

Letters

There's No Place Like This Place

My flower and daughter Elizabeth (Lizzy) Garland relocated to Heaven on May 26. Hundreds attended her "celebration of life" event on June 15 at the Rec Park Softball Field. Many others could not due to challenges associated with the approaching school year. Others made certain their love and care for our family would manifest in one way or another. For all of the above we are extremely grateful and humbled. Our place – this place called El Segundo – is a place we all cherish. Not the least of the many reasons making it so is the genuine compassion I noticed from the day we moved here 25 years ago. I saw high school kids protecting others in their age group who had mental or physical challenges. That display of humanity has always warmed my heart. Who was to know that compassion would spill over into our tent beginning in summer 2008? I'm writing to thank you all for your steadfast support with prayer, phone calls, letters, donations, time, meals or hugs and tears. Thanks for crying alongside us. Thanks for never letting us down when we needed you desperately. Thanks for propping us up, for not letting us fall, and when we did, for running to help us get up to continue to fight. Lizzy never quit. Neither did y'all. Thanks, El Segundo. Thanks for modeling a love I hope other communities noticed. Thanks for loving Lizzy and us all during the most difficult time of our lives. We remain forever thankful and in His grip.

– John, Gloria, Geoff and Zac Garland