



## Amelia da Fonseca Veiga Branco

January 8, 1928 - February 7, 2017

On February 7th, 2017, after a long and courageous journey with metastatic lung cancer, Amelia da Fonseca Veiga Branco, 89, passed while in the loving arms of her daughter and Querida Filha do Ceu, Kathleen. Emily as she preferred to be called, was living with her daughter in the beautiful mountains Western North Carolina in the city known as Asheville.

Emily was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey where she lived for most of her life, before moving to New York and most recently Asheville, NC. The most important element of Emily's life was family. She was blessed to have two loving parents Maria Candida da Fonseca and Jose Augusto Veiga, both of whom immigrated from Portugal. Emily was also blessed to have had as she referred to her "The Best Mother-in-Law in the World and second Mother," our beloved Augusta Gomes dos Santos Branco who lived with Emily until her passing in Emily's arms. As the last living member of her immediate family, Emily was pre-deceased by her parents mentioned above and brothers Antonio and Pedro. Emily received abundant blessings in her life and was able to share many, many happy years and memories with her dear sisters before they passed--they are as follows: Maria Augusta Fonseca (Augusta), Maria dos Anjos Marques (Mary), Anna Maria Louro (Anna) and most recently Rosaria Lourenco (Rose).

Emily is survived by her son Anthony Branco and his wife Kathryn; daughter

Kathleen Lizzul and her husband Michael; granddaughter Andrea Branco and her wife Kasey; grandson David Branco; and Andrea and David's mom, Beverly Spencer Branco. Emily, known as Tia Amelia to them, is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews who she loved and adored: Karen and her children Edmund, Keki, Lynn and Paul; Gerry and Victor and their children Jennifer and Victor; Eugenia and Robbie and their children Michael and Michelle; Rufina and her children, Shana, Bernadette, Mena, Nuno, and Michael; Carlos and Celia and their daughters Christina and Sara; MaryAnn and Joe and their children Erica and Joey; Angel and Peter and their children, Stephanie, Kevin and Danny; Rose and her children Christopher, Anthony and Heather; Joe and his children Claudia and Eric; Theresa and John their children Justin and Taylor; and her niece Aida's children, Camane, Joao, Ze Carlos, Teresa and Nanny. Emily is also survived by some very special people who she also loved; Kathy Zdonowski, and all of Emily's friends at Mary's Manor in Inwood, New York, they are as follows: Dru, Eileen, Maria and Millicent and others.

Besides spending time with her sisters and her loving family, Emily's joys were viewing the mountains here in WNC, driving and long road trips, traveling, cooking, playing Canasta, going to the casino, home repair and decorating, going to the theater, Judy Garland music, Beja our standard poodle and you guessed it--watching "Dancing with the Stars" and "Game of Thrones."

By her example, Emily inspired many of the women in the family to be self-sufficient and independent. Emily began working from the time she was young in her family's grocery store. As an adult, Emily worked at RCA for 25 years and later took on a second career of working in and owning restaurants. Emily's greatest accomplishments were in being creative in the kitchen and in owning restaurants: the last restaurant being "Mama Mia's." Emily was industrious and always willing to give a hand especially when it came to cooking or fixing something that was broken. While she wasn't big on words

and never repeated gossip or your entrusted secrets, she was spirited in her political opinions and the right way of doing things.

Upon receiving her diagnosis, she never wavered in her faith and optimism believing that she had lived an abundant and lucky life surrounded by family, friends and love. Emily was at peace and ready to make the journey home to her Lord and Savior. She said, "the only tragedy in life is when children are stricken with illness and asked that in lieu of the flowers that she could not smell after her passing, that you please donate to the St. Jude Children's Fund in her name."

## Service

Location: Morris Funeral Home

Address: 304 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801

Date: Sunday, February 12, 2017

Viewing: 12:00 p.m.

Service: 1:00 p.m.

Officiants: Chaplain Kelly Belcher and Deacon Phillip Miles

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to, "St. Jude Children's Fund in Honor of Amelia Branco." The main website is not easy to navigate, so please do a Google search for these exact words, "giftfunds.stjude.org" After the Google search, click on the first result. When redirected to the St. Jude Gift Funds website, just below the log in button on the top right, look for the "Search Funds" button. Click on the button and search for the fund by typing in "Amelia Branco."

