



Emily Maria Vera

October 1, 1972 - March 3, 2026

On March 3, 2026, we lost a sweet and special soul. Emily Maria Vera was born on October 1, 1972, in Healdsburg, California, and grew up in Fort Bragg, California.

Born with Usher's Syndrome, a progressive disease, Emily faced hearing and vision loss with incredible bravery, eventually becoming completely Deaf and Blind.

She never let these challenges stop her. As a young child, she loved to run on the beach with her toes in the sand, proclaiming she could run forever "if she had the eyes of her mother." She attended Redwood Elementary, Dana Gray Elementary, and Fort Bragg Middle School before attending the California School for the Deaf in Fremont for a few years. While attending CSD Fremont she worked as a Resident Counselor and also accompanied younger students on their bus rides between the school campus and Mendocino County. She returned to attend Fort Bragg High School and graduated from there.

Emily was a most brave, positive, and accepting person. She was an actress in a Deaf Theater Troupe, skilled in memorizing lines and portraying expressive characters. She was also a brilliant traveler, navigating airports and trains independently to visit family in Mexico and explore Europe. She often used her skills to find the best travel deals for her parents.

Her ambitions were centered on independence and advocacy. She attended business classes at Ohlone Community College and Santa Rosa Junior College and served on the Board of the Northern California Association of the Deaf-Blind. Emily learned Braille and safe cooking skills at the Earle Baum Center in Santa Rosa, where she later managed the See's Candy fundraising program with such success that her apartment was once filled with inventory to be shipped across the country. She grew proficient in using adaptive technology so she could be independent at home and help advocate for people with disabilities, especially Deaf/Blind people. She enjoyed learning about and using computers, which helped connect her with the world.

She loved attending Deaf/Blind camps in Napa, California; Seabeck, Washington; and New York, where she enjoyed hiking, swimming, archery and horseback riding. Even in her darkest times in the hospital, Emily remained positive and considerate, always asking about her friends' lives and families. She moved through life with grace, a beautiful smile, and the motto she learned from her father: "Never give up!" In her enthusiasm for life, she often said she would live to be 100. She was thrilled to celebrate her 50th birthday, riding with friends in a limousine to enjoy the grounds, museum and a special celebratory meal at the Francis Ford Coppola Winery.

Emily is survived by these beloved family members: her parents, Salvador and Maria Vera of Fort Bragg; her brother Marcos and his wife Vanessa; and her nephew Adrian and niece Bianca, who she dearly loved and loved being their aunt. She was predeceased by her sister, Imelda.

She was an amazing woman whose legacy of unconditional love and strength will live on in the hearts of her family and many friends in the Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and interpreting communities.

Español:

El 3 de marzo de 2026, perdimos a una persona especial y entrañable. Emily María Vera nació el 1 de octubre de 1972 en Healdsburg, California, y creció en Fort Bragg, California.

Nacida con el síndrome de Usher, una enfermedad progresiva, Emily enfrentó la pérdida de audición y visión con una valentía increíble, hasta quedar completamente ciega y con discapacidad auditiva.

Nunca dejó que estos desafíos la detuvieran. De pequeña, le encantaba correr por la playa con los pies en la arena, proclamando que podría correr eternamente "si tuviera los ojos de su madre". Asistió a la escuela primaria Redwood, a la primaria Dana Gray y a la escuela secundaria Fort Bragg antes de asistir a la Escuela para personas con discapacidad auditiva de California en Fremont durante algunos años. Mientras asistía al CSD de Fremont, trabajó como consejera residente y también acompañó a estudiantes más jóvenes en sus viajes en autobús entre el campus escolar y el condado de Mendocino. Regresó para asistir a la escuela secundaria Fort Bragg y se graduó de allí.

Emily era una persona muy valiente, positiva y comprensiva. Era actriz en una compañía de teatro para personas con discapacidad auditiva, con gran habilidad para memorizar diálogos e interpretar personajes expresivos. También era una viajera brillante, que se desplazaba por aeropuertos y trenes de forma independiente para visitar a su familia en México y explorar Europa. A menudo usaba sus habilidades para encontrar las mejores ofertas de viaje para sus padres.

