



Maria I Martins

DEC 29, 1952 - MAR 14, 2026



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In Loving Memory of Maria Idalia Martins

Maria Idalia Martins, affectionately known as "Dalia," passed away peacefully on March 14, 2026, at AdventHealth Stuart F. Meyer Hospice in Palm Coast, Florida, surrounded by her cherished family following a long and courageous battle with Dementia.

Born in Calvao, Portugal, on December 29, 1952, to Osvaldo and Maria Dos Santos, Idalia immigrated to Mount Vernon, New York, with her family in 1966.

Forty-seven years ago, Idalia married her beloved husband, Benjamin "Benji" Martins, in a beautiful ceremony in Mount Vernon. Together, they built a life rooted in love and a welcoming home in Putnam Lake, NY, where they raised their two daughters, Sarah and Diana. She spent many meaningful years working at the Putnam ARC, where she dedicated herself to supporting children and adults with developmental disabilities until her retirement in 2011. Her kindness and patience left a lasting impact on the many lives she touched throughout her career.

In 2011, Dalia and Benji moved to Palm Coast, Florida, to enjoy their retirement together. Though Benjamin predeceased her in 2024, the legacy of the life they built remained her greatest source of pride and blessing.

Dalia found great joy in the simple things: tending to her garden, the aroma of a home-cooked meal, and the comfort of long visits with family and friends. To know Dalia was to be nurtured by her—both by her cooking and her generous spirit.

She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Jack Dos Santos. Her memory will be held forever in the hearts of her surviving family: her children, Sarah (Marcus) Ottermann and Diana Martins (Freddie Melendez); and her two grandchildren, Armani and Avianna Cruz, who were the



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light of her life. She is also survived by her many brothers and sisters, Angelino (Armindia) Dos Santos, Paul Santos (Kathy), George (Jackie) Dos Santos, Cidalia (Antonio) Da Silva, Maria Helena (Antonio) Ferreria, Georgino (Susan) Dos Santos, Carlos (Robin) Dos Santos, and Nelson (Barbara Ann) Dos Santos, along with many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Family and friends are invited to gather at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Palm Coast on Thursday, March 19th. A visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. Following the Mass, she will be laid to rest at San Lorenzo Cemetery in St. Augustine, Florida.

The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the staff at AdventHealth Stuart F. Meyer Hospice for the exceptional care and compassion shown to Dalia in her final days. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Donate | AdventHealth Foundation East Florida. Dalia's nurturing heart and gentle soul will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Heritage Funeral and Cremation is handling the arrangements.




Events


Maria I Martins

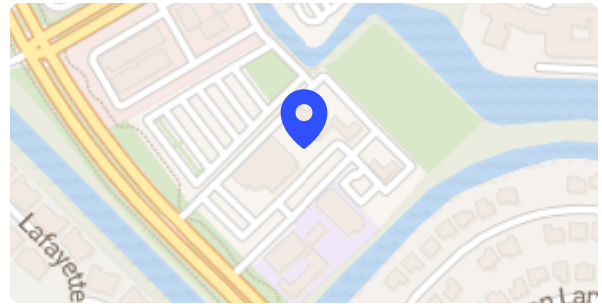
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Visitation

 **Thursday**, March 19, 2026

 10:00 AM ET

 **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church**
4600 Belle Terre Pkwy, Palm Coast FL 32164

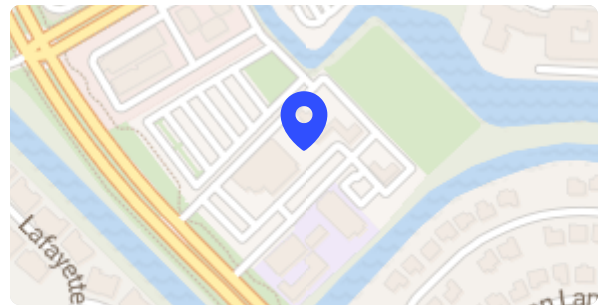


Funeral Mass

 **Thursday**, March 19, 2026

 11:00 AM ET

 **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church**
4600 Belle Terre Pkwy, Palm Coast FL 32164

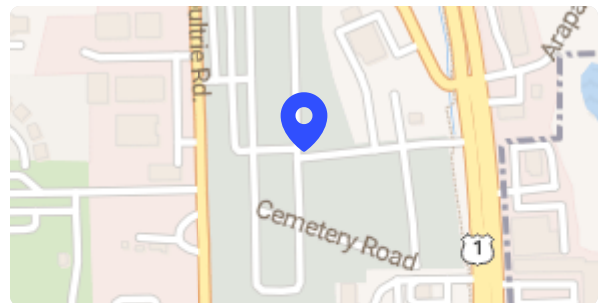


Burial

 **Thursday**, March 19, 2026

 1:00 PM ET

 **San Lorenzo Cemetery**
1635 US-1, St. Augustine FL 32084





Tribute Wall

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Cindy Dasilva shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



March 23 at 7:26 PM



Cindy Dasilva lit a candle in honor of Maria.



