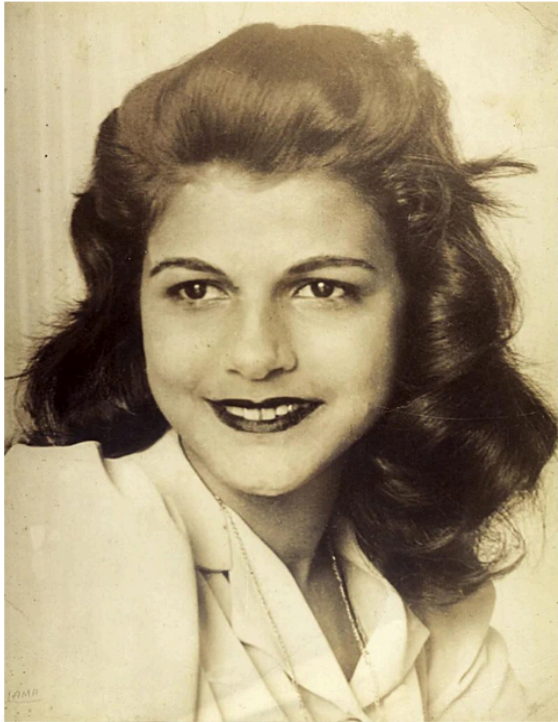


LAS MARIPOSAS



Minerva



María Teresa



Patria

"If they kill me, I'll reach my arms out from the tomb and I'll be stronger."-Minerva Mirabal

Would you have the courage to fight against a brutal dictator? The Mirabal sisters did, leading an underground revolution to overthrow Rafael Trujillo who ruled the Dominican Republic from 1930-1961. Born into a well-to-do Dominican family, the Mirabal sisters—Minerva, Patria, and María Teresa—dared to imagine a different world for themselves and their country. Minerva was the first to get involved in the resistance, giving herself the code name Mariposa, meaning "butterfly" in Spanish. Her sisters María Teresa and Patria joined as Mariposas 2 and 3. Together, they organized different cells around the country and led the underground movement. Both Minerva and María Teresa were arrested, eventually being released and granted house arrest. That did not stop them from continuing the fight for justice.

On November 25, 1960, the three sisters were ambushed on their way home from visiting their husbands who were still in prison. The Jeep they were driving in was found at the bottom of the mountainside. While Trujillo declared it an accident, it became clear that he had orchestrated the event, leading to public outcry and his eventual assassination in 1961.

The legacy of the Mirabal sisters lived on through the fourth sister Dedé who, until her death in 2014, continued to tell the important story of her sisters. In their honor in 1999, the United Nations declared November 25 the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Today, the Butterflies continue to be important symbols of democratic and feminist resistance.

¡Viva la Mariposa!