Sus ambiciones se centraban en la independencia y la defensa de sus derechos. Asistió a clases de negocios en Ohlone Community College y

Santa Rosa Junior College y formó parte de la junta directiva de la Asociación de Sordociegos del Norte de California. Emily aprendió braille y técnicas de cocina segura en el Centro Earle Baum de Santa Rosa, donde posteriormente gestionó el programa de recaudación de fondos See's Candy con tanto éxito que su apartamento llegó a estar lleno de inventario para ser enviado a todo el país. Se volvió experta en el uso de tecnología adaptada para poder ser independiente en casa y ayudar a defender a las personas con discapacidad, especialmente a las personas con discapacidad auditiva y ciegas. Disfrutaba aprendiendo sobre computadoras y usándolas, lo que la ayudó a conectarse con el mundo.

Le encantaba asistir a campamentos para personas con discapacidad auditiva y ciegos en Napa, California; Seabeck, Washington; y Nueva York, donde disfrutaba del senderismo, la natación, el tiro con arco y la equitación. Incluso en sus momentos más difíciles en el hospital, Emily se mantuvo positiva y considerada, siempre preguntando por la vida de sus amigos y familias. Atravesó la vida con gracia, una hermosa sonrisa y el lema que aprendió de su padre: "¡Nunca te rindas!". En su entusiasmo por la vida, solía decir que viviría hasta los 100 años. Estaba emocionada de celebrar su 50.º cumpleaños viajando con amigos en limusina para disfrutar de los jardines, el museo y una cena especial de celebración en la bodega Francis Ford Coppola.

A Emily le sobreviven sus queridos familiares: sus padres, Salvador y María Vera, de Fort Bragg; su hermano Marcos y su esposa Vanessa; y su sobrino Adrián y su sobrina Bianca, a quienes amaba profundamente y amaba como su tía. Le precedió en la muerte su hermana, Imelda.

Fue una mujer increíble, cuyo legado de amor incondicional y fortaleza perdurará en los corazones de su familia y de muchos amigos de las comunidades de personas con discapacidad auditiva, sordociegas e

intéprètes.

Cemetery Details

Oak Mound Cemetery

601 Piper Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 11. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

Windsor Healdsburg Mortuary & Crematory
9660 Old Redwood Hwy
Windsor, CA 95492
(707) 838-6000
info@whmortuary.com
<http://www.whmortuary.com>

Rosary will be begin at 5:00pm

Mass

MAR 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
8400 Old Redwood Highway
Windsor, CA 95492

Burial to follow at: Oak Mound Cemetery 601 Piper Street Healdsburg, CA 95448

Tribute Wall

MG

“ 24 files added to the album *Celebrating Emily's 50th birthday at Francis Ford Coppola Winery*



Mary Huber Graham - March 15 at 01:32 AM

MG

“ *How can I describe Emily's impact on my life? Her warmth, her gentle touch, her sense of humor, her joy in being alive, her love for her family, her interest in me and my family, her wish to understand world events and desire to pray for those in need. Her faith guided her love. She was my friend. I was continually touched by how Emily expressed her love and appreciation for every gesture of help and support. She was a marvel in using adaptive technology to text and email and navigate the internet. She blew my mind! I feel her presence in my life and my heart. Knowing her opened my world and reoriented my preciously limited understanding of what it is to be DeafBlind. I will miss her and celebrate her endlessly.*

Mary Huber Graham - March 15 at 01:08 AM

AD

“ I was fortunate to work with Emily and had the opportunity to see up close and personal her vibrant take on life. She was a brilliant light in spite of her dark silent world. Thank you Emily for sharing your light with me and the world.

A Dreamer - March 12 at 12:36 PM

WV

“ Tia Emily was ALWAYS there in text for kids. Wanting to know the latest news and achievements in school and sports.



Vanessa Vera - March 11 at 10:02 PM

WV

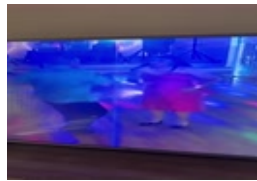
“ Emily loved being a Tia.



Vanessa Vera - March 11 at 09:56 PM

WV

“ Emily at her brother's wedding July 17, 2010



Vanessa Vera - March 11 at 09:54 PM

JN

“ I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to spend some time with Emily. I really enjoyed getting to know her and I remember how lovingly she always talked of her family. It seemed she always had lots of projects in the works and only slowed down when health issues came up. She will be terribly missed by all who knew her.

Joyce Neifert - March 11 at 09:37 AM