



## Mercedes Rodriguez Cortez

September 26, 1943 - November 24, 2017

UTICA - Mercedes Rodriguez Cortez, age 74, went home to the Lord as she passed away on Friday, November 24, 2017 at The Pines at Utica with her loving family by her side.

Born in Aguada, Puerto Rico on September 26, 1943, Mercedes was the daughter of the late Jose Rodriguez and Juana Cortez. She was raised and educated in Puerto Rico where she spent the majority of her life. She relocated to Brooklyn, NY and for the past 22 years she has called Utica home.

Mercedes was a stay at home mom and was also a proud single mother who felt so very blessed to have 13 children, 11 of whom are living. She was loving, nurturing, and honored to be Abuela and be so much a part of her children's lives. They felt blessed that a woman of such strong character graced their lives, and they loved her dearly. She made her home special and inviting, and all were welcome. Mercedes loved to celebrate the holidays and she prepared special dishes to the liking of each of her family members. She prepared an abundance of food and no one went home hungry. She was a wonderful cook and her 'Arroz con gandules', was the best! Mercedes rarely spoke, but when she did, her words were wise and she hoped you would understand her thoughts. She also ended every conversation with "I love you". She knew the needs of each of her children and conveyed her love to each one individually to accommodate their personalities. Mercedes was meticulous in maintaining her home and cooking was her passion. She

enjoyed playing dominoes and spending time with her family, especially at her home. In more recent years, she was fond of games of chance at the casino. Mercedes was a true believer and shared a spiritual relationship with her God. She attended Templo Cristiano Gloria Celestial Church.

Mercedes is survived by her children and their loves, Ana Estela, Luis Estela, Minerva and Juan Carlos Castillos, Evelyn Polanco, Danny Polanco and Maureen Oriol, Justina Polanco and Victor Martinez, Jose D. Polanco and Ivelisse Martinez, Ivan J. Rodriguez Sr. and Sarah Franco, Juan and Maria Rodriguez Sr., Iris "Daisy" Echevarria, and Carlos A. Rodriguez Sr. and Amber Hensel. She was preceded by 2 infant children. She also leaves her grandchildren, Sarai, Jonathan and Emily; Jeneida and Marcus, Marleen and Adriana; Samantha, Yenesys, Karina, Johnathan E., Josue, Christian, Jonaeilyn, and Jonsueriel; Angel L., Danny G., Anthony, Melanie; Joseph, Jose, Jo-Celine, Jesus; Gabriel, Angel P., Kenneth, Denielis, Denielivet, and Iveliesse; Ivan Jr., Samantha T., Luis, Jashime, Ivanalisse, Ivana, Ivan S., Jesus J., Jacob, Isabella, and Navian; Jesrubie, Jalie, Ne'Leisa, Nayeli, Juan G. Jr. and Jandel; Mercedes A., Darius, Angeleen, Miguel, and Natalia; ReAnnyn, Zayauna, BreAnna, Carlos Jr., and twins Faith and Hope; and her great-grandchildren, Vanessa, Joancarlos, Aramelise, Jonathan Jr., Yameli, Alondra, Jeremyah, Jazlyn, Aryanna, Jamari, Amaris, Angel Jr., Danny Jr., Danziel, Joseph Jr.; Yolani, Izabella H., Prynce, and Samaiya. She will also be remembered by her sisters and brothers including Melita, Antonia, Anibal, and her friends whose love she considered to be a true blessing, Maria R., Alicia, Irma, Carmen, Maria A., Aida, Romona, Yanmarie, Lydia, Tatianna, Angelica, Maria L., Cheika, Jessica, Amela, Jackie, Pastor Raul Santos, and Sandra. She was predeceased by her siblings, Cosme, Almeno, Lilo, Tata, Tita, Nacha, Leo, Gingo, and Milly; and her friends, Elio, Rosa, and Paula. A great number of Niece's, Nephew's, Great Niece's, Great Nephews and many more family friends. A huge family, sorry we could not name everyone, but know you were always a huge part of her life.

The family extends their gratitude to Dr. Yannick Grenier who was an

outstanding physician and a compassionate woman; Dr. Atul Butala who was amazing and encouraging; the sensitive personnel of the Regional Cancer Center; her encouraging primary care physician, Dr. Roger Breslow, who spoke to her in Spanish; the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center/6th Floor staff for their heartfelt care and vigilance; and the personnel at The Pines who offered care to Mercedes and kindness to her family.

