



Alma Gloria Orellana

September 19, 1960 - March 18, 2025

Alma Gloria Orellana, age 64, of Bourbonnais passed away Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. She was born September 19, 1960 in Monclova, Mexico, the daughter of David Noyola & Alma Gloria de Noyola. Alma married Juan Orellana on September 15, 1984 in Mexico.

Alma was a Dentist in Mexico and changed careers in the United States. She was a teacher at School District 111 Elementary School. Alma worked for KC CASA, was a translator at the Kankakee County Court House, and volunteered with the migrant program at school. She was a member of the teacher's union and fought to improve teachers' benefits. Alma helped the less fortunate families with clothing and school supplies. She was a teacher that gave everything to the success of her students.

Alma was a parishioner of St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Kankakee. Surviving are her husband of 40 years, Juan Orellana of Bourbonnais; two sons, Antonio Orellana and Yael Orellana, both of Bourbonnais; one brother, David Noyola of Mexico; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Alma was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at St. John Paul II-West Campus, 907 S. 9th Ave. Kankakee, IL 60901.

Arrangements by Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

APR 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. John Paul II West Catholic Church
907 S. 9th Ave
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

KM

“ *Kathy Medero lit a candle in memory of Alma Gloria Orellana* ”



Kathy Medero - April 14, 2025 at 08:07 AM

KM

"Loved beyond measure, missed beyond words"

Kathy Medero - April 14, 2025 at 08:10 AM

JS

“ *Joyce Shoemaker lit a candle in memory of Alma Gloria Orellana* ”



Joyce Shoemaker - April 05, 2025 at 10:56 AM

LB

“ I am lifting up Juan, Antonio, Yael, and all of Alma (Dr. O)’s students / work family past and present. 🙏

I was shocked to learn today of her passing, having met her back in ~ 2003 when I first began working at Mark Twain, but having just spoken to her and hugged her in December while subbing (as a semi-retired teacher) at Mark Twain. It feels like I just felt the warmth of her embrace, heard her melodious voice and saw my students eagerly jump up to go work with Dr. O... how can it be that she is now gone from this earth?

But, life and death go hand in hand. May God guide and bless you, each and everyone. May Alma’s kind, patient, always-teaching, and generous spirit live on in each of you. And may we all live out this quote, which exemplifies her life:

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

Lisa K. Bos-Pineiro

Lisa K. Bos-Pineiro - March 24, 2025 at 01:31 PM

AF

“ Dr. Orellana will be missed very much. I worked with her at Mark Twain and she was always professional, kind, and compassionate. Her family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers.

A. Findlay - March 21, 2025 at 05:55 PM

DT

“*Dr. Orellana (who we also called Dr. O) was more than just a teacher—she was a guiding light for our students and a pillar of our school community. I remember her patiently working with struggling students through math problems with the same warmth and encouragement she gave to everyone. She had a way of making each child feel seen, heard, and valued. Her kindness, dedication, and unwavering belief in her students changed countless lives. Our school will not be the same without her, but her impact will live on in every student she inspired.*

You will be definitely missed at Mark Twain!!!

Dr Vernita Sims-Principal of Mark Twain - March 21, 2025 at 01:26 PM

BS

“*I work at Mark Twain with Alam, she was a bilingual secretary. She also work as a paraprofessional she was very good at her job. She gave love to all of her kids and they love her too. I will keep her family in my prayers.*

Belinda Smith - March 21, 2025 at 09:40 AM

DE

I have wonderful memories of time spent with Alma, making home visits. She was a wonderful translator, always making parents feel comfortable. She was a great person and co-worker. She will be truly missed. Debbie Tamez School Social Worker

Debra - March 21, 2025 at 10:27 AM

BS

“ *Belinda Smith lit a candle in memory of Alma Gloria Orellana*



Belinda Smith - March 21, 2025 at 09:26 AM

CL

“ *As a fellow teacher and coworker, I couldn't have asked for a better friend. Alma contributed so much talent, creativity and laughter to students and faculty alike. She will certainly be missed by many. Comfort and shalom to those who love her, and FLY HIGH ALMA!!*

Chuck Lawrence - March 21, 2025 at 09:12 AM

CB

“ *I worked with Alma at Mark Twain Elementary School for many years. I enjoyed getting to know her. I am sending my prayers to her family and loved ones.*
Camille Badley-Andrews

Camille Badley-Andrews - March 21, 2025 at 08:58 AM