

Uinise Temalisi Fonua

July 4, 1936 ~ July 15, 2024

Our beloved mother and grandmother, Uinise Temalisi Fonua, passed away peacefully in her home on the morning of July 15, 2024. Tema was born on July 4, 1936, to Sitaleki Fualalo Finau and Lavinia Fetaulaki Moe Loka ‘O Auhangamea Lelei at Faleloa, Ha’apai, Tonga. She is the fourth of six children.

Tema excelled academically and graduated as valedictorian of her class from Liahona High School. This merit garnered her the opportunity to teach at CPS Kaleli Elementary School in Foa, Ha’apai, Tonga. Her career also included working as an agent for both Fie’eiki Shipping and Uata Shipping during her final years living in Tonga.

She married her sweetheart, Moleni Tanginoa Fonua on October 10, 1957, and they were later sealed in the Hamilton New Zealand Temple on February 15, 1961. They are the parents of nine children.

For many years, she served faithfully alongside her husband in various capacities for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. They both held a deep, and abiding love for missionary work and for the full-time missionaries themselves. Her devotion and faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ is the priceless inheritance she leaves behind for her descendants.

She moved permanently to the United States in 1994 where she worked tirelessly for her family who remained in Tonga. Her husband and youngest son joined her in 1996, and eventually the remainder of her children along with their family’s also moved to the U.S. in 2013-2014. This was a long-held dream finally realized by having all of her children and grandchildren reside with her in this country.

Our mother was a noble woman and esteemed by all her posterity. Her frequent counsel to “Lotu ke lahi,” translation “Pray always,” has become a memento of her unconditional love and will never be forgotten.

She is survived by her children, Valeti Vimahi (Po’ese), Ofa Ki Vahanoa Taka (Veivosa), Sitaleki Fonua (Manu), Selita Banks (Gene), Sosefina Talanoa (Lopeti), Silatuku Fonua (Ema), Klaus Reitter Fonua (Tofilamoa), 46 grandchildren, and 44 great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, her eldest son, Lotolua Fonua (Tu’ipulotu), and daughter, Leisi Taumoeanga (Siosaia Ala) and two grandchildren, Cristalina Fonua and Ala Taumoeanga Jr. Her parents, sisters and only brother, Mele Latu Vea (Sosiua), Luseane Finau Mohokoi Reitter (Klaus), Lavinia Telanikolo Hala, Lalueni Veitangitangi Mark and Sione Fualalo Finau.

A public viewing will be held on Friday, July 19, 2024, at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E 10600, Sandy, Utah, at 7 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, July 20 at 11:00 a.m., Hunter 13th Ward, 3300 S 4440 W, West Valley City, Utah. The burial will follow at Memorial Estates, 6500 S Redwood Rd, Salt Lake City.

Zoom links for Fonua service:
Friday July 19th Viewing- Please click "Watch Service" button above

Saturday July 20th Viewing- https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82671070560

Saturday July 20th Graveside- https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87589686416

* "Watch Service" button will be updated day of service to reflect newest zoom meetings*