



Ofelia de la O

September 27, 1927 - September 22, 2021

Ofelia de la O, 93, a woman with a deep-rooted legacy in the heart of Mercedes, peacefully passed away on Wednesday, September 22 at Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco.

Her viewing will be held on Sunday, September 26 at Rudy Garza Funeral Home in Mercedes with visitation at 11 am to 8 pm and Rosary Service at 6 pm. Interment is scheduled at the funeral home for Monday, September 27 at 8 am and procession will depart at 9:30 for a 10 am mass at Sacred Heart Church in Mercedes.

Ofelia was born in La Feria, Texas on September 27, 1927, but was raised in Rancho La Palma, Tamaulipas. There she lived a beautiful childhood alongside her 3 brothers and 3 sisters. At the Rancho her family cared for livestock and farmed the land around them. Her life as a teen included both a crown and a sash, as she was a beauty queen when she won and was named "Senorita Rio Rico." As a young lady she attended school and studied cosmetology; however, lucky for us, she never practiced her learned profession.

A few years after marrying her Husband, Manuel de la O, the young couple decided they'd move to Mercedes and soon after purchased El Fenix Café restaurant. Still open for over 50 years, El Fenix Café continues to stand the test of time. At El Fenix, she was best known for her homemade biscuits and empanadas de calabacita. Many of the customers had great respect for her and therefore referred to her as either Sra. de la O or Doña Ofelia.

Ofelia spent her retirement years living with 2 of her sisters, Benita and Esther. The family lovingly referred to the 3 of them, as the “Golden Girls”. Together the Golden Girls would care for one another and keep each other company. They would pass the day hosting friends and family that would stop by for a visit and a good chat. At times, they would host an “All Girls Fun Weekend” with their cousins. No matter what time you stopped by, you could always count on a delicious home cooked meal and a fresh pot of coffee. One could say that caring for her sisters until their passing was her proudest accomplishment.

Ofelia was a remarkable story teller. She would tell the most amazing bedtime stories to her grandchildren. She was also an avid learner. You could find her reading the Valley Morning Star, HOLA Magazine, Vanidades and People Magazine. Ofelia had a huge passion for baking and cooking and loved celebrity gossip and keeping up with the British Royals, Princess Diana and the Queen Mother being her favorites of the Royals. She was a proud American and proud to be living the American Dream. She enjoyed a good meal at Luby’s restaurant and visiting numerous Las Vegas casinos. Besides being known for her empanadas and biscuits, Ofelia will forever be remembered for being an amazing super host. If there were people visiting from out of town, there was never any doubt as to where they’d stay. She made room for everyone and relished in their company.

Ofelia is survived by 2 brothers, Raul (Esther +) Yanez and Rodolfo (Manuela) Yanez.

She is preceded by her husband Manuel de la O, daughter Dora (Jorge+) Lopez, son, Victor (Rosie) de la O, parents, Ramon and Josefa Yanez, brother, Roberto (Martha+) Yanez, sister Benita Yanez, sister Esther Yanez, sister Elida (Sixto +) Torres.

She will be dearly missed by her children, Javier (Maria) de la O, Dalia Carr (Juan+), Belinda (Reynaldo+) Moreno, Sergio de la O and Saul (Edna) de la O along with her brothers, 18 grandchildren, 15(2+) great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and all who knew and loved her. Ofelia’s laugh, wit, stinging

sarcasm, kind heart and hospitality will forever be remembered in our hearts.
Funeral services are under the direction and care of Rudy Garza Funeral
Home of Mercedes Texas.

Cemetery Details

Restlawn Memorial Park

14166 U.S. 83 Business
La Feria, TX 78559
(956) 797-2322

LC

“ My deepest condolences to the family. You all have wonderful memories of your beautiful mother. May she Rest In Peace
Linda Chimely

Linda Chimely - September 25, 2021 at 10:25 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ofelia de la O.



September 24, 2021 at 03:39 PM

BA

“ The stories about “LuLu” she would tell for hours even though we had fallen asleep the first 5 minutes of it.

Barbara - September 24, 2021 at 02:18 PM

DA

“ MOM GETTING UP EARLY 4AM EVERYDAY TO MAKE BISCUITS.AT EL FENIX CAFE I'LL MISS YOU YOU WERE STRONG YET SHE ALWAYS MADE YOU FEEL WELCOMED

Dalia - September 23, 2021 at 10:36 PM