



## Maria Henderson

February 24, 1947 - September 13, 2016

Maria Lion Warren Henderson 69, gently passed into the arms of our loving Father in heaven on Tuesday September 13, 2016 at Haven Hospice in Chiefland, Florida. Maria was born in Baltimore, Maryland to Georgia and Franklyn Warren. She and her parents moved to Weaverville, North Carolina and finally settled in Ormond Beach, Florida where Maria attended St. Paul's Catholic School, Father Lopez Senior High School and Daytona Beach Junior College. Maria went on to graduate from the University of Florida. After college Maria began working as a Child Protective Investigator for the Department of Children and Families in Daytona Beach and after moving to the Ocala area she continued her work with DCF, where she spent years protecting the most vulnerable children. During her tenure with the Department she also worked with Adult Protective Services to protect the elderly. After her retirement from DCF Maria continued to use her education and experience to help children by volunteering as a Guardian Ad Litem in Ocala, Florida for 12 years. Maria had a special love for animals. She and her husband Chuck constructed a building to house the many cats she rescued at their home in Morriston, Florida having up to 20 at any one time. Maria also rescued dogs having five at her passing. She devotedly tended to all the animals everyday with the love of a mother. There are countless stories of her rescuing injured wild birds and nursing them back to health, from a large owl in the middle of the highway to the baby woodpecker found outside her home. Maria always had amazing compassion and love for the innocent. Whether it was children, the elderly or the animals,

if they could not defend themselves Maria was there. We are all truly blessed to have had her in our lives and our community. Maria is survived by her loving Husband Chuck Henderson, sons Scott Henderson and his wife Maria, and Todd Henderson and his wife Jaime. She also leaves behind twelve beautiful grandchildren : Emily, Maggie, Ashley, Haley, Sarah, Rachel, David, Anna, Zachary, Gavin, Sam, and Tyler. She is also survived by two devoted sisters Mary Jane McMenemy and Carolyn Gafner. A memorial mass will be celebrated for Maria by Fr. Patrick Sheedy Tuesday September 20, 2016 at 11:00am at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Ocala, Florida.

# Tribute Wall

GS

“ Learned of Maria's passing from mutual classmate Karen Albright, followed by Dan Hogan's sharing of this link. Grateful to both of these good people. Classmate of Maria's at St Paul's (started January 1955), Father Lopez and University of Florida. The world would be a better place with more caring people like Maria, an angel that cannot be replaced. Rest in Peace, Maria

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**Greg and Sherry Seibert** - September 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Maria was a treasured classmate and friend at Father Lopez High School in Daytona Beach and it was a pleasure seeing Maria and her husband Chuck at our 50-year reunion in 2015. My heartfelt condolences go out to Maria's family.

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**Dan Hogan** - September 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your dear loved one. Losing someone you love is one of the most difficult things you will ever have to do. Our Heavenly Father whose name is Jehovah (Psalms 83:17) loves and cares for you. The Bible says "God is the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort who, comforts us in all of our trials" 2 Corinthians 1:3,4. Also he gives us hope with a promise. Revelation 21:3,4 says "He will be with them and they will be his people and he will reside with them, and he will wipe every tear from their eyes and death will be no more, neither will mourning, nor pain or outcry be anymore, the former things have passed away. " What a wonderful hope!! hope these scriptures give you and your family a measure of comfort. Sincerely Mrs. SM Futch

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**Mrs. SM Futch** - September 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Our deepest sympathy to all at this difficult time Pam, Caroline, and Doug Hoffman

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**Pamela Hoffman** - September 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ I have been in touch with our classmates from the Father Lopez High School class of 1965, sharing the sad news of Maria's death. She was so peaceful and in good spirits until the end. We were able to share memories & laughter when we visited her. She was a very good friend to me. I am filled with admiration for all of our classmates as I read the loving, caring, emails I am receiving sharing their sadness and fond memories of Maria. She was truly loved. We will all miss her. Karen (Hartman) Albright

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**Karen Albright** - September 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM