

Delphie U. Lucero

Teacher/senior center director

Delphine U. Lucero, 87, died peacefully Sept 22, 2010, in Denver, surrounded by family. She was the youngest of three children born to Constante and Manuela (Muniz) Ulibarri March 5, 1923, in Dawson. She spent her early years in Trinidad, graduating from Holy Trinity H.S. in 1941.

She taught in a one-room school in Cordova and returned to Holy Trinity to teach multiple grade levels. She will be remembered by many as the driving force behind the establishment of Trinidad's Head Start Program and Colorado's first Senior Center. She was the director of the Senior Center for many years prior to joining her daughters in California in 1988. Once in California, she attended California State University, Northridge (CSUN), where her proudest moments were earning a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a Master's Degree in Linguistics at age 73. She taught English as a Second Language (ESL) while in California and her textbook and teaching aids continue to be used by ESL teachers. Many of her closest friends were her ESL students.

In 2008, Delphine returned to Denver where she continued to make new friends and to pursue her many interests including genealogy, creative writing, and computer literacy satisfying her life-long love of learning.

She was preceded in death by her husband Clem Lucero, her grandson John (Jack) Wagoner, her parents, sister Vera Ulibarri Guerrero and brother Ernie Ulibarri.

She is survived by her children Brennis Lucero-Wagoner, Ph.D. (Jim) of Woodland Hills, Calif., Clement Ronald Lucero (Sylvia Modica) of Denver and Kathleen Lucero Greer (Edward) of Los Angeles; grandchildren James B. Wagoner (Karen), Tracey L. (Wagoner) Kleban (Ed), Xan B. Lucero and Jack A. Greer; great grandchildren John Wagoner, Lauren, Brooke and Troy Wagoner, Oliver and Malcolm Kleban and Andre and Devon Lucero, three sisters-in-law, numerous nephews, nieces and cousins, and many loving friends. All will miss her deeply.

She will be remembered for her unwavering faith in God, her continual acts of kindness, her continuous love and support to her family and friends, her deepest devotion to her grand and great-grandchildren and her limitless sense of adventure.

A celebration of her life was held Sept. 25 in Denver. Memorial contributions in her name may be made to the Delphine Ulibarri Lucero scholarship fund at her Alma Mater CSUN. Please contact Sylvia Modica-Lucero at (303) 321-0670 for details. Condolences at CrownHillFuneral.com.

Source: Raton Range, Raton, NM, October 9, 2010.