

Think about it- have you ever been to a birthday party? Well, to this question many people would say, "Of course!" But let me ask you a further question- have you ever been to a 100th birthday party? Well I for sure had not, before I went to Amuli Pachi's party. On January 25th, 2024, Radha Golikeri, also known to loved ones as Amuli Pachi, celebrated a century of life. A grand celebration for her was held on the 27th at the India House in Houston, Texas. The party was packed with nearly 250 people ready to show Amuli Pachi some love on her milestone birthday. Along with her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, many of her friends and admirers spoke about her.

The event began with a Ram Bhajan by Amuli Pachi's son Sudhir Golikeri and his wife Ranjana Golikeri. Sudhir Mam told us very interesting details and moments in his life about Amuli Pachi. Rita Wood, Amuli Pachi's granddaughter was the emcee for the party and shared with us some fun memories from her childhood spent with her loving Annama, such as playing Candy Land with her and pretending to not know that she rigged the game!

Many close to Amuli Pachi who spoke at the event said that Amuli Pachi's cheerfulness brings smiles and happiness all around. They said they admired her for her strength, quick wit, positive nature and her razor sharp sense of humor! Amuli Pachi often effortlessly weaves clever stories with unexpected twists in her conversations, leaving everyone around her in splits! Amuli Pachi can effortlessly engage with people of all ages, from the youngest toddlers to the oldest adults! Her ability to connect with people spanning generations is truly remarkable! Amuli Pachi is, in my opinion, one of the strongest people in the world. In the 1950's, when her husband was ill and bedridden, she went out to find a job to become the breadwinner for her family. It was hard for her due to the fact that she didn't have a college degree, and the job she had applied to required her to know Gujarati! But Amuli Pachi would not give up so easily! She convinced the hiring manager that she could quickly learn the language! Soon, her perseverance landed her the job at Hindustan Lever, in Mumbai! And she did not disappoint -Amuli Pachi mastered Gujarati in a matter of a few months, and to this day is still fluent in it along with several other languages such as Konkani, Hindi, and English. Amuli Pachi's motto of never shying from any challenge thrown at her, won her many accolades at Hindustan Lever, where she worked for 28 years.

Even in modern times Amuli Pachi is still active in the community. She frequently volunteered at local areas and her service was even recognized by President George W. Bush! Along with volunteering, Amuli Pachi also personally organized events to recognize Indian high school graduates! Even in the comforts of her own home, Amuli Pachi keeps herself both physically and mentally active by doing a round of her regular exercises along with a dose of the daily crossword puzzles. She has always written about her experiences in her journal, which she's kept up with for several decades! The Houston Area Amchigele Samaj (HAAS) treasures Amuli Pachi who is often seen in the front row during most of the programs- to encourage and cheer the performers! Amuli Pachi has been an inspiration to all of us at HAAS!

It's safe to say that Amuli Pachi is one who is successfully living her life to the fullest. In spite of all the difficulties thrown at her, Amuli Pachi is a strong, amazing, and successful woman who has gloriously finished 100 years of life, and has been ever-loving the whole way. Amuli Pachi stands as a living testament to the reliance of the human spirit and the boundless capacity for love and laughter. Her legacy of kindness, strength and unwavering optimism serves as a guiding light for generations to come, reminding us that age is but a number and that the true meaning of life is in shared experiences and cherished memories!

The memorable event came to an end with Amuli Pachi's grandson, Rohit (who has inherited Amuli Pachi's fantastic sense of humor) thanking everybody who attended the party.

