



Mercedes Fernandez Rivas

October 2, 2018

Mercedes Fernandez Rivas, 79, of Key West, passed away on September 26, 2018, in High Springs, Florida.

Funeral service will be held at St. Madeleine Catholic Church on October 05, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. with Reverend Marek Dzien of St. Madeleine Catholic Church officiating. Burial will follow at St. Madeleine Memorial Garden.

Mercy was born in Regla, Cuba to Rafael and Juana Fernandez on April 15, 1939. Mercy only worked outside of the home for a relatively short time in her life. She spent 15 years as an elementary school food service cook (Sigsbee and Poinciana). She was very proud of the role she played in the students' lives. Holding true to one of her fundamental beliefs, that if you love someone you cook for them, she knew many of her students on a first name basis, knew what their favorite snack was, and would have it ready for them before they arrived in the cafeteria. She had a special affinity for the students with special needs. All of the students would get their treats, whether they could pay for them or not. Often times Mercy would meet the student at the register and hand them their snack, while simultaneously paying the cashier for it.

Throughout those years, the long standing joke with her husband was whether or not she actually made a profit from working outside of the home. If you asked Mercy what accomplishment she was most proud of, her answer would

always be her two children Angel (April) and Regina, and in turn her 5 granddaughters: Alyssa, Lindsey, Emily, Abbey, and Sydney. She was proud of the effort and love she poured into them as well as the people they have become. Mercy was selfless in providing for her family and her love for them was nothing short of adoration.

She moved to the United States with her husband Angel, whom she was married to for 61 years, when she was 18 years old, to provide the best possible opportunities for a family they had yet to have. Her stubborn, yet loving way ensured that everyone else's needs were met before her own. She shaped her family's decision making with her desire to work hard, stay humble, do things the "right way" and always give a little more than expected, just because it's the right thing to do.

Mercy is preceded in death by her parents, brother Rafael and sisters, Caridad Drago, Clara Fernandez, and Maria Lopez. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Haven Hospice of Gainesville, Florida.

Tribute Wall

OC

“ Regina,so sorry to hear of your Mother's passing.My condolences to you and your family.She was a special lady,may she Rest In Peace.Love to you,Olga Cedeno

Olga Cedeno - October 07, 2018 at 02:14 PM

AA

“ Nuestra querida Mercy partio a reunirse con sus padres y hermanos pero deja un vacio muy grande en sus seres queridos. Ahora desde el cielo, continuara cuidando de ellos. LLegue a su esposo Angelito, su hijo y demas familiares mi mas sincero mensaje de condolencias. Mis pensamientos y oraciones estan con todos ustedes, se les quiere siempre en Cayo Hueso !!!

Alfredo Aguero - October 06, 2018 at 10:55 PM

YG

“ On behalf of my Parents Gregory and Isabel Garcia and Yvonne and Danny Gallardo, we are so sorry for your loss.

Yvonne Gallardo - October 06, 2018 at 12:44 PM

DV

“ Mercy was a very sweet person. I worked with her husband Angel and watched their two kids grow up. She will be missed by all that knew her. My sincere condolences to her family and friends. Debra Fernandez Vargas.

Debra Vargas - October 06, 2018 at 08:27 AM

MA

“ Tia Mercy was one of those special ladies that was always happy to see you. Her home, arms and heart were opened to all of us. She said "her kitchen never closed". And she introduced me to her love of Cher's songs - that was a surprise. Heaven has gained another Angel.

Maritza - October 04, 2018 at 05:50 PM

AP

“ I have so many wonderful memories with Tia Mercy on our visits to Key West with my mom and dad. She was such a sweet, loving, happy and spunky woman. I always admired her. My prayers go out to the family during this difficult time. But the thought of grandpa and his sisters together makes my heart happy.

All my love,
Amanda Parker
(Daughter of Marcos & Melissa Fernandez)

Amanda Parker - October 02, 2018 at 09:06 PM

AF

“ Oh my love for Tia mercy will never end. She was just like my abuelo (her brother) what I would call tough love. I will cherish the memories I have with her always and forever. May God continue to comfort her and her family always and forever.

Andrea Fernandez - October 02, 2018 at 02:01 PM

NF

“ Most amazing women. So blessed to have her in my life. She made the most amazing flan and was just always trying to please us when we went to visit. Loved and will be deeply missed.

Norma Fernandez - October 02, 2018 at 11:53 AM