

In Loving Memory of

A portrait of an elderly woman with short, wavy white hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a vibrant red tinsel scarf and a purple and blue patterned blouse. The background is a deep red with soft, glowing light spots.

Leonor
ORTIZ
MARTINEZ
CURTIS

Sunrise: August 30, 1932

Sunset: March 18, 2026

Vivir en el corazón de los
que dejamos detrás de nosotros no es morir.

To live in the hearts of those
we leave behind us is not to die.

NONI'S STORY

Leonor Ortiz Martinez Curtis was born August 30th, 1932, in Brownsville Texas. She enjoyed her childhood adventures with her brother Ignacio there before the birth of her next two brothers Frank and Daniel when she was fourteen and sixteen. Her brothers were her protectors, advisors, best friends and first babies. The whole family moved to San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1950 when she was 18 and they lived there for four years where she worked at the Caribe Hilton Hotel, San Juan. Upon returning to the mainland United States in Brownsville, she began working at the bank where she met the love of her life Donald Grover Curtis in the drive thru teller lane. She joked that she liked that he never bounced checks. They married in 1965, and in 1967 welcomed their first-born daughter Catherine Elizabeth, then Carlotta Dawn, and finally David Henry in 1973.

As a mother, she was devoted to her children, modeling generosity to others, and teaching the kindness that she showed us all of the years of her very long life. She donated what she could to end child hunger, cystic fibrosis, support environmental protection and many other causes. She was especially passionate about helping immigrants, and anyone who needed the help of others. She was always cooking and never wanted any of us to go without. She bragged non-stop about the accomplishments of her daughters, son, and sons-in-law, and especially those of her granddaughters. She always believed in us no matter what we wanted to learn, and was certain that we could do absolutely anything, making us believe in ourselves. Her devotion and love for her son David was unparalleled and truly inspiring.

She loved listening to music, whether it was Gipsy Kings, Andrea Bocelli, or Luciano Pavarotti, and loved being married to a jazz and classical musician. She had many friends and often made friends with strangers in public as she loved to talk with everyone. She was proud of having assisted stranded travelers when in the airport in Japan by translating Spanish into English for the air transportation employees who did not speak Spanish. She loved being kind to everyone she met.

Because she could see well, she drove her Cadillac until she was 86 years old. Her last few years of life she was bedridden, but her spirits were never down, and she was so happy to see her granddaughters when they would visit from Japan or when Lily would pop in for a visit. Even a FaceTime call from family would light up her face and she would say "Hi! I love you! Besitos!" She cherished every moment when loved ones would come visit and spend the day, or a few hours with her and just be there for her. Melinda and Mary, Frank Jr., Kim, Lily, Frank Sr. and Yolanda, Nacho and Pat and others visited as often as they could.

She will be reunited with Don in heaven and is survived by her daughter Catherine, son in law Jun, daughter Carlotta, former son in law Ron, and son David, her three brothers and sisters in law Ignacio (Nacho) and Pat Martinez, Frank and Yolanda Martinez, Daniel and Debbie Martinez, three granddaughters Maia, Lily, and Ivy, nieces and nephews Debbi, Samuel, Robert, Kerri, John, Olivia, Frank Jr., Kim, Adrian, Marci, Oscar, Denette, Carmen, Daniel Jr. and Thomas and second cousin LeAnne as well as many friends.

Her final wish is that you don't cry for her but sing, live, and prosper in her memory. More than anything, she loves that you are alive and fortified with her love!

ORDER OF CELEBRATION

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.
HEAVENLY GATE CHAPEL
702 Gatewood Road | Garland, Texas 75043



PRELUDE

The Blessing Instrumental

MUSICAL SELECTION

“Cielito Lindo” | Ana Gabriel

READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

PRAYER OF CONSOLATION

POETRY READING

WORSHIP SONG

Here I Am to Worship
(Spanish Version)

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

Family

SONG OF COMFORT

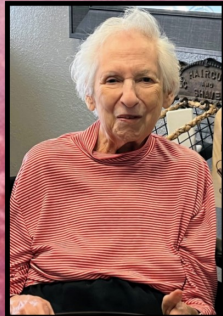
“My Heart Will Go On” | Céline Dion

RECESSIONAL

The Blessing Instrumental

Señor, dale descanso eterno a quien amamos y deja que brille para él la luz perpetua. Que encuentre paz en tu presencia y amor en tus brazos. Amén."

Lord, grant eternal rest to the one we love, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they find peace in Your presence and love in Your arms



“Cielito Lindo” one of Grammani’s favorite songs to sing. This song will always remind us of her. Especially the part that goes “canta y no llores” or “sing and don’t cry” because we know that is exactly what she would tell us and sing to us right now. We will miss singing this song with you, Grammani. Nobody in the entire world loved this song more than us.

