



## Vera "Joan" Cano

February 13, 1931 - February 26, 2014

The Life Story of Vera Joan Cano as told by her

I was born in Danville, Illinois on 2/13/1931. My parents are George Dewey Smith and Eliza Eileen Rogers Smith. I was child number five of eight.

Eight Smith children listed in order of birth are:

George Robert : father of four: Ronnie, Janice, Christy and John

Venita : mother of two: Marian Jo and Steven

Winifred: mother of eight: Monty, Sharon, Karen, John, Patrick, Joseph, Bruce and Teresa

Joyce: mother of two: Sheila and Bill

Joan: mother of three: Billie, Mike and Rick

Hope: mother of two: James and Jeffrey

Leverne: mother of two: Douglas and Gregory

Danny: father of four: Danny Lee, Penelope, Rebecca and a son

My childhood was spent with not a lot of money, but certainly with a lot of love. We lived in Danville, in town for the early years, before we moved to the country. Life on the farm was not always easy, but we learned much. We grew most of our food. My mother was resourceful, making most of our clothing. Each child was given the opportunity, on their birthday, to choose their special dessert. For me it was always sour cream raisin pie. YUM! Mom made it the best. With eight kids, who needed playmates? We made our own fun. We walked to school together. We did a lot of chores and helped daddy on the

farm. We had a horse named Babe. I thought of her as mine. My daddy also worked as an "Ice Man" delivering ice to homes.

I married Wilbur "Bud" Masterson in 1951. We had two children, Billie and Mike. Tragically Mike died when he was only a baby. He accidentally ingested prenatal vitamins, the high iron content caused great damage to his brain. Bud was in the Navy and we traveled quite a bit. When Billie was just a baby we lived in Panama for a year. That was fun. We lived in many other places in the United States. He was often "at sea." That was hard on our marriage. We were divorced around 1960. After my divorce, I returned to school. Upon graduation, and passing the State Board Examination, I became a LVN. I am so happy to be a nurse. I love my job. It is good to be able to support my family.

Billie married Bill Brown and they had a beautiful baby girl in 1970. My first grandchild! Her name is Misti Dawn. She is the "apple of my eye." Bill and Billie divorced a year later. In 1975 Billie married Joe Salamone. They had a beautiful baby girl named Sarah Jane in 1980. She is "apple #2." I am now blessed with two beautiful granddaughters.

I was married to Jose Santos for a couple years. We have a son named Jose Ricardo Santos, lovingly known as Ricky. He was such a sweet child, and so darn cute. When he was diagnosed with Tuberculosis, he was required to stay at Olive View Sanitarium for about eight months. He was only a baby. It was so hard on all of us. For Ricky, to be separated from his only family, at such an important time in his life, and on Billie and I, as we had to leave him there. The hospital was about an hour and a half from home. We spent every weekend there with him. When we had to leave, we all three cried. When he could come home we all rejoiced. When Ricky was fifteen years old he had an aneurysm in his brain. He required surgery. We prayed night and day for his full recovery. There was a risk of paralysis. Thank God our prayers were heard. He is perfectly healthy and strong. He married Kim Fertig. They had,

first a baby girl, named Acacia Rose and then a son, named Tyler. Now I am blessed with four grandchildren.

I married Severo Cano in 1972. He has a daughter, from a previous relationship, named Angela. Angela married "Chinto" Aguilar. They have four children, Ricky Aguilar, Ivan, Angelica and Jonathan. Yikes, now I am grandmother to eight! They all come to spend time at our home at different times. Keeps everyone young,

Misti has four children: Sierra Brook Horton, born 10/15/1990 Dakota Michael Horton, born 5/5/1992, tragically he died shortly after delivery, Richard Joseph Santana, born 7/15/1998 and Elizabeth Victoria Santana, lovingly known as Lyla, born on 9/29/1999.

Sarah has one son named Kevin Isaiah, lovingly known as Izzy, born on 3/26/1999.

Rick Aguilar has three children, unfortunately I don't know their names. Ivan has four children.

Bividiana, Joselyn, and unfortunately I can't remember the other names. Angelica has one adopted son, his name is Sammy. And Jonathan is still in school.

That means that I have thirteen great-grandchildren! Guess you could say that I am blessed in full measure.

Thank you Lord for this life, abundantly blessed.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reflecting on Memories* created a Tribute Video in memory of Vera "Joan" Cano



---

**Reflecting on Memories** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM