

Josephine Marie Richardson

July 21, 1912—February 21, 2011



SERVICE: WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2010 ~ 10:00 A.M.

St. Anne's Chapel

INTERMENT: WESTERN CEMETERY II

JOSEPHINE MARIE RICHARDSON

Josephine “Fefine” Mingo was born on July 21, 1912, in Grand Case St. Martin, FWI but spent most of her early life in Santo Domingo where her parents moved when she was three months old. At the age of 19, she returned to St. Martin, where she met and later married Gaston “Nell” Richardson. There they had five sons, Herman, Celeste, Marius, Elmo, and Allan. During the war, Nell enlisted in the United States Army, and served as a cook in a military police unit in Puerto Rico. In March 1946, he moved his family (Fefine and five sons) by sailboat to St. Thomas. The family settled in Frenchtown at the infamous Honduras #32.

The early years in St. Thomas were very challenging. During this time, five more sons were born (Leslie, Henry, Raymond, and twins~Gerald and Stephen). Raising ten sons in a two bed-room house/shed combination on a very low income strained the family, but Fefine (who from the age of twelve had mothered her siblings after her mother’s early death, and who now was running the household during Nell’s four year stint in the Army) made the management of a home and a good environment in which to rear her children, her vocation.

To supplement the family income, Mrs. Richardson cared for countless children from all over the island. Before the Department of Human Services regulated day care centers, Ms. Richardson helped dozens of parents continue their careers while she babysat and cared for their young ones.

Seven of her ten sons joined the US Army, five of them serving in Vietnam. Together with their Dad, they have accumulated an amazing 100 years of military service.

A fervent Roman Catholic, Josephine made many sacrifices to see that the boys received a Catholic education. Mrs. Richardson has a special devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help and never missed a Wednesday night devotion. She was a member of the Legion of Mary and a member of St. Anne Chapel for over 65 years. Honored as “Mother of the Year” by the *Frenchtown Civic Organization*, the late Senator Lorraine L. Berry, and the *American Legion*.

One would never know which son was her favorite because she loved them all. As she prepared to serve any meal she would say to them “you better be there, because walker gets walker’s share. Josephine and Nell ruled with an iron hand but made sure you learned from them whatever skilled they possessed; from sailing a boat to cooking Josephine’s special dishes. They both told their children “ If you are picked up by the police and taken to jail, that is where you will stay, cuz we aint coming for you.”

Whenever you asked Josephine, how did you manage with all ten boys, she simply said, “ I did my best and the Lord did the rest!”

Survivors

Sons:

Herman, Celeste, Marius, Elmo, Allan, Leslie, Henry, Raymond, Gerald, & Stephen.

Daughters-In-Law:

Monika, Jean, Chelsea, Melinda, Judith, Irene, Patricia, Theresa

Grandchildren:

John, Peter, Paul, Martin, H. Alexander, Mark, Julie, Carol, Peter, Eric, Michael, Paul, Edward, Joanne, Giselle, Cyril, Judith, Neal, Leslie, Teneka, Cindy, Jay, Yvette, Yvonne, Jeanette, Michael, Monique, Lisa, Sunel, Tova, Stephen Jr., Dawn, Chelsea, Tessa, Dior.

Great-Grand Children:

Tande, Kaleolani, Moanike'ala, Pomaika'i, Kapuno, David, Andrew, Samantha, Harrison, Erin, Justin, Christina, Jessica, Anabelle, Ashley, Andrew, Jessica, Alexander, Isabella, Connor, Brittany, Cameron, Chinua, Adia, Amina, Amana, Amalia, Nykolai, Toniea, Westley, Joah, C'Anne, Tyra, Paige, Jacob, Erich, Ava, Zairea, Elton, Elisa, Zhadi, Delano, Destini, Hailee, Ariel, Trinity, Stephen III, Deja, Laila, Donte

Nieces:

Sonia Duzant, Daniella Turbe, Sheila Hoftzyer, Carol Laban, Edna Duzant, Sheila Asciani

Special Nieces:

Norma Duzant, Melicent Gagliani

Nephews:

Franklin Richardson, Glen Richardson, Herman Richardson, Irvin Richardson, Irvin Mingo, Leo Richardson, Rudolph Richardson, Pierre Beauperthuy, Henry Duzant.

Special Friends:

Agnes Martin, Sylvia Olive, Theresa Defreitas, Jeanne Larmony, Irmis Duzant, Franklin Stewart, Eleanor Schalterbrandt

Care Taker:

Jean Quetel

Families:

Richardsons, Mingos, Gumbs, Duzants, Hodges, Beauperthuys, Tacklins, Larmonys, Bernettes.

Raul Bearers:

Peter G. Richardson, Peter A. Richardson, Paul Richardson, Cyril Richardson, Neal Richardson, Jay Richardson, Michael Richardson, Stephen Richardson, Jr.

Honorary Raul Bearers:

Herman, Celeste, Marius, Elmo, Allan, Leslie, Henry, Raymond, Gerald, Stephen Sr. , Mark, Edward, Leslie, Jr., Martin, John, Paul, H. Richardson, Eric, and Michael