



Maria Carmen Elting

January 23, 1939 - January 3, 2022

Maria Carmen Ribas Elting, 82, peacefully passed away in the early morning hours of January 3, 2022.

Carmen was born near Barcelona, on January 23, 1939, as the Spanish Civil War was drawing to a close. Her father, Francesc Ribas, was a victim of that conflict and she was raised by her mother, Carmen Domenech, granddaughter of the noted Catalan architect, Lluís Domenech i Montaner.

After a happy childhood and while pursuing a career at the Barcelona Stock Exchange, she met and fell in love with Topekan Cyrus Elting, who was teaching English in the graduate business school at the University of Navarre. They married and eventually moved to the capital city of Kansas where Carmen, always open to adventure, made many new friends and taught private classes in Spanish as a Second Language.

She loved music of all kinds, animals (especially the feline variety), traveling, which she did at every opportunity, and sharing her husband's interest in history.

Carmen is survived by her husband, Cyrus; sister-in-law, Julie Schloetzer of Topeka; and numerous cousins in Barcelona.

Cremation has taken place. Private services are planned.

Memorial contributions may be made to Homestead Assisted Living of Topeka or to the Sunflower Music Festival and sent in care of the Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Maria Carmen Elting*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Lowell and I share many special memories of our friend Carmen over many years, though none more cherished than the time we spent together in Barcelona a few years ago. Carmen was full of life, kind, bright, passionate and elegant in every way. Buster, our hearts go out to you and to all of Carmen's family and friends.*

Love,
Roma and Lowell Wriston

Roma Wriston - January 17, 2022 at 09:02 PM



“ *Carmen, what a beautiful, bright, and cheerful charming woman. I first met her on one of her first sojourns to Topeka Kansas. What a transition (cultural shock) Kansas must have been for her. I don't think she spoke a word of English when Cy introduced me to her, but it seems like only a short time later that she spoke quite well. Either she was extremely intelligent or Cy was an excellent teacher, or most likely both.*

Anyway Buster, my deepest condolences to you and all who loved Carmen as they should and I hope that time will ease your pain.

Jim Dillingham

jim dillingham - January 15, 2022 at 07:05 PM

CD

“ I met Carmen in Topeka when I was 23 or 24 thru my then boyfriend Jim Dillingham who was friends with Cyrus. I was not very worldly at that time so it was rather exciting to have such a cosmopolitan friend!

It was delightful to have such a friend as Carmen who shared her culture and Spanish life however she was also very inquisitive and curious about everything in Topeka and the States and assimilated very quickly into a very different world than she was accustomed to .It amazes me how she made the transition from Barcelona to Kansas and happily so it seems!

Carmen was smart and a good listener. She always took an interest in my life and later when Jim and I had children in their lives too. She was upbeat and positive and had a ready laugh. When daughter Katie went to Spain several years ago she and Cyrus prepared a travel list of places to go for her. This was extremely valuable in her travels and she still carries that list with her when going to Spain.

Our family loved her and we cherish many great memories. Hugs to Cyrus and all of Carmen's friends/family -- Colleen Dillingham - Bend, OR

colleen dillingham - January 12, 2022 at 10:39 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Silvia Casellas - January 12, 2022 at 09:47 AM

LW

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Lynn Washburn - January 11, 2022 at 11:46 AM

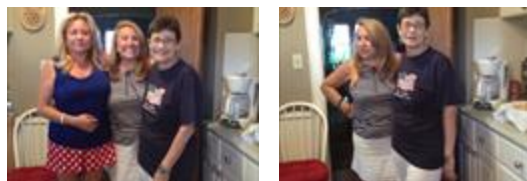
LW

“ Dear Cy, (Buster, as I have always known you.)
Jack and I have such fond memories of Carmen. We always enjoyed going to the Sunflower Festival and Topeka High reunions with both of you, and seeing you during your visit to New Mexico. We also had such fun visiting with you and Carmen in Barcelona several years ago. We have much sadness that she is no longer with us, but she will always remain in our hearts.
Love, Lynn and Jack

Lynn Washburn - January 11, 2022 at 11:31 AM

PO

“ Querida amiga Mari Carmen, nos hemos conocidos tantos años (mas de 40) y siempre te he querido mucho, tantas buenas memorias. Imagino q ahora estaras feliz junto a tu mama, a la q querias tanto en el cielo. Siempre estaras en mi memoria y en mis oraciones Descansa en paz.



