



Blanca Perez

August 25, 1933 - April 13, 2020

Our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Blanca Perez entered her eternal rest on Monday, April 13th after a long illness. Blanca was born in Matanzas, Cuba on August 25th, 1933 to Mariana and Juan Balantine Perez. She lived in her native Cuba until immigrating to the United States in 1968 where she resided in Key West, Florida with her family. Until she retired, Blanca worked in several popular restaurants in Key West as a cook where diners enjoyed her delicious Cuban cuisine. She lived with her late husband, Jose Salgado.

They loved socializing with their many friends and enjoyed dancing, boating, and entertaining their friends. Blanca had a life-long love for gardening and was known for her "green thumb." Her yard was always a tropical paradise which she meticulously cared for daily. Blanca looked forward to visits from her family, cooking the wonderful Cuban dishes loved by all. She was loved by her friends and neighbors and was known for her generosity, acts of kindness, and her sense of humor. She never met a stranger and waited at the gate to greet sanitation workers, mail carriers, and delivery personnel with a cold can of soda on a hot day.

Everyone knew Blanca! She was a rock star everywhere that she went. On trips to the market, you had better prepare for a least a two-hour trip while Blanca stopped to talk to the many people who knew her, both other shoppers as well as store employees. She was a Cuban party to go!

For the last years of her life, she became a devoted caregiver to her husband.

During his illness, her daily routine revolved around his care, attending to him with love and dedication. At her side during this time was her faithful little pug, Pepito.

After her husband's death, Blanca's health began to decline. She recently relocated to Tallahassee under the care of her family. She died peacefully in her sleep with her family and Pepito by her side. She is survived by her daughter, Magda Caridad Manning, three grandchildren (Brandon Manning, Cameron Manning, Sr. and Mariana Manning), and three great-grandchildren (Leone Manning, Cameron Manning, Jr., and Harmony Manning). She will always be remembered for her sense of humor, her courage, and her joy for life. Till the end, she made us laugh, she made us smile, and she made us feel loved!

A private family service will be held and her interment will be at Key West Cemetery, memorial contributions may be made to Big Bend Hospice . Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Blanca Perez.



April 16, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ I've been Blanca's hairdresser for over 10 years. Blanca was a beautiful loving soul. The last time we spoke she was so excited that she was going to live with her daughter. My deepest condolences to the family.

Omar the barber Martinez - April 16, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ I met Blanca working in a. Restaurant in Key West. She was always kind and helpful to me and I grew to love her. At that time I didn't realize she was the mom of a classmate of mine. But I did know she was a good mom from the way she looked after me and how she loved seeing my kids. My deepest sympathies to my friend Maggie and her family. You were blessed to have her in your lives.
Love, Deana Diaz



Deana Hernandez Diaz - April 16, 2020 at 04:01 PM

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“ From the moment I met Blanca I knew she was the perfect partner for my Dad, Jose Salgado. I don't think I have ever seen a love like these two had; it was like puppy love from day one. She would tell me stories about how they met and fell in love. And even though she repeated them each time I visited, it was always a great story, especially seeing the happiness in her and knowing how happy she made my Dad :-).

I visited Blanca in Key West many times, and she welcomed me into her home and treated me like a daughter. I miss her now and I'll miss her always. I send my sincere sympathy to her family, and thank them for sharing Blanca with me.

Love, Gloria Thornton

Gloria Thornton - April 16, 2020 at 03:11 PM