



Melba Oqueli

November 16, 1949 - October 17, 2023

Melba Ondina Oqueli, who loved to be called “Abuela,” departed her loving family at the age of 73 years old on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. She had a special fondness for the color purple, which always reminded us of her vibrant spirit and warmth.

Melba was born in Puerto Cortés, Honduras, came to the United States as an adolescent, became a naturalized U.S. citizen, and passed away at her granddaughter’s home in New Orleans.

Melba was a loving and devoted mother to three children. She raised her children in the Metropolitan New Orleans area, providing them with unwavering care and affection. Her nurturing spirit extended to her role as a grandmother to six grandchildren, to whom she consistently devoted her time and affection, cherishing every moment spent with them.

Over her career, she worked in the garment industry at Deansgate Clothing, Inc., in healthcare at Sara Mayo Hospital on Jackson Avenue, and at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana fostering continued growth and development within her community.

She was a devout Christian who, over the course of her spiritual journey, actively participated in both Catholic and Baptist faiths. In recent times, she faithfully attended Metairie Church and regularly engaged in prayer sessions with Sister Ann Marie.

She is survived by her children, Kathleen Oqueli McGraw, Keith Aaron Oqueli, and Kenneth Ian Oqueli and her grandchildren, including Ashleigh Elisa Oqueli, Mateo Edward McGraw, Jeremy Michael Oqueli, Addison Gray Oqueli, Blue McDaniel-Oqueli, and Elijah Oqueli.

In addition to her beloved children and cherished grandchildren, Melba is survived by her siblings: Alba Luz Braud (married to William), Carlos Alberto Oqueli, and Jorge Evan Oqueli. She was preceded in death by her mother, Elisa Oqueli, and her brother, Roberto Oqueli.

The funeral and memorial services will be small and private, exclusively attended by close family and friends.

For those who would like to extend their condolences and provide assistance with the funeral expenses, you are welcome to send purple flowers or make contributions in memory of Melba Oqueli. Please feel free to reach out to Ashleigh Oqueli at AshleighOqueli@gmail.com or to call / text Kathy Oqueli McGraw at 504-323-4340. Please keep Melba's family in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate this difficult period.

Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Melba Oqueli.* ”



October 22, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ *Love, Jamie Heckman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melba Oqueli.* ”

Love, Jamie Heckman - October 20, 2023 at 11:58 PM



“ *Love, Jamie Heckman purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Melba Oqueli.* ”



Love, Jamie Heckman - October 20, 2023 at 11:58 PM