

## Biography for Pauline Duma Fraga

Pauline Duma born September 9, 1931 to Vasile and Northa Duma in Detroit, Michigan. Pauline's father immigrated to America from Romania and her mother was of German descent. Sadly, her father died when she was only 13, and her mother then took on the role of sole provider for her family. In her youth, Pauline loved to roller skate in Palmer Park with her older brother Charles. She enjoyed being a city girl and would often take the street car to shop with her older sister Evaline and their friends. Pauline graduated from Pershing High School in 1949.

It was in 1949 when she met the love of her life, Jesse Fraga. As was the norm in that era, it was through her sister, Elizabeth that the meeting was made possible.

Pauline and Jesse were married on October 13, 1951 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Detroit. Pauline worked for a short time at Federal's Department Store but motherhood soon became her full time profession. November 29, 1952, Jesse and Pauline welcomed twins Mark and Michael. Tragically, Mark passed away January 30, 1953. The following years, her family grew with the arrivals of Melinda, Ralph, Nancy, Vincent and Alicia. Pauline was also a loving mother to Jesse's daughter, Pamela.

Pauline's faith was a very important facet of her life and as her children's first teacher, imparted her traditions and values to them. She was a loving Grandmother of thirteen and Great Grandmother of four. They all affectionately called her Nina. She originally felt "Nana" suited her best, but when Christopher (her eldest grandchild) couldn't say Nana and instead called her Nina, it stuck!

Pauline was devoted to Jesse and providing her children with a joy filled home. She made holiday celebrations truly special occasions for family and friends. She often would cook traditional recipes from her Romanian/German background, but also embracing her husband's Mexican heritage and learned to prepare many traditional Mexican dishes. Christmas Eve was always spent at Nina and Grandpa's house and became an honored tradition.

Pauline and Jesse enjoyed dancing and were a striking couple on the dance floor. They also enjoyed entertaining guests at their home as well as spending quality time with their children. At the young age of twenty nine, Pauline was stricken with Multiple Sclerosis and bravely battled the crippling affects of the disease her entire adult life.

Her love story with Jesse continued through their latter years. They truly lived their wedding vows....for better, or for worse, in sickness and in health, till death do us part. They celebrated 64 years of marriage on October 13, 2015. Jesse passed on November 5, 2015, due to complications of Alzheimer's disease. Pauline told her children Jesse and her song was "*Again*" by Vic Damone...."*Again, this couldn't happen again, This is that once in a lifetime, This is the thrill divine. What's more, this never happened before, Though I have prayed for a lifetime, that such as you would suddenly be mine*". Pauline passed on January 18, 2017, surrounded by her children. Her memory and legacy will live on in her family who carry on her love, loyalty, strength and beliefs.