



## Emma Torres de Kolly

June 4, 1952 - October 15, 2020

Emma was born along with her twin brother Roberto in the central Mexican village of Tetelcingo, Morelos. Her recently widowed mother, Aurelia Diaz, found herself in desperate straits and unable to provide and care for the twins and their older siblings. Fearing for Emma's health, her mother entrusted her to the care of Methodist missionaries Verne and Melba Bruce. The Bruces gave her the love and care she needed to survive and thrive as an infant.

She was soon after adopted by Dr. Amado Torres Guerrero and Magdalena Del Castillo de Torres. Dr. Torres was a prominent surgeon in the nearby town of Cuautla, Morelos and her adoptive mother managed the family-owned pharmacy. She was the youngest child in her family of three sisters and one brother. Later, her family moved from Cuautla to Cuernavaca, Morelos where her surviving siblings still live.

Later as an adult she reconnected with her birth mother and her other siblings and built a loving relationship with them. From an early age, she became a bridge for love and compassion, changing the lives of everyone she touched.

She met her future husband, Dwayne Kolly in Abilene, Texas in December 1971 at a youth religious retreat. She had gone to Abilene at the urging of her parents to spend time with the Sisters of the Cordi Marian religious order, They may have hoped that she would follow a religious vocation, but that would not be the outcome of her visit. After a short, intense, international courtship, Emma and Dwayne were married in Cuernavaca on October 19, 1972.

The couple moved back to Abilene, Texas in 1973 in time for the birth of their first daughter. She gave birth to two more daughters; her children were the focus of her love and dedication. She formed a close and loving relationship with her mother-in-law who came to regard her as one of her own daughters. She was indefatigable in her work to create a clean, beautiful, and loving home for her family. For her friends and family, she was a caring listener and a wise fountain of good advice. She occasionally worked outside

the home as a nurse's aide and as a floral designer. Floral design was one of her passions and she earned a certificate from the Floral Design School at Texas A&M University. She excelled at making stunning floral arrangements for family events. She was skilled at sewing and needlecrafts and the decorative arts in general.

She moved with her husband as his job and career requirements dictated, living in Abilene, Amarillo, San Antonio, Uvalde, Laredo, and Austin. Her last move was to Austin in 2007. She was an integral part of the lives of her four grandchildren, who call her "Lala" and for whom she hung the moon and the stars.

Emma is survived by her adoptive brother and sister Fernando Torres del Castillo and Magdalena Torres del Castillo; birth sisters Rosario Diaz Gutierrez, Herlinda Diaz Gutierrez, and brother Octavio Diaz Gutierrez; husband Dwayne Kolly; daughters Faye Magdalena Kolly, Martha Antoinette Mosinski, and Kathryn Hope Kolly; and grandchildren Julio Szymon Hennessy, Phoenix Xavier Mosinski, Esme Paz Hennessy, and Michael Emrick Mosinski. Emma was particularly close to her sister-in-law Magdalena Ramirez Hulverson, and she graced the lives of many other extended family members whom she loved dearly and who are too numerous to mention.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that you consider a donation to Casa Marianella which includes support for Posada Esperanza. Casa Marianella provides support for refugees and immigrants, and Posada Esperanza provides shelter for immigrant women and their children who are escaping violence. When making a donation please type "In loving memory of Emma Kolly" in the comments box.

The donation link is: <https://rally.org/casamarianella>

<https://www.casamarianella.org>

<https://www.casamarianella.org/posada-esperanza/>

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Austin Natural Funerals** - October 22, 2020 at 10:37 AM



“ Beautiful, loving ceremony. Just like Emma, it touched my heart. Thank you all so much for bringing me into it. My love to the whole family.

--Loretta

**Loretta Prokop** - October 22, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ Loretta, thank you for your words and for being my sister.

**Dwayne** - October 23, 2020 at 12:38 PM

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“ I know of what a great woman Emma Kolly was because of the passion and love that poured from her husband Dwayne when he spoke about her and shared information about her. Drew and I both knew once we met her at the first Christmas party, that Emma was beautiful, talented, competitive, and she LOVED her family. Our hearts ache for you all knowing that she isn't here physically but knowing that her love and memory will live on. T.D. & Drew Winters



**T.D. Winters** - December 30, 2020 at 01:34 PM

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“ Dwayne and Family

We are heartbroken and so very sad for the loss of Emma. She always made you feel special when in her company. She was a joy to be around. The world has lost one of the most kind and beautiful people we have known.