March 23 at 7:22 PM



Maria Elizabeth Pereira shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



March 17 at 2:53 PM



Media

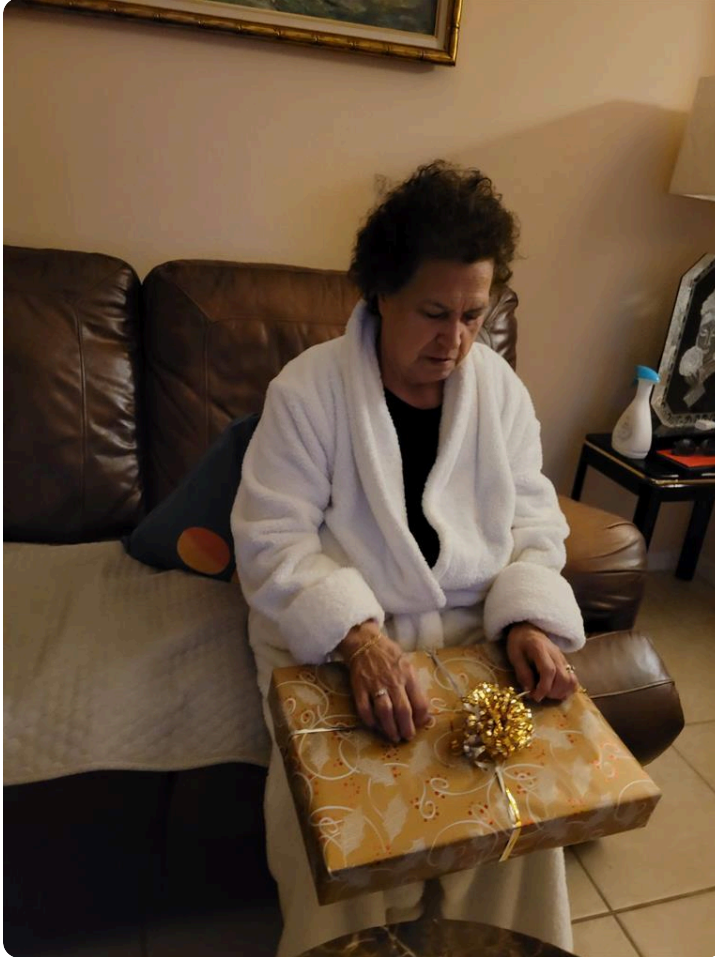
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Cindy Dasilva shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 23 at 7:26 PM





Maria Elizabeth Pereira shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 17 at 2:53 PM

INFORMAÇÃO para a Comunidade Portuguesa



Dezembro 29 1952 - 14 de Março de 2026

Maria Idália Martins, de 73 anos, faleceu a 14 de Março de 2026, após uma longa e corajosa batalha contra Alzheimer. Nasceu em Calvão, Portugal, a 29 de Dezembro de 1952. Em 1966 emigrou com a família para Mount Vernon, NY.

Idalia trabalhou no Putnam ARC, dedicando-se a apoiar crianças/adultos com deficiências até à sua reforma em 2011 mudando-se para Palm Coast de seguida.

O casal foi sócio do Portuguese American Cultural Center, nº 877 em Palm Coast.

Foi precedida na morte pelo marido Benjamin "Benji" Martins em 2024. Sobrevivem-na as seus filhas; Sarah (Marcus) Ottermann e Diana Martins (Freddie); e netos, Amani e Avianna Cruz; irmãos/ãs, Angelino e Arminda Dos Santos, Paul Santos e Kathy, George e Jackie Dos Santos, Cidalia e Antonio Da Silva, Maria Helena e Antonio Ferreria, Georgino e Susan Dos Santos, Carlos e Robin Dos Santos, Nelson e Barbara Ann Dos Santos, e muitos sobrinhos e sobrinhas.

A visitação terá lugar na Quinta-feira, 19 de Março às 10:00, seguida pela Missa às 11:00 na Igreja St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. O sepultamento será no San Lorenzo Cemetery em St. Augustine.

Em vez de flores, a família pede doações em sua memória para a [Donate | AdventHealth Foundation East Florida](#)
Paz à sua alma e condolências à sua família.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
4600 Belle Terre Pkwy, Palm Coast, FL 32164 Tel. (386) 445-2246



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Maria by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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