

IES “A NOSA SEÑORA DOS OLLOS GRANDES”
Department of English

JCGL

EVITA
EVA DUARTE DE PERÓN



María Eva Duarte de Perón (May 7, 1919 – July 26, 1952) was the second wife of President Juan Domingo Perón (1895–1974) and served as the First Lady of Argentina from 1946 until her death in 1952. She is often referred to as simply **Eva Perón**, or by the affectionate Spanish language diminutive **Evita**.

She was born out of wedlock in rural Argentina in 1919. At the age 15, Eva Duarte made her way to the nation's capital of Buenos Aires where she pursued a career as a stage, radio, and film actress. Eva met Colonel Juan Perón in 1944 at a charity event in San Juan. The two were married the following year. In 1946, Juan Perón was elected President of Argentina. Over the course of the next six years, Eva Perón became powerful within the Pro-Peronist trade unions, essentially for speaking on behalf of

labour rights. She also ran the Ministries of Labour and Health, founded and ran the charitable Eva Perón Foundation, and founded and ran the nation's first large-scale female political party, the Female Peronist Party.

In 1951, Eva Perón accepted the Peronist nomination for the office of Vice President of Argentina. In this bid she received great support from the Peronist political base, low-income and working class Argentines referred to as *descamisados* or "shirtless ones". However, opposition from the nation's military and elite, coupled with her declining health, ultimately forced her to back down. In 1952, shortly before her death, Eva Perón was given the official title of "*Spiritual Leader of the Nation*" by the Argentine Congress.