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Family will Receive Friends

FEB 12. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care  
304 Merrimon Ave.  
Asheville, NC 28801  
(828) 252-1821  
info@morrisfamilycare.com  
<http://www.morrisfamilycare.com>

### Funeral Service

FEB 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care  
304 Merrimon Ave.  
Asheville, NC 28801  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Amelia da Fonseca Veiga Branco*

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October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *I will never forget the conversations on the phone I always felt like you were a grandmother to me you watched me grow up to the strong independent woman I am today  
You are an inspiration to the women in this family as a strong independent woman that you were. I'm so thankful for that phone call you gave me on Christmas it made me feel so special that you thought of me and Mylah even as sick as you were you thought of others first. I really wish you could have met her in person. I always felt like vovo rose, vovo carlos and tia dos anos are my guardian angels and i have gained another I know in my heart you will watch over Mylah and I. We love you and will miss you so much it hurts.*

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**Heather Lourenco** - February 12, 2017 at 01:16 PM

AP

“ *My Dearest Tia Amelia, no words can express how much I will miss you, but I know right now you are having a blast catching up with your sisters. I wonder if you will be making those Brandy Alexander's? I used to get a kick out of seeing you, mommy and Tia Dos Anjos getting plastered on them every Friday in your kitchen on Pennington Street. It was Hysterical!! You girls would let loose and get totally silly and laugh and laugh.. I can't think about those days without a huge smile on my face.. The stories you use to tell about Tio Marques.. Hysterical.. Tia I will always have those memories and so many more memories of you and the rest of our Golden Girls..*  
*Love you always Tia,*  
*Angel*

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**Angel Pachana** - February 12, 2017 at 12:57 AM

SV

“ *We offer our prayers and sincere condolences to the family of Amelia da Fonseca Veiga Branco. She will surely be missed but will always remain in our heart.*

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**Sophia and Al Velozo** - February 11, 2017 at 07:21 PM

LF

“ *It was a bad snow storm and Tia just came home from shopping and slipped and fell (she didn't get hurt). She was sliding down the driveway along with the bags while using "saucy" language!*

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**Lynn Fonseca** - February 11, 2017 at 01:25 PM

LF

“ *Keren, Tia and I took a real estate class together. Tia sat in the front row and was always raising her hand to a new answer the questions the teacher asked! I think the teacher had a crush on her too!*

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**Lynn Fonseca** - February 11, 2017 at 01:20 PM

LF

“ We would watch the Superbowl and Tia would make the BEST SUBS! And we'd have a lil' Superbowl party!

Lynn Fonseca - February 11, 2017 at 01:16 PM

KF

“ Tia lived with us for many years. We worked together, laughed together and even cried together. She was a very important person in our lives. She taught Lynn how to be a handy man. She taught Edmund cooking techniques. She taught Paul how to drive stick shift... Unseccessfully! When Edmundo died, we would drive to work together and she would listen to me cry and talk about life's events, for many months. She never said "enough already", or "don't you think it's time to move on?" She just listened. She wasn't a chit-chatter as she would say, never betrayed a confidence, nor gossiped! She was my beautiful Tia, godmother, and friend. I will miss her!

Karen Fonseca - February 11, 2017 at 11:05 AM

LY

“ I helped Tia remodel our kitchen- stripping paint off the cabinets sanding then varnishing them. Putting up wallpaper! She was a modern woman before the saying was invented!

Lynn - February 11, 2017 at 10:42 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Amelia da Fonseca Veiga Branco.



February 10, 2017 at 04:42 PM

OM

“ *I remember the great times our family had at the farm in Jersey. When the crew got together it was all laughs that I still remember and oh those card games! Prima Amelia I will miss the times I spent with you and Kathy at the beach house those were summers I will always hold close to my heart. You will be missed but I know the rest of the family are waiting for you including my dad Jose Veiga ! Love you always Olga Veiga and Jack Marques*

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**Olga Veiga Marques** - February 10, 2017 at 09:10 AM

AB

“ *Mama Vo was one of the strongest role models in my life and it wouldn't have been the same without her. What I remember most is her unconditional love and her independent spirit.*



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**andrea branco** - February 09, 2017 at 05:36 PM

TP

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**THERESA PANARRA-DADEY** - February 09, 2017 at 05:30 PM

TP

“ *She will be missed. Every time I think of her it'll be w/ a loving heart & smile. Whenever we were together, whether just the 2 of us, or all of us, 3 things were guaranteed, lots of laughs, lots of love & LOTS & LOTS of coffee! Thanks to Tia & her love of making family pictures, she helped save moments of time that would have probably become forgotten memories! One of the last time we spoke, she said she'd give my Mom & brother my love & I know she did. I know they're all together now, and for every tear of sorrow we shed, they're shedding tears of joy. (...and drinking LOTS of coffee!) I love you Tia Amelia, xo*

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**THERESA PANARRA-DADEY** - February 09, 2017 at 04:21 PM

YV

“ *Your HR friends at Veritiv purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Amelia da Fonseca Veiga Branco.*



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**Your HR friends at Veritiv** - February 08, 2017 at 05:18 PM