

PHOENIX — (11/11/1952 – 03/06/2021). A 4th-generation Arizona native, Valerie was the daughter of the late Daniel Ruiz Angulo and the late Dorine Culling Angulo. She was the eldest of eight siblings, and “bossy” according to the youngest ones. This was a trait that served her well throughout her nursing career.

Valerie attended St Agnes Parochial School and Gerard Catholic High School, both in Phoenix. She graduated from the nursing program at ASU with a B.S.N.

Most of her career was spent in behavioral health in Maricopa County. She started at the inpatient psychiatric unit of Phoenix Children’s Hospital, where she eventually became Nurse Manager. From there she joined ComCare, where she held a variety of positions, finally becoming Director of Provider Relations. She took an ironic pride in being among the “magnificent seven” senior staff who were not retained when the State of Arizona took over the company in 1997. She worked with several other behavioral health agencies in various capacities before joining the NurseWise subsidiary of Centene Corporation in 2005 as the Clinical Director of the Tempe behavioral health call center. She eventually became the Director of Call Center Operations, responsible for centers in Tempe, El Paso, Atlanta and Fort Lauderdale, until her retirement in Feb, 2017.

Valerie was an avid sports fan, especially of the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Arizona Cardinals. One of her bucket list items was to see a game at every major league stadium, an ambition sadly not fulfilled. Because she shared a deep love of the visual arts with her husband, Tom, many of the baseball trips they made coincided with an exhibit at a local art museum. Even non-baseball trips were usually built around a major exhibit showing at a city she wanted to visit.

In addition to sports, art and travel, Valerie loved to gather with her family and Tom’s family to share food and conversation. She enjoyed the holidays, especially Halloween and Christmas, and spent hours arranging decorations throughout their home to celebrate seasonal changes. Valerie had a zest for life’s enjoyment, an appreciation of each person’s unique character, and a heart big enough to welcome everyone into her life.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Tom, daughter Sara (Garrett Maroste), siblings Daniel Angulo (Karyn), Ron Angulo (Cinda), Denise LaFave (John), Larry Angulo (Christi), Joe Angulo (Yolanda), Andrea Angulo Gutierrez, Julie Angulo (Duane), as well as many nieces, nephews, and innumerable cousins.

Her ashes will be placed in a mausoleum at Phoenix Memorial Park (200 W Beardsley Rd, Phoenix). A Celebration of Life will be held as early as feasible. “Remember, I will always be with you.”



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