Lupe Pérez Hendrickson

Lupe Pérez Hendrickson passed away peacefully on September 6, 2026, marking exactly twenty-four years to the day that she lost her husband, John R. Hendrickson, to cancer.

Born in 1924, in a small mining town in Arizona, Lupe was one of four children raised by her resilient mother, who was widowed when Lupe was just eight months old. Inheriting that same strength and determination, Lupe went on to graduate from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor's degree in microbiology.

Her life was filled with global adventure and scientific dedication. In 1951, she and her family moved to Southeast Asia, living in Singapore and Malaya, before relocating to Hawai'i in 1963. The family eventually returned to her native Arizona in 1969. Lupe resided in Tucson until 2020 and spent her final six years enjoying the community of Payson, Arizona.

While raising her family, Lupe kept her passion for science alive by working part-time in microbiology laboratories. Once her children were grown, she embarked on a fulfilling career with the National Park Service, where she was instrumental in preparing a definitive book on the saguaro cactus for publication. Her scientific contributions also extended to the ocean; she collaborated closely with her husband on sea turtle research and served as the principal author on a pioneering paper detailing a novel method for tagging baby sea turtles for life-long identification.

Lupe's greatest legacy remains her large, loving family. She is survived by her four children, nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren, all of whom carry forward her spirit of curiosity and resilience.

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