

## Belvedere Family Church: Maria Vargas UPF Secretary General for Northeast SR 1 has Transitioned

Justin Okamoto  
October 7, 2021



Dear UPF Leaders and Family,

Our highly respected Secretary General of UPF for SR1 Maria Vargas, transitioned at around 2 AM this morning. Her blessed son Artie, his wife Estella and son Logan were all attending her.

We sincerely honor Maria who was always faithful and a filial daughter of True Parents, a wonderful blessed wife and mother. Her son Artie has been attending his Mother each step of the way literally moving from St. Louis to her home in Brooklyn to support her. He has been a tremendous son of heart and was with her in her final moments.



Maria served at the United Nations for many years and was a key leader for UPF in North America. In 2020 she organized and led our UPF North American Peace Road program all the way from Plymouth Rock to the Bering Strait. This year she stayed on the front line though her health battle was getting critical was there attending the YSP UPF Peace Road service in the Bronx on August

18th and speaking at our Peace Road Event in the Bronx on August 19th. Maria is our hero of faith and heart and never stopped fighting for True Parents until it was time for her to go home to be with the Lord.

We can never forget in Peace Road 2020, how she contacted the U.S. Army 65th Infantry Regiment that was a Puerto Rican Regiment Honored with a Congressional Gold Medal from Congress in 2016 for their outstanding courage during the Korean War. They were the only all Hispanic Regiment. Last year in August we had our Peace Road program all over New England and New York. In the Bronx we held the rally in honor of the 65th Regiment called the "Boriqueneers" (the original Taino name of the Island of Puerto Rico) and the valor they exemplified in fighting to save Korea from the Communist invasion especially at the battles at the Chosin Reservoir. They were the first U.S. Regiment to reenter Seoul after it was taken by the Communists.

Mr. Anthony Mele, the Chairman of the 65th Regiment Task Force came to our Peace Road event and honored Maria, whose Father was Sgt. Raymond Vargas. Maria only knew that her father served in the Korean War. She said he didn't talk about the war much, but she was proud of him. However when Mr. Mele came to our program and he surprised Maria - because he researched her Father Sgt. Varga's record and found he was a hero honored with two bronze stars for valor! Then he presented the Congressional Gold Medal that Congress gave to the 65th Regiment. Congress approved honoring the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment with the Congressional Gold Medal. President Obama signed the legislation on June 10, 2014 and the Gold Medal was designed in a contest. On April 13, 2016 leaders of the Senate and House presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Regiment. Below are the photos of Maria receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor which has inscribed on it. "Honor and Fidelity" That truly describes our beloved Maria Vargas - Honor, Fidelity and True Love. Artie, Estella and their son Logan need our prayers, love and support. They are a beautiful blessed family who could be with Maria for her final hours.

We love you Marie.

Thanks,

**Dr. Michael and Reiko Jenkins**

and all of

## UPF North America

The final pictures below are when Maria spoke at the Peace Road Program in the Bronx

Mr. Anthony Mele, Chairman of the 65th Infantry Task Force Presents the Medal to Maria. Video of Mr. Mele talking about her Father and giving Maria the Medal begins at 21:00 on this

link. [www.facebook.com/peaceroadusa/videos/346585033407240](https://www.facebook.com/peaceroadusa/videos/346585033407240)



Maria with the Congressional Gold Medal



The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal



Maria's Last Public Address - Peace Road - the Bronx, August 19th [vimeo.com/624837720/97f8f3cee9](https://vimeo.com/624837720/97f8f3cee9) at the 0:24 second mark



After the program on August 19th Mr. Mele took us for a most beautiful Lunch ! Maria on the left at the end. When informed this morning Mr. Mele said, she was a such a wonderful leader and beautiful person who gave hope to all. We have lost a great person for America for all of us. It's our loss. We are very proud of her and will honor her.



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Be sure to visit our website for additional information and valuable resources.



**BelvedereFamily.com**  
Our home page for all of our activities.  
Be sure to bookmark it and share with others.



**COMMUNITY PAGE**  
Information on our council, youth activities, donations, and other items of interest.



**RESOURCE PAGE**  
Links to FFWP, UPF, and many other valuable resources.



**CALENDAR**  
View the schedule of our services and other events.