Visitation will be held Tuesday from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Mercedes' funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Wednesday morning at 10:30 at the Templo Cristiano Gloria Celestial Church, 800 John Street, Utica, and will be officiated by Pastor Raul Santos. Interment will follow graveside in Forest Hill Cemetery.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

NOV **29**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Templo Cristiano Gloria Celestial Church  
800 John St.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 235-5813

# Tribute Wall



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mercedes Rodriguez Cortez.*



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November 27, 2017 at 06:50 PM



Jeneida Hall

“ *This is Emily new born daughter*



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**Jeneida Hall** - November 27, 2017 at 03:00 PM



Jeneida Hall

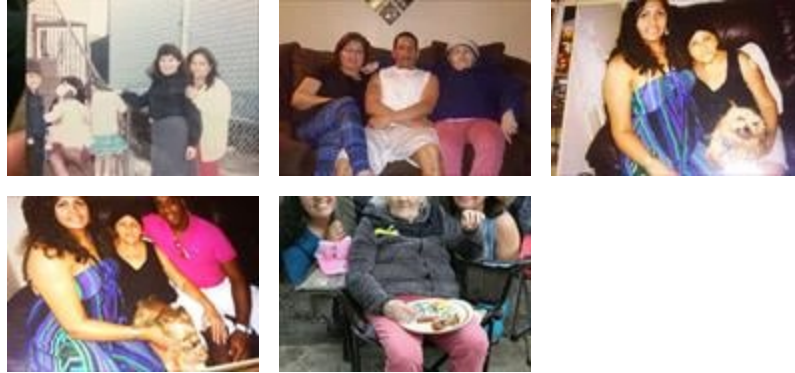
“ *I will cherish every moment we had together forever!*

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**Jeneida Hall** - November 26, 2017 at 02:17 PM

  
Jeneida  
Hall

“ *LOVE you and will always cherished every moment we had together!*



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**Jeneida Hall** - November 26, 2017 at 02:16 PM

SH

“ *Words cannot express how sorry I am about Mel...she was the sweetest kindest person I knew...always smiling and inviting people into her home and making them feel so welcomed..the love she had for her grandchildren showed ..no words can say anything to make u feel such a deep loss ..our mothers are the glue to our family and no one can do what she did..know u are all in my thoughts and prayers while u go through this difficult time..saying goodbye is the hardest thing to do...know she lives inside u and will show u little signs along the way...my deepest sympathies to all of you*

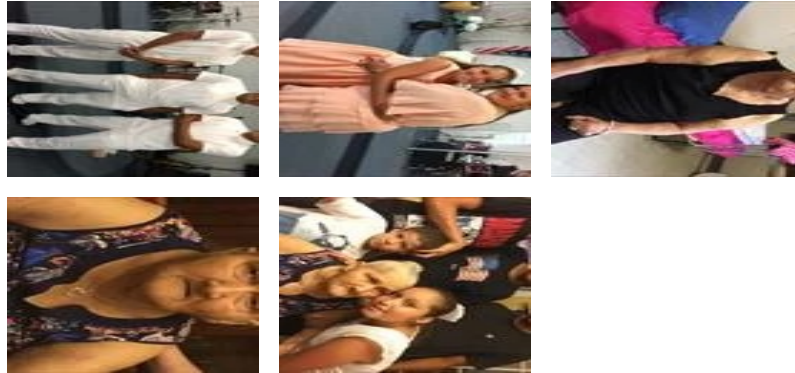


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**sarah hensel** - November 26, 2017 at 08:11 AM

ER

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Evelyn Rodriguez - November 26, 2017 at 12:56 AM

ER

*Viejita hermosa te fuiste al cielo donde nunca más vas a sufrir te extraño pero siempre estás en mi corazón ❤️ y pensamientos momentos difíciles pero Dios nos ayudará a pasarlos te amo y nunca te olvidaré tengo tres 🙏🙏🙏 En el cielo mi Madre mi Padre y mi hija los amo 🥺🥺🥺❤️❤️❤️*

Evelyn Rodriguez - November 26, 2017 at 01:03 AM

DS

*Alli no habra Llanto ni dolor.. solo habra gozo y alegria.. descansa en paz...*

Damaris Santana - November 26, 2017 at 02:29 AM



“ White Standing Wreath was purchased for the family of Mercedes Rodriguez Cortez.