Paloma Olmo - January 10, 2022 at 02:43 PM

MM

“ *What a wonderful neighbor and friend she was! Good thing, because our 2 cats, Patuf and Dusty, were constant companions and best buddies. My deepest condolences to Cy, Julie, and her family in Spain. May God give you peace, and may your happy memories sustain you.*

Mary Sloan Mozingo

Mary Mozingo - January 09, 2022 at 03:06 PM

GG

“ *La Mari Carmen sempre em va tractar com una més de la seva família. Recordo passar moltes estones parlant de la nostra passió, els gats. Mai oblidaré aquesta manera tant sincera i espontània de donar amor. M'hauria agradat molt que haguessis conegut a l'Adrià, li parlarem molt de tú, sempre hi seràs present en les nostres vides.*

Guadalupe Garín - January 09, 2022 at 08:42 AM

GM

Mari Carmen tan bella siempre y por siempre. Que buenas Fiestas que hicistes en tu casa. Felix y yo nos sentimos bendecidos por haberte conocido. Besos Mari .

Gracie Martinez - January 09, 2022 at 09:33 AM

AD

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Anna Domènech - January 08, 2022 at 08:06 PM

AD

“ *La Maricarmen per mi era una tieta i una àvia tot junt. Sempre l'admiraré i l'enyoraré moltíssim.*



Anna Domènech - January 08, 2022 at 08:04 PM

ND

“Tants records, potser el més antic és quan em va ensenyar a anar am bicicleta, a Canet, a la pista de basquet concretament, i quan anàvem a la platja. I alguns viatges amb tren, entre Barcelona i Canet, amb trens «de fum» i després a casa amb el tramvia 39. O quan anàvem a veure la meva mare a l'hospital de Sant Pau, també amb tramvia...

Més tard la Maricarmen i la seva mare van se el refugi quan les coses m'anaven maldades fins que al final vaig acabar vivint amb elles a casa seva.

Se'n va anar a Topeka, però cada any ens vèiem. Va fer de tieta dels meus fills que cada vegada l'esperaven excitats i més encara quan l'any 94 quan vam anar als Estats Units i ens va muntar un «grand tour», fins les muntanyes Rocalloses, Yellowstone, Devils Tower i Mount Rushmore. Sense oblidar, que va ser inoblidable, el Corn Palace, a Mitchell, SD.

I els viatges curts que per Catalunya, fèiem cada any. Vam estar a Canet, Sant Feliu, Ribes, Camprodon, Olot, Vic, Vilafranca, Reus, el delta de l'Ebre, Ulldecona, Morella, Vall-de-Roures, Gandesa, Miravet i tants altres llocs.

Sempre serà una part essencial de la vida i els records de la família.

Jordi

Vaig conèixer la Maricarmen en casar-me amb en Jordi i començar a ser part de la família, el seu afecte i la seva confiança van facilitar molt la nostra convivència. La Maricarmen era una persona molt oberta i franca, sabia copsar molt bé les necessitats del seu entorn i sempre ens va ajudar molt. Era una persona amb molt bon gust molt elegant i amb una molt gran sensibilitat artística.

Sempre recordarem el paper que han tingut a les nostres vides tant ella com en Cyrus.

Núria

JD

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Jordi Domènech - January 08, 2022 at 02:51 PM

LS

“ Cy, so sorry to hear of Carmens passing. May the memories sustain you in the days ahead. She was always a joy to see and her greetings with a kiss on the cheek. Our prayers are with you and family here and in Spain.
Larry and Mickey Smith

Larry Smith - January 08, 2022 at 09:41 AM

CI

“ Cy,
Sending my thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Carmen will be missed, especially her smile and warm personality. So very sorry for your loss. Celeste Irigonegaray

Celeste Irigonegaray - January 08, 2022 at 09:08 AM

CV

“ *Molt estimada Mari Carmen. Des que vaig rebre la notícia que ens haviés deixat no paro de pensar en tu i al mateix temps en les dos, sobretot en els molts concerts que varem anar juntes al Palau i les esquiades a Puigcerdà a ca les Rites. Com hem arribat a riure!!!!
Li he dit a Lluís Duart i s'ha emocionat molt pels records que tenim. No cal dir que sempre et tindrè al meu record estimadissima.
Cinta*

