**EULOGY**

**WRITTEN FOR**

**ANGELITO CADIENTE**

**REVISED**

Hello everyone and thank you for being here to celebrate the life, wisdom, and quiet, lasting impact that this wonderful woman, Elizabeth Ferrer, had and **has**, on all of us. As her favorite son-in-law... the **GOOD** one..... welll... actually, her **only** living son-in-law...so that helps to narrow the playing field a bit... (**Wait for the laugh**), I have been privileged and blessed to be a part of her family for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.... a lifetime, really, but of course never enough... to bear witness to her attention to detail, her care for others and the wisdom and guidance she so freely gave to others.

Bebet was born on May 6, 1916. (**Do you want to use the nickname I found in the birthday speech? If not use what you feel comfortable calling her**) Can you just imagine all of the landmark events and changes she was witness to? Practically everything we take for granted in life did not exist before she was born... think about it...and then think about this.... all of those changes and innovations... space travel... automobiles... modern technology and communication... radio... television... **NONE** of them interfered with my mother-in-law caring for people she loved in the best, old fashioned, classic ways she knew... okay.... maybe I exaggerate a little... Bebet seemed to be a humble and contented "keeper of the home fires," as long as you didn't interrupt her or ask for anything when "Dallas" was on!!!! **NO ONE** was more intrigued or determined to keep up with JR and Sue Ellen Ewing than our beloved Bebet. She cared about them so much... it was almost like she held the mortgage on Southfork! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Over the years, with her family she emigrated to the U.S. and built a life based on family, faith, and keeping a spirit of hospitality and welcome for **everyone**. We all know that she was a devoted wife and mother to Eleanor, Nelly, Arthur, and of course Loida, always so gracious and generous in sharing her God given gifts with others... and I can tell you, first hand, that along with her caring, her sense of humor kept that sparkle in her eye...well...at least to me... remember? I'm her favorite son-in-law! (**Wait for the laugh**)... oh... and probably Eleanor too.. she did have her favorites!! And even as recently as last year, when she was preparing to celebrate her **ONE HUNDREDTH** birthday, I remember her sharp wit and clever wisdom....if you'd have asked her "What's the best thing about being one hundred....?" She would reply, "No peer pressure." (**Say this very deadpan and wait for the laugh**).

Yes... she touched all of us in a million unforgettable ways. Of course she was devoted to her husband Juan, my father-in-law. They were married for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. He was a senior military officer who dedicated his professional career to his distinguished service. When I met my wife, Loida, I too, was in the military.... it was almost like destiny... you know... like mother like daughter? Not so fast... here is Bebet's youngest child... about to inherit her mother's legacy.... every daughter eagerly awaits her mother's loving words of wisdom, based on devotion and experience.... and what did Bebet have to say? Simple. She said... "**Don't marry a military person**... they leave often and are all over the place!!" (**Wait for** **the laugh**). Thanks Mom!!! And you wonder why my theme song to Bebet... my lullaby to my mother-in-law... my musical devotion to this wonderful example was... "**Devil Woman**??" (**Wait for the laugh... and start singing a little)** "🎶🎵She's just a devil woman... with evil on her mind...🎶🎵"....

There are so many reasons I can name that made and make Elizabeth Ferrer an extraordinary and unforgettable gift to all of us. It may have seemed that she lived a humble life as a housewife, but she brought an art to her calling and loved her life and she loved everything in it and about it. She embraced her mission... to take care of ALL of us with grace, watchfulness, and a special enthusiasm and pride that leaves a message of inspiration and eternal respect. I mean... who loves housecleaning? Who would sing while folding the laundry or doing the dishes? Bebet did... and when she took care of things, she FULLY took care of EVERYTHING.... It was her pleasure and privilege to make sure everyone was looked after... and whether it was her children or grandchildren, her house sitters or helpers, or the many, MANY people she hosted and cared for in the ministry, Bebet was a nurturer.... weren't we all so blessed? While she did her chores, her musical accompaniment was herself... and I will never forget hearing those words.... "Amazing grace how sweet the sound...."

Bebet worked hard caring for everyone in her life and she also played- I mean **NAPPED** hard too... she loved her home.... she was content to stay in and she loved to take her naps. She knew they would regenerate her and give her strength.... to watch more episodes of DALLAS!! And you know what's REALLY funny??? I just realized something else that we've learned from Bebet.... when you get old enough... everything you thought was punishment when you were a kid becomes your bucket list as you get older... going to bed early.... staying inside the house.... taking naps... those were her absolute FAVORITE activities!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... Bebet showed us... if we live long enough... it ALL works out!!

