



Maria Hernandez Leal

July 14, 1948 - June 29, 2025

Maria “Kookie” Leal, 76, passed away peacefully of natural causes on June 29, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on July 14, 1948, in Progreso, Texas, Maria was the beloved daughter of Amelia and Roman. She lived a vibrant, free-spirited life filled with love, laughter, music, and deep compassion for all living things.

Maria was known for her generous heart and joyful soul. She loved dancing, going to concerts, and finding beauty in every corner of life—from her plants to the animals she adored. A passionate traveler, Maria carried a sense of adventure wherever she went and shared that spirit freely with those she loved.

She was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose greatest pride was her family. Kookie was predeceased by her beloved son, Jay Leal Jr.; her twin brother, Beto Hernandez; and her parents, Amelia and Roman. Though we mourn their loss, we take comfort in knowing they are reunited in peace.

She is survived by her children, Rebecca and Daniel Leal; her grandchildren, Cassandra, Christopher, Jeremiah, and Sabrina; and her great-grandchildren, Nathaniel, Natalya, Bash, and Jay.

Maria's legacy lives on in every laugh shared, every plant nurtured, and every act of kindness done in her memory. Her free spirit touched many, and her warmth will be deeply missed.

A celebration of Maria's life will be held at a later date with family and friends.