



Mercedes Obrero Salunga

September 17, 1939 - April 14, 2026

Our beloved Mother Mercedes Obrero Salunga “Nanay Ched or Aling Cheding” of Sanford Florida, passed away at home on April 14, 2026, at the age of 86.

Mercedes was born on September 17th, 1939 in Camarines Sur, Philippines. She married Prudencio Salunga and together they built a loving family sharing more than 60 years of marriage. Mercedes also attended vocational school to be a Dressmaker and utilized these skills to work for an Arabian Royalty in Saudi Arabia. When she migrated from the Philippines to Florida in 2001, she also worked as a Laundry Aide in a skilled nursing facility. Nanay was known for her outgoing, fashionable personality that was strongly rooted in faith.

Mercedes is survived by her children; Aurora Jacalan, of Philippines, Teresita and husband Lolito Sazon, of London, UK, Evelyn and husband Ruben De La Cruz, Daughter in Law Leng Jacalan, Victoria and husband Larry Calimlim, of Philippines, Antonio and wife Josephine Salunga, of Winter Springs Florida, Dennis and wife Rosalie Salunga, Evangeline Salunga, of Philippines, Imelda and husband John Taitano, of Sanford, Florida and Danilo and wife Geraldine Salunga, of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In addition, she is survived by her beloved grandchildren Denmark Padilla and his Wife Susan, Ralph Lawrence Jacalan, Marty and wife Ros Sazon, Mervin

Sazon and wife Natalie, Lysithea and husband Chris Ally, Russell Ocampo and her husband RJ, Ervin and wife Donna De La Cruz, Raven De La Cruz, Melissa and her husband Ian, Emmanuel Jacalan, John Jacalan, Carol Jacalan, Marlo Calimlim, Marco Calimlim, Grace Calimlim, Anjo Salunga, Claire Jessie Salunga, Angeline and her husband Harvey, Kayla-Wailani Taitano, Kelani Taitano and Dan Gerald Salunga and his wife Arleen. She is also survived by 10 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Prudencio Salunga and her son Romulo Jacalan.

There will be a visitation at 10:30 am followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:30 am on April 20, 2026, at All Soul's Catholic Historic Chapel 800 S. Oak Ave. Sanford, Florida 32771. Father Luis Salazar will be officiating the service. Mercedes' family will be present to welcome loved ones and friends with the reception to follow at the Taitano's residence at 155 Bristol Forest Trail Sanford, Florida 32771

Committal of cremation cremains will take place later at Queen of Angels Cemetery, 1901 Queen of Angels Drive, Winter Park, FL 32792. Please visit www.DeGusipe.com for updated service details.

The family of Mercedes Obrero Salunga invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his loving memory.

DeGusipe Funeral Home, 904 S. Laurel Ave, Sanford, FL in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **20**. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

All Souls Catholic Church-Historic Location
800 S. Oak Avenue
Sanford, FL 32771

Funeral Mass

APR **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

All Souls Catholic Church-Historic Location
800 S. Oak Avenue
Sanford, FL 32771

Tribute Wall

“ 04/20/26

Remembering Our Nanay Ched,

I think we all know that if Nanay Ched were here right now, she'd probably be telling us to stop crying, go find something to eat, and then she'd have a funny story or a little bit of gossip to share with us. She was never one to sit still, and she certainly never shied away from speaking her mind. Between her crocheting, her cooking, and her role as Barangay Chairman back home, she was always the heart of her community. She had a talent for making beautiful things with her hands, had a social butterfly spirit that would light up any room, and had a love for bringing family and friends together.

From the very start, Nanay was a go-getter. She grew up on a farm in Bicol, but at a young age, she knew she wasn't meant to be a farmer. She had bigger dreams. All by herself, Nanay took a chance on life and moved to Manila at the age of 16 years old. Think about how hard it was to move to such a large city, work as a housemaid all day, go to dressmaking school at night, and do it all while raising a child. She was truly the definition of a hustler. Whether she was sewing gowns for royalty in Saudi Arabia, flipping her famous pork barbecue kabobs at her street stall, or cooking her famous spicy Laing, she did it all for one reason: Family.

Because of her and Tatay's partnership, ten of her children finished college. What an incredible legacy. She sacrificed over 5 years away from home in Saudi Arabia to make sure her kids had the best start possible. Although she was always hard at work, she always kept that sense of humor and that lively spirit that made her the favorite auntie to so many nephews and nieces.

She and Tatay were married for more than 60 years. That's 60 plus years of life, travel, and raising a massive, beautiful family. When Nanay and Tatay moved to Florida in 2001, living a "quiet life" was their biggest dream together, but Nanay didn't really do "quiet." She worked as a Laundry Aide in Tuskawilla Nursing and Rehabilitation

where she enjoyed socializing with the residents whenever she picked up and delivered their clothes. When she wasn't working anymore, she could be found outside gardening, walking around the neighborhood, or scrolling on facebook, playing games.

One of the most beautiful things about Nanay and Tatay is that they didn't just see the United States; they saw the world. They traveled to Canada, Italy, Paris, and London, and enjoyed cruises throughout the Caribbean. After all those years of working for others, seeing her finally explore the "land of dreams" and beyond was such a gift.

Nanay was also a woman of deep, deep faith. She taught us to love the Lord, to trust in Our Lady of Perpetual Help and as a devotee of Our Lady of Fatima, she also taught us to always, always look out for one another. To Nanay, being a "believer" meant being generous. It meant being a godmother to anyone who needed one. It meant being another grandmother to the kids of our friends who we call family. And being generous meant doing whatever it takes to keep the family glued together.

The last few months were hard as her health declined, but she was never alone. To John, Antonio, Josephine, Anjo, Gabi, Kayla, Kelani, Tony and Antonia—the way you cared for her showed her exactly how much she was loved. We take great comfort knowing she received her Last Rites from Father Luis and passed away peacefully right where she belonged at home.

If Nanay could give us one last bit of advice today, I think she'd tell us to hold onto each other tight. She'd tell us to be brave, to make our own paths, and not to be afraid of a little hard work.

Nanay, don't worry, I still have your famous recipes for Laing and Bbq so no one will miss out. We're going to miss you so much, especially your phone calls, your jokes, and even your gossip. Thank you for everything. We've got it from here.

LF

For Nanay Mercedes

*There is a bruise hovering in the sky tonight.
It is weeping.
It is beautiful in lament.
The veil flutters gently as it sails.
Its edges wrap around the ends of the earth, opening and closing
Folding the day into a deep, quiet rest.
Our hearts squeeze, tighten, and finally sigh;
We recognize a shadow only born of light
There is a heavy, purple weight of love the kind that never leaves
Even as the light recedes.
With reverence we watch the breath
Rise and fall
Connect and shimmer.
The spark of life does not go out;
It simply becomes the stillness on the water,
A soft, eternal pulse in the dark.*

Leslie Fraser - April 26 at 08:12 PM