Bebet leaves a tremendous legacy behind.... for you and for me... and for her friends and family... and I am sure her memory burns bright in the hearts of her children and especially her grandchildren. I know that our son Angelo has many fond memories of his grandmother. When I asked him to tell me some memories of his Grandma, there was no hesitation. He said,

"One of my fondest memories of Grandma has to be the food. She was always willing to cook every time I was hungry, came home from school, or after one of my many sporting events. Everything she made was delicious.

Cross her, however, and there would be hell to pay. I'm pretty athletic but I was no match for her skills. Her power and aim with a slipper was unheard of. I could sprint from a dead stop to try and flee from her and before I could turn the corner, BAM... right in the back of the head....the smallest target and she NAILED IT every time. It didn't matter if I zig zagged, changed speeds, ducked... forget about it. She was a sniper in an apron! (**I changed this a little... keep if she wore an apron or you can say house dress or whatever fits and wait for the laugh**). It hit so hard that .... and I mean it... I tasted slippers in my mouth after the impact!! But it DID teach me. It taught me not to make those same mistakes again and it taught me to respect my elders. It's partly thanks to her aim that I didn't mouth back to my parents or disrespect them. I was just too afraid of the ramifications.

She set a great example of how a wife should treat her husband. She would always cater to Grandpa... prepare his meals, clean up after him, get him ready for the day, and help him get settled in for the night. I can't ever remember her raising her voice to him. My grandfather was very fortunate in this matter. This was all before Grandpa had the stroke. After the stroke, her care for him was taken to an even higher level...if that was possible. I guess that's why after he passed it was only natural for her to continue her love and care for all of us, and we were all so blessed to have that.

I will truly miss her devotion and thoughtfulness (**Do you want to add...**) ... and **AIM** (**and wait for the laugh? It's up to you**)."

And we all may not admit it, but as I said and as we know... Bebet had her favorites.... it may not have always seemed that way, but if something was going on or seemed to be going wrong, or something was missing, Bebet had a way of shining a light... and when she wasn't saying "**No...no...NO!!**" she was practicing her favorite granddaughter's name using another favorite expression... "Maybe Ana Lisa did it...Perhaps Ana Lisa took it.. Maybe Ana Lisa..... " **Paging Ana Lisa**!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). We now know this kind of attention was a compliment from this woman... yes...those were fun times and only thanks to the closeness we have in our family are we able to think back so fondly on the soundtrack and dialogue so spiritedly provided by our beloved mother, grandmother and friend. I don't want to say that she left anyone behind, because her spirit is so strong within us, but I know that with four children and (**Add the number of grandchildren**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ grandchildren that she fed, nourished, nurtured, and taught, a future inspired by Elizabeth Ferrer's timeless, caring gestures will add a "legendary" voice to future generations. It is up to all of us to learn from how she lived and live by the lessons she so carefully and lovingly taught us.

Some of the most cherished memories I can recall of Bebet can be seen and summed up in how she was after my father-in-law, Juan suffered a stroke. As Angelo said, she was so fierce in her devotion to him. She didn't leave his side... it was like everything she had learned about caring and nurturing was magnified when he needed her most. Bebet was a tough one. She was strict and set in her ways but I was never fooled.... i knew that inside she was one pure expression of love and it shone through in every gesture and act of care and kindness that she performed... especially for him and I think you would all agree with me on that.

When my father-in-law eventually passed on, a hymn was selected to be shared at his service. It is from "It Is Well With My Soul" that I share this:

"When peace like a river,

Attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll;

Whatever my lot, Thou hast

Taught me to know

It is well, it is well, with my soul."

For all of us here today, Mama Bebet was a one-of-a-kind woman who lived her life to the fullest as she expressed her love for those around her in all the ways typical of her generation. The last years were restricted to life here in Lakewood and at Highland where her younger sister and best friend, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lives. Bebet is deeply missed by her family, relatives, and friends. She is now freed from this life in this world and is now present in God's eternal kingdom, reunited with her husband, Papa Johnny. And God has now said to her, "Well done, good and faithful servant," and claimed her in His eternal love.

Elizabeth Ferrer, you lived a long, productive, meaningful life. You showed us dignity by way of simplicity. You "stuck to your guns" and maintained your beliefs... even if sometimes they sounded a little tough. You fed us and nurtured us, and saw to it that we were all cared for in the best way possible. You laughed WITH us even though it may not have always seemed that way. To sum it up, you were and **are** one in a million and although we will miss your watchful eye, we will remember to continue to teach your lessons to our children and their children, and in that way, you will live on.... (**Do you want to add**) Have a safe journey home.... and remember.... every once in a while, when you think of it... look up from "Dallas" and give us a wink! Watch over us and I promise we will make you proud. We love you... Rest In Peace.