



Elizabeth Tapia Paolinelli – Ruiz

September 16, 2020

Mrs. Elizabeth Tapia Paolinelli – Ruiz, age 44, of Litchfield Park Arizona Died on September 16th, 2020 in Surprise Arizona. She was born July 29th, 1976 to Lucino Bahena and Teresa Bahena in South Lake Tahoe California.

In 1998, Elizabeth started employment at Phoenix Elementary School District. She loved her work and greatly enjoyed working with children. While working there she met Steve Villela Ruiz. The pair quickly became best friends and eventually fell in love. They both changed employment and began carpooling to Scottsdale Unified School District together.

Steve and Elizabeth married on April 20th, 2002 and their love for each other was apparent to everyone in their lives. Steve and Elizabeth just “fit together”. Steve brought the more introverted Elizabeth out of her shell and Elizabeth kept Steve’s head on straight. Their marriage was built on a strong foundation of respect, communication, trust, and friendship. Elizabeth would often joke that in her next life she would “marry for money” because she had already married her one true love. It amazed people how much time they spent together but they never got bored of each other. Their love was the kind that many people only dream about. When Steve was having a bad day Elizabeth would dance around the house like a ballerina to cheer him up. And if Steve did something wrong she quickly punctuated it with an “Ay babe!” While life wasn’t always perfect or fair they took their wedding vows to heart and always

worked through the harder parts of life together as a team.

Elizabeth loved to craft and make things. She made the best-personalized T-shirts and beautiful handmade cards. She also loved to go shopping with her mom and they often went to their local thrift shop looking for deals.

Elizabeth's favorite place in the world was South Lake Tahoe. She and Steve would take any chance they had to go camping and fishing. Elizabeth just loved the outdoors; it brought out her sense of adventure. Elizabeth never hesitated to run into the extremely cold water as she felt "like it had healing powers". Everyone else thought she was crazy for diving into the freezing water but to her, it was exactly what she needed. She would have spent every weekend at the lake if she could. It was her happy place. The one place where nothing else mattered; it was where she could focus on the beauty of nature and the people she was with.

Family meant the world to Elizabeth. She always made it a point to go to as many of her nieces' softball games as she could and was even the godmother to her niece Alex. She took that role seriously and always tried to be the best role model she could for them. She made it a point to show to always show those around her love and compassion. Elizabeth was the best sister her brothers could ever ask for, and she let them know that. She loved her mom with her entire heart and made an extra effort to always spend just a little extra time with her. When she married Steve she quickly embraced his family as well and was overjoyed to see her family grow. Her family always knew they could rely on Elizabeth for a shoulder to lean on and for the advice they needed to hear.

Elizabeth lived her life to the fullest. She lived with passion, kindness, and

love. Her memory will never be forgotten by those who knew her as she left an everlasting impression on their hearts. Elizabeth is survived by her husband Steve Villela Ruiz, her brothers Robert and Ruben Paolinelli, nieces Alex and Cherish Paolinelli, mother Teresa Paolinelli – Martinez, grandma Guadalupe Lopez Tapia, and many many friends. She was preceded in death by her father Mike Paolinelli, uncles Alfonso and Arturo Tapai, her niece Natalia Paolinelli and her grandfather Guillen Tapai. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, September 25th at Thompsons Funeral Chapel 923 S. Litchfield Rd. Goodyear AZ 85338. Funeral arrangements were handled by Simply Cremation and Funeral Arrangements.

Tribute Wall

CP

“ I’m so sorry to hear of this sad news. She was such a bright light at work, I remember the times at the old Ed Center when she would have a reason to come over to my side of the building. She had such a big beautiful smile that made others smile with her. I will remember that about her.

Cathy Price - September 30, 2020 at 04:39 PM

CP

“ Steve, she was always so sweet. She is in a better place. Again my deepest condolences.

Christina Pacheco - September 30, 2020 at 02:40 PM

SG

“ We send our deepest condolences and we keep you in our prayers!

Sally & Ben Gonzales - September 26, 2020 at 12:03 PM

EV

“ There are no words to comfort your loss, it only remains to trust that Elizabeth is now enjoying peace, big hug for you Steve prompt resignation.

Ely Villela - September 25, 2020 at 10:09 PM

GR

“ I’m sorry for your loss. We will all keep Elizabeth in our heart and prayers.

George Reyes - September 25, 2020 at 06:28 PM

SA

“ Steve, You and both your families are in my thoughts. Love and hugs to you all.

Sherry Almond - September 25, 2020 at 01:24 PM

UF

“ We have so many memories of sweet Lisa, her childhood name, with our daughter Julie, now best friends forever.

Upton Family - September 25, 2020 at 11:03 AM

JJ

“ Elizabeth was the very best!! Steve, due to the pandemic, we will not be able to attend, today, but you are in our thoughts and prayers. Respectfully, Jacque and Bill Jewett

Jacque Jewett - September 25, 2020 at 10:52 AM

DT

“ So grateful to have met and witnessed a true Angel – Elizabeth ! Rest-in-peace.

Diana Tootle - September 24, 2020 at 11:26 PM

BB

“ Steve, you are in my prayers.....

Betty Bower - September 24, 2020 at 07:24 PM

MW

“ My deepest condolences Steve, to you and your family.

Marva Watt - September 24, 2020 at 07:14 PM

EL

“ Steve and family, we are so sorry for your loss of such a wonderful lady as Elizabeth. She was so kind and friendly to us whenever we visited. Best wished for healing and much love from us. Evan, Denise and Carina Leland

Evan Leland - September 24, 2020 at 06:53 PM

JW

“ So sorry for your loss. She was much loved, and I have always regretted not keeping in contact better after we lost Julie. Thank you for the fond memories.

Jennifer (Upton) Woo - September 24, 2020 at 06:15 PM

TF

“ Beautiful slideshow of such loving memories. We are so happy we met this beautiful & intelligent women who touched many lives. Rest in Power Elizabeth!

The Taylor Family - September 24, 2020 at 05:44 PM

MK

“ Beautiful Elizabeth we will miss you.

Marta Komatsu - September 24, 2020 at 05:02 PM

AH

“ My condolences Steve and my prayers are with you always. Elizabeth is an amazing person and in a better place. I am so happy you found and built a life with her.

Anthony Hernandez - September 24, 2020 at 04:43 PM

AB

“ *What a beautiful and loving woman! She will be missed. She lived very well.* ❤️

Anna Benites - September 24, 2020 at 04:05 PM