What a beautiful service.

George & Pam Schuh

George & Pam Schuh - October 22, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ My good friend, thank you so much for your heartfelt words. We will talk soon

Dwayne - October 22, 2020 at 06:03 PM



“ My first memory of Emma was when my brother, Dwayne, brought her to Sunday lunch to meet the family. She did not speak much, her English was limited back then, but her smile was bright and she obviously made Dwayne very happy. After lunch we all played the board game Trouble. That is when I first learned of her competitive spirit. She always wanted to win.

My next memory is when she and Dwayne moved back from Mexico. She was in a different country, learning a new language, living in a house with her in-laws, pregnant with her first child, and not feeling well. She had to have been anxious and nervous, but it didn't show. It was not until years later that I would appreciate her bravery and fortitude.

I can't add anything new that has not already been said by others. I just know that my life and our family are so much better because she was in it.

Love you all.

Judy

Judy Raven - October 22, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ Yesterday our 4 year old grandson

Michael pulled out the Trouble game from the game cabinet and he and I played a rousing game. It's the same one Emma and I played on 49 years ago. He won, but there were no losers.

Dwayne - October 22, 2020 at 06:00 PM



“ Gracias a Dios tuve la fortuna de conocer a Emma atravez de Dwayne. Siempre una mujer muy linda y con una amabilidad grandiossa. Enviándoles bendiciones a Emma en el cielo y la familia Kolly. Ivonne Villegas



**Ivonne** - October 22, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ Ivonne,  
Gracias por tus palabras y tu amistad.

**Dwayne** - October 22, 2020 at 05:52 PM

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“ “May care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. My most sincere condolences.” “May my condolences bring you comfort and may my prayers ease the pain of this loss.” “May our Lord bless and comfort you and your family during this time of grief.

Marilyn F

**Marilyn F** - October 22, 2020 at 11:08 AM



“ Marilyn,  
Thank you for your kind and comforting words.

**Dwayne** - October 22, 2020 at 05:49 PM

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“ Loretta & Charlie Prokop lit a candle in memory of Emma Torres de Kolly



**Loretta & Charlie Prokop** - October 21, 2020 at 03:57 PM

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“ Abuela, as Esme called her sweet grandma, was always quick with a smile and a enthusiastic hello and hug at school pick up for Esme and Julio. You could see the love and bond built between them. Keeping your family in my heart and prayers.  
Ms Garcia

Ms Garcia - October 21, 2020 at 09:53 AM

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“ I know of Emma and all her amazingness through Dwayne. Through his words and stories, I came to know and admire what a truly loving and loved person she was.

Alyssa - October 20, 2020 at 05:58 PM

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“ The depth of Emma's tender touch on the lives of so many of us is neither measurable nor easily expressible. Perhaps her father-in-law who loved Emma dearly described her best when he so admiringly said - that lovely lady is an Institution.

Marilyn Warren - October 20, 2020 at 01:30 PM

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“ Martha lit a candle in memory of Emma Torres de Kolly



Martha - October 20, 2020 at 12:37 PM

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“ 5 files added to the album Emma's Photos



**Loretta Prokop** - October 20, 2020 at 11:53 AM



“ Loretta, thanks for adding these pictures. They really show Emma at her best, and prove that I once had hair!

**Dwayne Kolly** - October 20, 2020 at 12:31 PM

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“ I remember Emma always at Dwayne's side. She projected a quiet strength that made everyone feel welcome.

**Marvin Melson** - October 20, 2020 at 11:02 AM



“ She was strong, stronger than many people knew, but maybe not as quiet always as you remember her. :)

**Dwayne Kolly** - October 20, 2020 at 12:29 PM

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“ The times I spent with Emma talking and laughing, a lot, will always be in my heart. Love and blessings to each of you, Tina Melson

**Tina Melson** - October 20, 2020 at 10:50 AM

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“ 16 files added to the album Emma's Photos



**Dwayne Kolly** - October 19, 2020 at 09:13 PM

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“ My only real memory is her laughter. I can't picture her any other way. She was such a joyful person.

**Diana Voorhis** - October 19, 2020 at 05:52 PM