Cinta Vidal - January 08, 2022 at 07:11 AM

JS

“ *Lovely Carmen, what a joy to know you, I will miss your kindness and the laughter we shared. Cy, my friend, thinking of you and all of Carmen's loved ones...surely her presence and spirit will walk with you each and every day. Wishing all of you peace in what has to be and beautiful memories of dear Carmen.*

Joanne Smelser

Joanne Smelser - January 07, 2022 at 09:48 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Carmen Elting.*



January 07, 2022 at 05:17 AM

MG

“ *Tots els germans i germanes ens unim als records de la Maricarmen. Tenim present els moments sempre divertits, que sobre els viatges i aventures de les dues, ella i la tieta Carmen, ens feien passar tanta bona estona.*

Aquests darrers anys, ja esperàvem que arribés a Barcelona per dinar amb ella i escoltar els seus comentaris sempre tant aguts. Cyrus, una abraçada forta de tots nosaltres, Mariona i Lluís i germans

Mariona Domenech Girbau - January 07, 2022 at 05:07 AM

TB

“ *My first memory of this beautiful woman was when she first came to the US to visit Cy prior to their marriage. She spoke very little English at the time, but absolutely exuded charm as well as intelligence.. It was not long before she became proficient in English (I am told she watched a lot of I Love Lucy and Beverly Hillbillies reruns). My family and I spent a lot of time with Cy and Carmen over the years and I will always treasure those memories, including many "slide-shows" of their various travels.*

Thomas Bornholdt - January 06, 2022 at 04:36 PM

MC

“ *Estimada, fa més de 50 anys que ens coneixem i tinc tants records feliços que ara estic trista i feta un embolic. Les festes a Borsa, el teu casament, els viatges de tots quatre, la nostra estada a Topeka i les vostres a BCN - que esperàvem cada tardor- .. i no es poden oblidar els llargs dinars al Pep i lo contentes que sortíem. Les tres Maries s' han quedat en dos.*


El nostre cor tenim un buit que mai es podrà omplir. Acabo com sempre fèiem nosaltres dues PETONETS!

Cy te enviamos toda la fuerza que necesites, en Barcelona tienes dos amigos para siempre.

Carmen Carreras i Alberto Nadal

M. Carmen Carreras - January 06, 2022 at 01:46 PM

KM

“ *My condolences to Cy, and Mary Carmen's family. Cy, thank you for allowing me to care for your beautiful wife. Sometimes you don't need words to have a connection to a wonderful soul such as Mary Carmen .*

Kim Mick - January 06, 2022 at 11:10 AM

JS

“ *My heartfelt sympathy for Cy, Julie, and Carmen's cousins in Barcelona. Jean, my twin sister, brought Maria Carmen into our lives years ago as they attended Washburn University. She was captivating, especially when she danced; her joy was transparent. Cy and Carmen were always together and "looking outwardly in the same direction" Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. She was a beautiful soul who will be missed.*

Joan Stephens-Lake

Joan Stephens - January 06, 2022 at 08:20 AM

PB

“ Sempre recordaré que els moments més feliços de cada any era quan tu i en Cyrus veníeu a Barcelona a viure amb nosaltres unes quantes setmanes. Has estat un pilar de la nostra vida familiar i el teu adéu dol infinitament.

Pere Domènech i Breu - January 06, 2022 at 07:42 AM

ED

“ Estimada cosina, sempre estaràs en el meu cor . T'estimo la teva cosina Marilen.



Elena Domènech - January 05, 2022 at 08:49 PM

SC

“ Estimada Maria Carme, fa uns dies vaig pensar en tu i ara m'he assabentat de la notícia. Sols tinc paraules d'agraïment per tot el que tu i el Cyrus vàreu fer quan vaig viure a Topeka, ens vas cuidar com una mare. Et trobaré a faltar i sempre et recordaré. Descansa en pau estimada. Sílvia Casellas

Sílvia Casellas - January 05, 2022 at 05:36 PM

KV

“ Karen Voorhees lit a candle in memory of Maria Carmen Elting



Karen Voorhees - January 05, 2022 at 05:02 PM

RP

“ I want to extend my sincere sympathy to Maria Carmen's family. I met Maria @ Homestead and as a counselor I offered support as needed. Which included walking with Maria and speaking Spanish with her. Maria was a kind soul and smiled broadly when we looked @ pictures of Barcelona. Descansa en Paz.

Raymond Padilla - January 05, 2022 at 04:31 PM