November 26, 2017 at 12:04 AM

SO

“ *Te amamos mucho nuestra viejita* ❤️



Somy - November 25, 2017 at 11:48 PM

ER

*Gracias Somy eso siempre lo hemos sabido y ella a ustedes y yo también* 🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️❤️

Evelyn Rodriguez - November 26, 2017 at 01:05 AM

SO

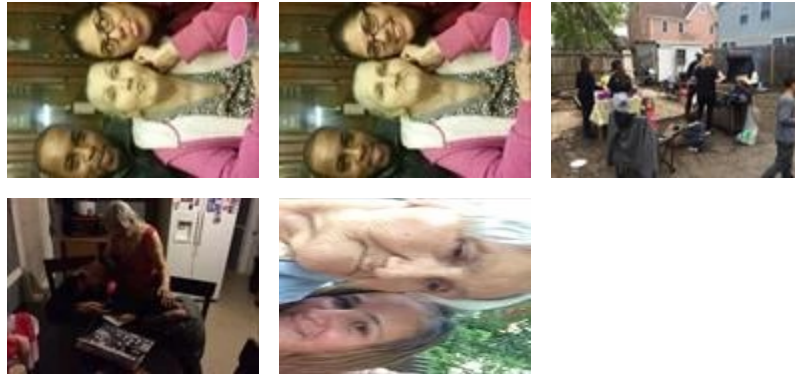
“ *Somy sent a virtual gift in memory of Mercedes Rodriguez Cortez*



Somy - November 25, 2017 at 11:44 PM

Jeneida  
Hall

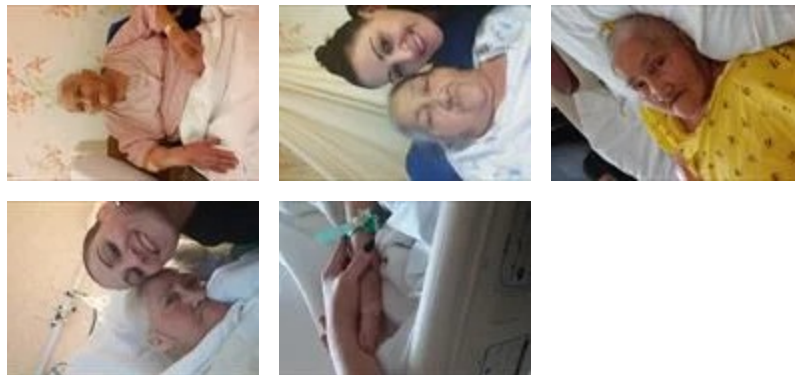
“ I Come all the way from Virginia just to be here and every time I took advantage of every moment together! I will miss you! I Love you!



Jeneida Hall - November 25, 2017 at 11:42 PM

JP

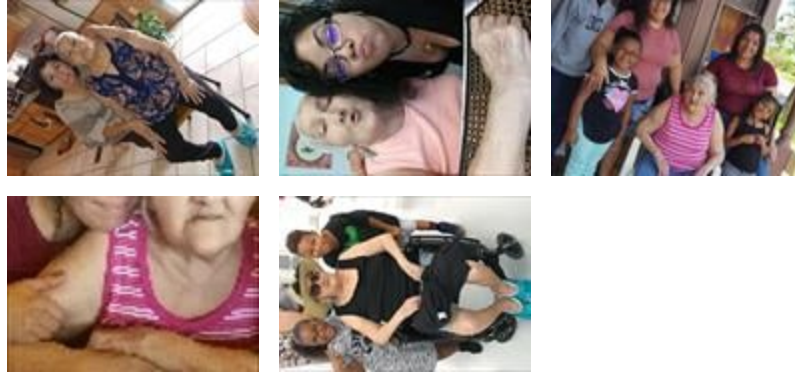
“ Lov u mother n miss u so much



Justina polanco - November 25, 2017 at 11:18 PM

NA

“ We miss you grandma. S.I.P THANKS FOR GIVING ME wonderful mother !!!!



Nana - November 25, 2017 at 09:19 PM

KP

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Karina Polanco - November 25, 2017 at 08:26 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joceline Polanco - November 25, 2017 at 08:26 PM

MJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mercedes Jackson - November 25, 2017 at 08:18 PM

ME

09.26.1943\*

Mercedes - November 26, 2017 at 10:41 AM

M(

“ Mercedes Jackson (granddaughter) lit a candle  
in memory of Mercedes Rodriguez Cortez



Mercedes Jackson (granddaughter) - November 25, 2017 at 08:17 PM

IR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Iris - November 25, 2017 at 08:09 PM