruction and her unwavering motivation, I continued to take Spanish throughout my college education and benefit from her instruction to this day by practicing what she taught me with my Spanish speaking international clients.

Senora was a teacher, neighbor and friend. My thoughts are with Ric and Carlton. A truly impactful soul has left us, but left us better off for having known her.

Daniel E. J. Mackin

Daniel E. J. Mackin - July 12, 2012 at 09:43 AM

JG

“ Jennifer Galloway lit a candle in memory of Sonia Baspiñeiro-Edwards



Jennifer Galloway - July 12, 2012 at 09:11 AM

BA

“ Senora was a wonderful teacher, and will be missed. She enriched my life.

Ben Angelo - July 12, 2012 at 07:17 AM



“ Sonia Edwards was one of the best teachers I ever had. She terrified many of us at McNamara when we started in Spanish, but if you were able to get through the 4 years of classes with her, you found out a few things; she left you with a cultural knowledge and language ability that you thought was impossible when you started, and she was your biggest fan. Her gift to her students was confidence that they can succeed at the end of it all, and she will be greatly missed. Gracias, Sonia.

July 12, 2012 at 06:55 AM

PA

“ A great teacher and a great advocate for the community. Once you were her student, she never stopped teaching. She was a pillar of strength at Bishop McNamara High School and at KCC. She taught both of our sons. Connie and I went with her and the Spanish Class on a trip to Spain. It was an educational experience on many levels. Every Christmas we would meet and reminisce at the Gallery of Trees at the Kankakee County Museum, another of her many community interests. She made this community a more tolerant place by lifting the level of cultural understanding and also made it a richer place through her volunteer contributions. She will be missed. Our condolences to Ric and to the entire Baspineiro-Edwards family.

Phil and Connie Angelo

Phil Angelo - July 11, 2012 at 10:08 PM



“ Señora Edwards, you will be greatly missed by your students! I am honored and privileged that I was able to have you as a teacher, advisor, and friend. I will always fondly remember Spanish class, our trip to Spain, taking your classes at KCC, and our times visiting with each other throughout the years. Thank-you for all that you shared with us!

*Respectfully yours,
Chad L. Kalecki*

July 11, 2012 at 10:38 AM

ML

“ Ric,

I am so sorry to hear about Sonia. The two of you have always been very dear to me. She looked well when I saw the two of you at ONU. You have my prayers and thoughts. She will be deeply missed.

God bless,

Mary Lamore



Mary Lamore - July 11, 2012 at 09:37 AM

CB

“ *I have the best memories of learning under Senora Edwards. She never accepted "good enough" from anyone she knew that could do better, and so I learned not only how to speak another language and learn another culture, but also to push myself to work hard to achieve more in life. So many gifts that have kept giving all these years. Thank you Senora!*

Carrie Turney Bressers - July 11, 2012 at 07:36 AM

KM

“ *Senora Edwards was my first and best Spanish teacher. I know that I am only one of many of her students who went on to become fluent in Spanish after studying under her. I eventually went on to live, work, and study in Puerto Rico and in Spain and work as a Spanish translator and teacher because of the language abilities I gained in her classroom. Charlemagne said that to have another language is to possess a second soul - what a gift Senora gave to so many of us. Gracias Senora.*

Kathleen Mahoney Monaghan - July 10, 2012 at 05:39 PM

KS

“ Ric - my sympathies to you and your family. Sonia was one of my most influential and unforgettable teachers. You both have touched so many lives. I know her legacy will live on in the hearts of her former students and KCC scholarship recipients.

Kari Sargeant - July 10, 2012 at 03:51 PM

JB

*Mr. Edwards,
I was so sorry to read of your wife's passing. Please accept my deepest sympathy.
Joan Barry, mother of Mary Margaret Barry Peabody*

Joan T. Barry - July 12, 2012 at 03:52 PM

RE

Kari, Mrs. Barry and all who have taken time to leave a message here. I was a very lucky man to have such a lady walk beside me for over 50 years. thank you all.

Ric Edwards - July 16, 2012 at 05:40 PM