



Siglinde Krauss Franz

July 13, 2022

Siglinde Franz 1940-2022

“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:2-3.

On July 13, 2022, Siglinde Krauss Franz, 82, joined her Lord and Savior in the place he prepared for her. She left this world peacefully with her children by her side during the last hours of her life.

Siglinde was born January 9, 1940 in Mannheim, Germany. She was the fourth of five children born to Otto and Johanna Krauss. She attended primary and secondary schools in Mannheim and then enrolled at a business school in 1958. While attending business school, she took a job at a post office located at a United States Army base. It was at the post office that she met the love of her life, Johnny Franz, an Army soldier. At the end of his Army tour, Johnny asked Mama Krauss for Siglinde’s hand in marriage. Mama Krauss told the young couple to wait a year and if Johnny still wanted to marry Siglinde, she would consent and would allow Siglinde to travel to Texas to be married. Johnny returned to the United States and a year later and with a shoebox full of love letters sent by Johnny, Siglinde arrived in Hidalgo, Texas. She and Johnny were married on November 29, 1959. Within a couple of years, the couple added John David and Carolyn to their family.

Siglinde became a naturalized United States citizen in 1969 and treasured the freedoms and opportunities that accompanied her new citizenship. Throughout her life in South Texas, she was dedicated to contributing to the betterment of her community. Her love and support for family and friends never wavered and her life was filled with service to God, family and community. She worshipped at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hidalgo and was an active parish member for over sixty years. She was widely known as a kind, compassionate and caring woman ready to help anyone burdened with hardship.

She was active in her community and served as Hidalgo’s Municipal Judge from 1972 to 1979. In 1989, she was elected to the Hidalgo City Commission where she served for 26 consecutive years. Her honesty, passion and influence on the City Commission were instrumental in transforming Hidalgo from a small border town to a thriving, respected and fiscally sound and responsible city. She was involved in transforming Hidalgo from a

General Law City to a Home Rule City in 1994 with a charter and greater authority to govern within its boundaries. She was a member of the delegation that secured Hidalgo's coveted All America City Award in 2004 at a competition in Atlanta. She was an integral part of the preservation and restoration of the Hidalgo's historic buildings such as the old Hidalgo County Courthouse, the old Hidalgo County Jail and the Hidalgo Pumphouse which was converted into a museum. As a City Commissioner, she was involved in the planning and construction of many City projects including the Hidalgo's first Youth Center, a Municipal Park in the Valle Alto sector of Hidalgo, a New City Hall, the expansion and renovation of the Public Safety Building, the creation of a butterfly garden and designation of Hidalgo as a World Birding Center, the construction of the Hidalgo Health Clinic, the construction of Hidalgo's first Public Library and the construction of the Hidalgo Technology and Training Center. She was also part of the leadership team that negotiated the agreement between Hidalgo, McAllen and Mission which led to the construction of the Anzalduas International Bridge which helped insure the City of Hidalgo's financial security for generations to come.

Beautification projects in Hidalgo and landscaping were dear to her heart and she found great joy in gardening, hiking and bird watching. She loved the culture of South Texas and was instrumental in founding Fiesta Fronteriza in 1977, a Hidalgo community celebration of the U.S./Mexico border culture. Fiesta Fronteriza evolved into Borderfest as the Hidalgo Chamber of Commerce took over the event in Hidalgo. Siglinde served as a Director of the Hidalgo Chamber of Commerce for many years including service as President. She was recognized as a Woman of the Year by the Hidalgo Chamber. She was very proud of Borderfest and her support continued as she was in charge of organizing and scheduling over 1,000 volunteers for the four-day community event each year until she retired in 2015.

Her service as a naturalized U.S. Citizen was noted when she was asked by U.S. District Judge Ricardo Hinojosa to share her story with individuals preparing to swear their allegiance to the United States of America during a citizenship ceremony. She was a shining example of an immigrant helping to shape and define a community and our country in a positive way.

Siglinde's work life in the United States began as a cashier at Minimax in McAllen. She then became a bank teller at Mission State Bank. She would continue in banking serving the Border Bank and McAllen National bank for over thirty years. She was a proud member of the Organization of Women's Executives and the National Association of Bank Women. She retired from banking as a Vice-President. She also served the late Congressman Eligio "Kika" De La Garza as his campaign treasurer from 1976 until he retired from Congress in 1996.

After retiring as a banker, she pursued her lifelong dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. She enrolled at the University of Texas Pan American and graduated with

a degree in Education. She experienced great joy teaching fourth graders at Valley View I.S.D. for ten years. She touched the lives of many by encouraging her students to dream big and work hard. She was known to make home visits to speak with parents about their children's potential and the importance of education. She retired as a teacher in 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband, Johnny Franz, her parents Otto and Johanna Krauss, sisters Margot Palombella, Helga Zeh, Elvira Bergmann and a brother, Eginhard Krauss.

Siglinde is survived by her son, John David Franz (Annette) of Pharr, Texas; daughter Carolyn Franz Almstedt of Garland, Texas; son in law Tom Almstedt of Ledbetter, Texas and grandchildren John David Franz, Jr. (Kathryn), Edinburg, Texas, Steven Andrew Franz, Pharr, Texas and Lauren Michelle Almstedt of Houston, Texas. She is survived by one great granddaughter, Kiley Rae, of Edinburg. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews throughout the United States and Germany.

The Franz family wishes to thank Mary Pena for her dedication and commitment to Siglinde's health and well-being over the last several years and the staff of Rio Grande Regional Hospital for their service during Siglinde's last days.

Visitation will take place at Kreidler Funeral Home in McAllen on Friday July 29, 2022 from 6 to 8 p.m. with a Rosary at 7 p.m. A funeral mass will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Hidalgo, Texas on July 30, 2022 at 10 o'clock a. m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any donations be made to the Sacred Heart Church Building Fund in Hidalgo, Texas.

Previous Events

Visitation and Rosary

JUL 29. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
kreidler@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/index.html>

Rosary

JUL 29. 7:00 PM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
kreidler@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/index.html>

Funeral Mass

JUL 30. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hidalgo
208 E. Camelia Ave
Hidalgo, TX