



# La Voz de Esperanza

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- We advocate for a wide variety of social, economic & environmental justice issues.
- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

## La Voz de Esperanza

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Articles due by the 8th of each month

## Policy Statements

\* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

\* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Rita at 90 years of age.

# RITA VIDAURRI

May 22, 1924 – January 16, 2019

Our beloved Tesoro, Rita Vidaurri, passed into spirit on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Esperanza staff, conjunto and buena gente join in mourning her passing and celebrating her life and contributions to the San Antonio community. Our deepest sympathies to Linda Alvarado, her only daughter and her many family members including grandchildren, great grandchildren and many friends and admirers in San Antonio and beyond.

An icon of the Westside of San Antonio, Rita grew up in el Callejón Montezuma and stepped out onto the world stage in the 40s and 50s singing with some of the greatest singers of our time: Celia Cruz, Pedro Infante, Jorge Negrete, Toña La Negra, Edie Gorme y Los Panchos, Olga Guillot and even Nat King Cole among others. She sang throughout Mexico and Latin America and, even in Cuba—but she was

destined to return to her San Antonio querido and live out her life as a wife and mother.

Her early fame on stage and screen, unknown to many in San Antonio for years, was rediscovered in 2001 when she stepped on stage as an elder to serenade her comadre, Lydia Mendoza at her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at Plaza de Zacate sponsored by the Esperanza. That act served as a catalyst for her own comeback singing as an octogenarian with a voice that belied her age and set the foundation for the formation of a group of elder cantantes: the beloved Las Tesoros del Westside.

With the passing of Rita, *La Calandria* and previously Janet Cortez, *Perla Tapatia*—sólo nos quedan dos Tesoros: Blanca Rodríguez, *aka Blanca Rosa* and Beatriz Llamas, *aka La Paloma del Norte*.

Que con los angelitos cantes y descanses, Rita.

—Gloria A. Ramirez, *editor*

Esperanza will publish a full tribute to our querida Rita in the March, 2019 issue of La Voz with details and photos of her incredible life. We encourage Rita's público to write your recuerdos and literary ofrendas for this special issue. Send your photos and tributes to: [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org) or drop by Esperanza at 922 San Pedro with your photos or stories to copy.



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**VOZ VISION STATEMENT:** La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.