-Maia Julia Nakagawa

Cielito Lindo

Ay, ay, ay, ay,
Canta y no llores,
Porque cantando se alegran,
Cielito lindo, los corazones.
De la Sierra Morena,
Cielito lindo, vienen bajando,
Un par de ojitos negros,
Cielito lindo, de contrabando.
Ay, ay, ay, ay,
Canta y no llores,
Porque cantando se alegran,
Cielito lindo, los corazones.
Ese lunar que tienes,
Cielito lindo, junto a la boca,
No se lo des a nadie,
Cielito lindo, que a mí me toca.
Pájaro que abandona,
Cielito lindo, su primer nido,
Vuelve y lo halla ocupado
Cielito lindo, bien merecido.
Una flecha en el aire,
Cielito lindo, lanzó Cupido,
y como fue jugando,
Cielito lindo, yo fui el herido.
De tu casa a la mía,
Cielito lindo, no hay más que un paso,
Antes que venga tu madre,
Cielito lindo, dame un abrazo.



MY HEART WILL GO ON
(Love Theme from "Titanic")

Song by Céline Dion



Every night in my dreams
I see you, I feel you
That is how I know you go on
Far across the distance
And spaces between us
You have come to show you go on
Near, far, wherever you are
I believe that the heart does go on
Once more, you open the door
And you're here in my heart
And my heart will go on and on
Love can touch us one time
And last for a lifetime
And never let go till we're gone
Love was when I loved you
One true time I hold to
In my life, we'll always go on
Near, far, wherever you are
I believe that the heart does go on
(why does the heart go on?)
Once more, you open the door
And you're here in my heart
And my heart will go on and on
You're here, there's nothing I fear
And I know that my heart will go on
We'll stay forever this way
You are safe in my heart
And my heart will go on and on

WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

By David M. Romano



When tomorrow starts without me and I am not here to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me
I know how much you love me as much as I love you
And each time you think of me I know you'll miss me too.

But when tomorrow starts without me please try to understand
That Jesus came and called my name and took me by the hand.
He said my place is ready in heaven far above
And that I have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away a tear fell from my eye
For all my life I'd always thought it wasn't my time to die.
I had so much to live for and so much yet to do
It seems almost impossible that I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays the good ones and the bad
I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.
If I could have stayed for just a little while
I'd say goodbye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.

But then I fully realized that this could never be
For emptiness and memories would take the place of me.
And when I thought of worldly things that I'd miss come tomorrow
I thought of you and when I did my heart was filled with sorrow.

But when I walked through Heaven's gate and felt so much at home
As God looked down and smiled at me from his great golden throne.
He said This is eternity and all I've promised you
Today your life on earth is past but here it starts anew.

I promise no tomorrow but today will always last
And since each day's the same here there's no longing for the past.
So, when tomorrow starts without me don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

WITH GRATITUDE AND LOVE

We are overwhelmed and grateful for the outpouring of kindness, prayers, and expressions of love shown to our family during our time of loss. Your support means so much to us and is a perfect reflection of God's enduring comfort and grace. Though our hearts ache profoundly, we rejoice knowing that our beloved Noni now rests in the arms of our Heavenly Father. Her legacy of love and kindness lives on in all of her friends and family.

-The Curtis, Nakagawa, and Lewis Family

IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

To Leonor

By Amado Nervo translated from the Spanish by Alice Stone Blackwell

Black as the wing of Mystery thine hair;
Dark as a "Never" where deep sorrow lies,
As a farewell, or as the words "Who knows?"
Yet is there something darker still—thine eyes!
Two musing wizards are those eyes of thine;
Sphinxes asleep in shadow in the South;
Two beautiful enigmas, wondrous fair;
Yet is there something fairer still—thy mouth!
Thy mouth! Ah, yes! Thy mouth, divinely
formed for love's expression and to be love's goal,
Shaped for love's warm communion—
thy young mouth! Yet is there something better still—thy soul.
Thy soul, retiring, silent, brimming o'er;
With pity and with tenderness, I deem
Deep as the ocean, the unsounded sea;
Yet is there something deeper still—thy dream!

Á Leonor

Tu cabellera es negra como el all; del misterio; tan negra como un lóbrego
jamas, como un adiós, como un «¡quién sabe!
Pero hay algo más negro aún: ¡tus ojos!
Tus ojos son dos magos pensativos,
dos esfinges que duermen en la sombra, dos enigmas muy bellos . . .
Pero hay algo, ^{SEP}pero hay algo más bello aún: tu boca.
¡Tu boca! ¡oh, sí!; tu boca, hecha divina; mente para el amor, para la cálida
comunidad del amor, tu boca joven; pero hay algo mejor aún: ¡tu alma!
Tu alma recogida, silenciosa, de piedades tan hondas como el piélago,
de ternuras tan hondas. . .
Pero hay algo, pero hay algo más hondo aún: ¡tu ensueño!



**A Service and Keepsake of Excellence provided
to the family of Leonor Ortiz Martinez Curtis by:
Heavenly Gate Funeral Services**

702 Gatewood Road, Garland, Texas 75043
972-240-2121 972-240-3131 (Fax)

Tim Jefferson – FDIC & Owner

www.heavenlygatefuneralservices.com