

## Small, Jovita T. (Tisalona) | 1928-2017

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Jovita Small

Jovita T. Small, 88, died Friday Feb. 17, 2017, after a short bout with pneumonia.

A private graveside service for family will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, at Edgewood Cemetery in Lancaster.

Jovita was born Feb. 24, 1928, in Bom Bang, Luzon, Philippines to Santiago and Gabina Tisalona. She was one of 13 children. She met and married her husband, Joseph D. Small Jr. March 30, 1947, while he was on duty in the Philippines with the U.S. Navy. They were married 64 years.

After they married, they lived in Joseph's hometown of Indianapolis. In 1951, they moved their family to Lancaster.

Jovita was a homemaker, and Joseph worked for LTV. In 1961, they moved to Arlington.

Joyen, as she was known by some, was an accomplished golfer, winning numerous tournaments with the Lake Arlington Women's Golf Association. She was also a prolific bowler with the Plaza Twilight League.

Joyen surpassed her skills in sports by being a talented designer and seamstress. She was well known for her amazing dance recital costumes, her wedding and bridesmaids dresses and the custom clothing she sewed for her four daughters throughout their lives. Joyen was selected in 1972 to design and sew costumes for the trainers, entertainers and marine mammals at the Seven Seas Marine Park in Arlington.

In 1982, Joseph and Joyen purchased 15 acres in Paradise and built their retirement home. They were avid square and round dancers.

Jovita was preceded in death by her husband; infant daughter Patricia; and eldest daughter Anita.

She is survived by daughters Peg Looney and husband, Dennis, Pam Foster and husband, Nathan and Linda Small; son Michael Small and wife, Patty; grandchildren Jovita Roy, Patricia Harvey, Robert Henderson, James Hazelwood, Jeremy Katrycz, Mistie Lyons, Reyna Arndorfer and Robert West; 17 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.