

Hasta Pronto Amiga Betsy:

Dearest teacher, mentor, warrior and friend, Betsy McDonald,

We celebrate you and your extraordinary life, and your commitment to humanity. Our community in Tucson, Arizona, lost one of its champions for justice when you passed on to the spirit world.

We will forever remember you in Tucson - whether on the streets or in the boardrooms - you helped so many of us to have courage and believe in our own power to move mountains. From our earliest memories of you, protesting the Vietnam War, supporting the Cananea miners when the Grupo Mexico bullies devastated the strong Mexican labor union town, organizing against police abuse, to every action and social movement in Arizona, your image as a fierce fighter for full economic, cultural and economic justice for all will remain with each and every one of us.

As a well-known member and organizer for the Socialist Worker's Party in Tucson, you brought not only educational materials and books to elevate our political knowledge, but you engaged us in thoughtful dialogue about the conditions and structures imposed on workers by the U. S. economic system. Your presence was critical for many in the progressive community who feared anything socialist or communist at the time, allowing for meaningful discussions and transformations.

BUT, our most heartfelt gratitude is for your absolute and unwavering support for migrant rights. Betsy, you were among the first who came to champion immigrant rights, joining the Coalicion de Derechos Humanos after we consolidated in the mid-90's, and helping us in the routine work, whether tabling, stuffing envelopes, etc., or in the heated moments of the many actions in support of human rights for all. Your knowledge of U. S. economic and political policies abroad that cause or perpetuate migration was key for members of our community, allowing for Tucson to become one of the leading progressive voices on all issues migration and borders.

Our early strong stances against the militarization of the border and the criminalization of migration scared many away, but not you! You were right there with us to fight the right wing forces, standing with us to demand justice for the many families of those murdered by the U. S. Border Patrol, supporting migrants who were racially profiled by Tucson Police and other law enforcement agencies especially after the passage of SB1070, the racist Arizona law that legalized racial discrimination. A struggle against injustice did not exist without your presence.

AND, you understood the deadly impact of our border policies. On Thursday, December 10, 2015, at our weekly community vigil, we gathered as always to remember those who have died crossing borders. On this International Human Rights Day, we commemorated not only the over 15 years of our weekly vigil, we

honored you, our dear Betsy. You stood with us for most of those vigils until you could no more. We commit to stand against injustice until we can no more.

With all my and our love, respect, and gratitude, we will carry you in our hearts and our work forever.

Hasta la victoria BETSY!

Derechos Humanos family,
Isabel Garcia
Guadalupe Castillo
Raquel Rubio-Goldsmith