



Maria Compton-Hernandez

April 22, 1962 – April 10, 2026

Former Teacher at NSD for a year (1984-85)

Maria Compton-Hernandez, 63, of Olathe, Kansas, passed away peacefully at home on April 10, 2026. For five years, she courageously battled a rare neurological condition, participating in research studies and constantly seeking hope in her deeply rooted Catholic faith. In the last month of her life, she was surrounded by the love and support of her husband, children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors. She was born on April 22, 1962, in Kansas City, Kansas.

A visitation will be held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 11311 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, Kansas, from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m., with a rosary prayed at 10:00 a.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., also at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Resurrection Cemetery, 83rd and Quivira Road in Lenexa, Kansas. All are welcome to attend. A luncheon will be held afterward for all guests, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Hernandez family home-parish, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 16000 W. 143rd Street, Olathe, Kansas.

Maria graduated from St. Joseph's High School in 1980 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Education, with a minor in Social Studies, from Benedictine College in 1984. Maria deeply enjoyed her time at Benedictine, forming lasting memories and lifelong friendships. She went on to earn her master's in education from Western Maryland College in 1985. Friends and family describe her as a highly intelligent student, always working ahead of the syllabus and assisting her classmates. She dedicated more than 20 years to deaf education, touching countless lives through her

teaching at the Kansas School for the Deaf and the University of Kansas. In 1994, she founded JMJ Products. She started by selling t-shirts and bumper stickers with the simple phrase “100% Roman Catholic,” as well as hand-crafted rosaries. This quickly expanded to crucifixes, holy cards, medals, and countless other devotional items. She saw the early rise of the internet as an opportunity to spread her reach globally. She created **totallycatholic.com**, the first website to sell Catholic items on the internet, expanding her reach to Christians and Catholics all over the world. The website was hugely successful for nearly three decades before her disease forced its closure. She authored and co-authored multiple books, most notably “The Catholic Mother’s Resource Guide,” “Catholic Answers for Catholic Parents,” and “Women Saints: 365 Daily Readings,” which she co-authored with her sister, Madonna Compton. In the midst of running her business, Maria started to practice Kenpo Karate in the year 2000. Before long, all 9 members of the Hernandez family had joined the sport. Maria outlasted everyone, practicing for over 12 years and achieving the rare rank of 4th degree black belt. She was an extremely devoted parent, always attending the various sporting events, theatrical productions, guitar performances, game days, and forensics tournaments of all of her children. Above all, Maria is remembered as a devoted Catholic, a loving wife, a dedicated mother, and a doting grandmother, leaving a lasting legacy of faith, love, and service to her husband, children, and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Trudy Compton, and her brother, Dan Compton.

Maria is survived by her loving husband, Michael Hernandez; her children, Corbin, Emilee, Shelbee, Mary, Catherine, Grace, and Clare; and her cherished grandchildren, Evelyn, Henry (Hank,) Allison, Jude, Elliott, Claudia, Austin John (AJ,) Bruce, Ivo, Wade, Cecelia (Cece,) Annabelle, Pio, Sampson, and Gemma.

In Lieu of Flowers, the family requests charitable contributions in memory of Maria Compton-Hernandez be made to:

Brain Support Network PO Box 7264, Menlo Park, CA
94026 (www.brainsupportnetwork.org)

Catholic Community Health Hospice (<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/hospice-annualappeal/>)



Brain Support Network

In memory of **MARIA** **COMPTON-HERNANDEZ**



Maria lived with a diagnosis of corticobasal syndrome (CBS) since November 2022. There are over 100 types of neurodegenerative conditions.

Alzheimer's is the most common overall. Fewer than 5,000 people in the US have CBS, making it exceedingly rare.

CBS is a neurological condition with no known cause, treatment or cure. It can affect parts of the brain that control walking, balance, coordination, use of hands, speech, vision, cognition, personality and, eventually swallowing. The key is caring for the family member in such a way that the person feels loved and supported. Maria's husband Michael and their children provided wonderful care for her throughout their journey.

CBS is extremely difficult to diagnose; many individuals with CBS are never given an accurate diagnosis as it can look like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, stroke, or other neurological conditions. The only way to obtain a confirmed diagnosis is through brain donation. Importantly, researchers need donated brain tissue if treatments, causes, and a cure are to be found. As a woman of faith and generosity, Maria wished to donate her brain to help others by furthering neurological research. With Brain Support Network's urgent assistance, Maria's family was able to fulfill this wish.

Brain Support Network has helped over 1,500 families donate a loved one's brain by assisting in the complex, comprehensive arrangements. **Your contributions in memory of Maria allow us to support vital medical research into CBS and other neurological conditions.** Charitable contributions can be sent by credit card online at brainsupportnetwork.org/donate/cc# or by check to Brain Support Network, PO Box 7264, Menlo Park, CA 94026. Thank you for your generosity!

We celebrate Maria's amazing life and generous gift to all of us. And express our heartfelt condolences to her family and many friends.

PO Box 7264, Menlo Park, California 94026 • +1 650-814-0848 • brainsupportnetwork.org
Brain Support Network, Inc. is a charity recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.