

*Josefa Gozun Velasquez, long-time resident of Unalaska, passed away on 24th March, 2013, at the age of 91. It is believed that Josefa at the time of her death was oldest living resident of Unalaska, Alaska.*

*Josefa Velasquez was born on the 16th of December 1921, in Mabalacat, Pampanga, Philippines. She married Felino Velasquez at the age of 21, and together, they had 9 children in their 34 years of marriage. She moved to Unalaska, Alaska in 1987, at the age of 66. When she arrived in Unalaska she came for the purpose to help her daughter Nancy, with caring for her Granddaughter Joanne. Soon after arriving, Josefa decided to try working as a seafood processor at Alyeska Seafoods; this would allow her to be able to help her family in the Philippines. She continued to work at Alyeska until the age of 76 when she retired. During retirement, she spent her days taking care of her great granddaughters, Kiara, Kayla, and Karina.*

*Her hobbies during retirement included cooking, sewing, gardening, watching Filipino movies, and spending time with her friend's playing card games. She found the most joy in life was spending time with her family, making sure that everyone was well taken care of especially the children. Josefa always put the family's needs before her own, using her retirement money to assist family members in the Philippines, and helping her grandchildren in the Philippines attend college. She worked so hard during her life so her grandchildren and great grandchildren could have a better life.*

*Josefa is survived by 5 of her children, Bert; Adel; Nancy, Felino, Jr.; and Sonia. In her 91 years, she had the joy of being a part of the lives of her 31 grandchildren, 51 great grandchildren, and 8 great-great grandchildren.*

*At Josefa Velasquez's request, she will be returned to her homeland in the Philippines, where she will be reunited with her late husband, Felino Velasquez, Sr., in her final resting place.*