



Antonio C. Vargas

January 17, 1949 - April 19, 2026

Antonio C. Vargas, 77, entered into eternal rest on April 19, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on January 17, 1949, in Harlingen, Texas, to Ernesto Vargas and Leonarda Cordero.

Antonio proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who found his greatest joy in spending time with his family. Known for his warm spirit and love for gathering loved ones together, Antonio especially enjoyed grilling, attending car club meetups at local restaurants, and going to rooster fights.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Irmalinda Vargas; and his brothers, Juan Vargas and Lupe Vargas.

Left to cherish his memory is his loving wife of 57 years, Esther Vargas; his children, Melissa Cardenas (Marco), Anthony Jesus Vargas, and Teresa Vargas (Randy Castaneda); his grandchildren, Alandra Cardenas, Alani Cardenas, Jakob Vargas, Joaquin Vargas, Ilyanna Gallardo, Keanu Gallardo, and Wren Castaneda; and his great-granddaughter, Araleah Scippio. He is also survived by his siblings, Inocensia Elizondo, Natalia Pedraza, Florentino "Chevy" Vargas, and Martin Vargas.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM, with a prayer service at 7:00 PM. Funeral services will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026, departing Rudy Garza Funeral Home at 12:30 PM for a 1:00 PM Mass of Christian Burial at Queen of Peace Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Harlingen-Combes Cemetery with military honors under the auspices of American Legion Post 205.

Honored to serve as pallbearers are Keanu Gallardo, Joaquin Vargas, Jakob Vargas, Anthony Vargas, Michael Gutierrez and Rudy Gutierrez.

Antonio will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. His legacy of love, strength, and devotion to family will forever remain in the hearts of those he leaves behind.

Cemetery Details

Harlingen Combes Memorial Cemetery

Combes, TX 78535
(956) 428-0880

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **23**. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Rudy Garza Funeral Home - Harlingen
1702 E Harrison Ave
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 425-8200
rgfhtx@aol.com
<https://www.rudygarzafunerals.com>

Prayer Service

APR **23**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Rudy Garza Funeral Home - Harlingen
1702 E Harrison Ave
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 425-8200
rgfhtx@aol.com
<https://www.rudygarzafunerals.com>

Funeral

APR **24**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Queen of Peace Catholic Church
1509 New Combes Hwy
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 423-0098

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Antonio C. Vargas.

April 23 at 04:53 PM



“ I love and miss you dad!! I will try my hardest to make you proud. You were the absolute best husband, father, grandfather and friend anyone could have ever asked for. Today will be one of the hardest days of my life but knowing you are watching over us in Heaven and no longer in pain I find peace. Until we meet again daddy I will love and miss you every day of my life. ❤️🙏🙏

Teresa Vargas - April 23 at 07:16 AM



“ Diana Gutierrez lit a candle in memory of Antonio C. Vargas



Diana Gutierrez - April 22 at 11:52 PM



Tony you were my brother in law but in my heart you always like my brother we are going to miss you so much we have alot of good memories with you and Esther,you were a good husband and dad to your family you will be missed by everyone. We know you are in heaven with Rudy and Oscar .Love you always

Diana Gutierrez - April 23 at 12:00 AM

DG

RIP

Diana Gutierrez - April 23 at 05:45 AM

VE

“ *Veronica lit a candle in memory of Antonio C. Vargas*



Veronica - April 22 at 03:02 PM

MC



Melissa Cardenas - April 22 at 11:11 PM

VE

“ *Tony! What a great man! Always so fun to talk to...we shared many laughs...Tony & Ester always welcomed my family into their home with open arms. We are going to miss him. Thank you for all you did, may you rest in peace El Tony. Sincerely, Veronica & family*

Veronica - April 22 at 03:00 PM

MC

Thank you Veronica for your sweet words about my Dad and mom. You and your family are always welcome❤️

Melissa Cardenas - April 22 at 11:10 PM

PF

“ Pecina Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Antonio C. Vargas.



Pecina Family - April 21 at 05:53 PM

LG

“ Condolences to the Vargas family, I was a friend of Tony for a long time, when my sons, Lupe & Sergio played little league baseball here in Harlingen, RIP my friend, till we meet again in Heaven.

Lupe Gonzalez - April 21 at 03:51 PM

MC

Thank you for sharing this Mr. Gonzalez ❤️

Melissa Cardenas - April 22 at 01:50 PM

FT

“ Uncle Tony,
Oh how you will be missed. You are so loved by so many people. I will never forget that spark in your eyes, it warmed my heart. When my tears want to fall, I just remind myself that you're with Jesus and I think of just how beautiful that is for you. To my Aunt Esther and Cousins, just know we are always here for you all. We love you all very much. May God fill you all with peace in all moments.

Love your niece,
Felicia, Rollie, Little Rollie & Emma

Felicia Trejo - April 21 at 11:48 AM

MC

Aww, thank you Feli. I know he is in Heaven rejoicing. I saw Jesus through the eyes of my father before he passed/transitioned to Heaven. We love you guys 🥹

Melissa Cardenas - April 22 at 01:52 PM

FT

That's such a beautiful thing. Definitely a blessing to see that. We love y'all 💕💕

Felicia Trejo - April 22 at 08:52 PM

TF

“ *The Gutierrez Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Antonio C. Vargas.*



The Gutierrez Family - April 21 at 11:46 AM

TF

“ *The Garcia & Cavazos Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Antonio C. Vargas.*



The Garcia & Cavazos Family - April 21 at 09:29 AM

LT

“*Brother-in-law you will be missed SOOO very much. Ryan will miss you so much too, you were his best friend....Lol. Anytime, anywhere he saw a rooster or car show he would buy the rooster or take pictures of car to send you.*

It's not going to be the same without you ... you were a character and so much more. That dry sense of humor you had, and if they didn't know you they could get a little offended Lol... but once they got to know you they would see your heart of gold.

I'm going to admit, when we heard of your transition I could only imagine what you did when you saw Jesus face to face... I thought every word from that song , “I can only imagine.”

I celebrate your new life with Jesus ❤️🔥🔥

Transition from this life to next is not viewed as a loss, but as the ultimate reward .

(Philippians 1:21)

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

We Love you and we will miss you dearly ❤️

Tita & Ryan

Letty Teeler - April 21 at 12:51 AM

EB

Brother in law, even tho we didn't hang around alot, but we knew you were here taking care of my sister and all your children and your grandchildren and you were always taking care of them, I Thank God chucho and I had a chance to see you and pray for you, we will always hold you close to our hearts, I thank you for always watching my back when I go out with guys that were not good for me, I thank you soo very .uch, because that opened my eyes wide open. you will be .missed by so many people that you touched by your beautiful life.

Effren and Belinda Benavides - April 21 at 08:42 PM

MC

Thank you Tia Tita, Bee, and Tio Chucho. Your words are beautiful and touched our hearts. We love you guys so much 🥹

Melissa Cardenas - April 22 at 01:54 PM

MC

“ I’m going to miss you Dad so much 😞😭 We love you ❤️



Melisa Cardenas - April 20 at 11:37 PM