



## Sarah S. Docal

February 11, 1926 - September 19, 2013

Sarah Stincer de Docal (Sarita), 87, of Woodbridge, CT (formerly of Havana, Cuba), died late Thursday, September 19 at her daughter's home in North Haven, CT. After a courageous battle with cancer, she passed away surrounded by her family. Her death came exactly seven years after the passing of her beloved husband, Gonzalo, on September 19, 2006.

Born February 11, 1926, in Holguin, Cuba, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Rogelio Stincer and Sarah Godoy de Stincer and the sister of the late Rogelio and Carlos Stincer. Mrs. Docal studied at Las Dominicas Americanas in Havana. After graduating, she taught English at Colegio del Sagrado Corazón, also in Havana. In 1960 she and her family fled from communism in her native Cuba. She arrived in Miami with her family and later moved to New Jersey, Colombia, Connecticut and Mexico before finally settling in Woodbridge.

Mrs. Docal is survived by six daughters and one son: Sara (Stephen) Zrike of Norfolk, MA, Maria Victoria (Hans) Beyhs of Pfaffenheck, Germany, Didi (Greg) Burns of Yardley, PA, Rosi (David) Pizzuto of Cheshire, CT, Antonio of Fort Lauderdale, FL, Ani (Ernesto) Alvarez of Key Biscayne, FL, Cristina (Bill) Ryan of North Haven, CT. She is also survived by twenty-one grandchildren: Stephen (Ellen), Sara Maria, Andrew (Maro), Charles and William Zrike; Monica and Michael Beyhs; Robert, Caroline and Alison Burns; Sara Pizzuto; Tommy, Jack and Jasmine Docal; Ernesto, Cristina, Carolina and Ana Alvarez; and Robert, Alexandra and William Ryan and three great grandchildren.

Mrs. Docal was very active in her parish, Our Lady of the Assumption, in Woodbridge. For many years, she was a member of the Parish Social Action Committee and managed the holiday basket program for the needy. Mrs. Docal also led a Small Christian Community Prayer Group, taught CCD, was a Eucharistic Minister and helped prepare couples for marriage. Outside of her parish, Mrs. Docal was active in the Epilepsy Foundation and in helping Cuban exiles.

Her family, her faith and love for her homeland were at the center of her life. Those who

met her were immediately enthralled by her positive attitude and generous heart. She never thought of herself and dedicated her life to caring for others. Her love of life was contagious. Her values guided everything she did and are her legacy.

The family wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to her wonderful caregivers: Victoria Mendez, Amarylis Castillo, Yaneth Castillo, Sandra Galvez, Roxana Infantes, Wanda Linhoff, Cheryl Pfau, Kosha Gardner and the staff of Connecticut Hospice. They worked tirelessly with compassion and dedication.

A funeral Mass is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24 at Our Lady of Assumption, 75 Center Road, Woodbridge. Burial will be private. Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Ave. Hamden ([www.siskbrothers.com](http://www.siskbrothers.com)) is handling arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Connecticut Hospice, 100 Double Beach Road, Branford, CT 06405 ([www.hospice.com/cthospice/donate1](http://www.hospice.com/cthospice/donate1)) or Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 75 Center Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525 ([www.assumptionchurch.com](http://www.assumptionchurch.com)) or The Smilow Cancer Center at Yale-New Haven Hospital ([www.giveclosertofree.org/donate](http://www.giveclosertofree.org/donate)).

# Events

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**SEP** **Funeral service** 11:00AM  
**24**

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Our Lady of the Assumption  
Center Rd., Woodbridge, CT, US

# Comments

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“ The Hartt School Dance Division, all of our dancers and faculty, send you our most heartfelt condolences. We wrap you in the warm embrace of our love and support. Sarah's daughter, Rosi, is a living example of her grace, strength, generosity and integrity. All these traits are passed on through Rosi to hundreds of children through her teaching. What a blessing that is!

**Stephen Pier** - September 23, 2013 at 06:18 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sarah S. Docal.



September 23, 2013 at 01:06 PM

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“ A person of elegance, beauty and inspiration, I felt honored to know Mrs. Docal and am saddened by her passing. Through her eldest child, my dear friend of 28 years, Sara Zrike, I came to know Mrs. Docal. My heartfelt sympathies go out to the Docal and Zrike families at this sad time. A wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend, Mrs. Docal reached out to others with much cheerfulness and caring. A marvelous role model for us all, she'll always be remembered for her kind and friendly way of engaging with and caring for others.

**Jean Burke** - September 23, 2013 at 11:11 AM

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“ A lady of elegance, beauty and inspiration, I was honored to have met Mrs. Docal through my dear friend and her eldest child, Sara Zrike, a friendship I've cherished now for 28 years. I wish to convey my heartfelt sympathies to the Docal and Zrike families on the passing of a wonderful woman, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend and member of her community. A role model for us all, I am very saddened by her passing. She lived her life with true meaning by virtue of all the lives she touched through her bright spirit. And through this marvelous spirit, Mrs. Docal. will always be remembered.

Jean Burke - September 23, 2013 at 10:27 AM

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“ Dear Didi & Family, my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your mother. May God bless all of you in this difficult time.

-Jennifer (Andrade) Venetos



Jennifer (Andrade) Venetos - September 23, 2013 at 09:49 AM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Sarah S. Docal.



September 23, 2013 at 09:08 AM

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“ Our family was introduced to Mrs. Docal through her daughter, Sara Zrike. Our son Mike, Andy's friend since childhood and "Sara's sixth child" became part of her family as well.. We always felt welcomed by each member of her family at all gatherings and celebrations we attended here in Norfolk. What a wonderful tribute to this fine lady who's heart embraced everyone who entered her life. Mrs. Docal was a kind, sweet, and a most gracious lady who will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this most difficult time.  
The Favaloro Family

**Simonne Favaloro** - September 22, 2013 at 11:11 AM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your Mother. She was a real fine lady and I enjoyed her from the first time I met here. You are all in my prayers and thoughts through out this time of sorrow. May God be with you and bless you all.

**Carol Williams Sewall** - September 22, 2013 at 09:58 AM

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“ Loving thoughts and prayers are being sent your way in memory of your dear mom.  
Love, Angie and Russ



**Angie and Russ** - September 22, 2013 at 09:21 AM

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“ Cristina,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. May eternal rest be hers, may perpetual light shine upon her, and may she ride on the gentle wind of peaceful rest.

**Ann Florenzano-Raymond** - September 22, 2013 at 05:25 AM

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“ Robyn Bernor lit a candle in memory of Sarah S. Docal



**Robyn Bernor** - September 21, 2013 at 07:52 PM

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“ Father Tom Foley lit a candle in memory of Sarah S. Docal



**Father Tom Foley** - September 21, 2013 at 06:58 PM



“ To those who are faithful to You O Lord, death does not take away life, it merely exchanges one for another. May Sarah rest in the peace of Jesus Christ as the angels lead her into paradise.

**Father Tom Foley** - September 21, 2013 at 07:01 PM