



Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero

February 18, 1936 - July 11, 2024

Elena Esther Solis Cestero, better known as Mitzi, passed away on July 11, 2024, in her home, surrounded by her children. She was born on February 18, 1936 in Donna, Texas to Leopoldo Solis Sr. and Manuela Mercado Solis. She was preceded in death by both her parents, an infant daughter, Julienna Esther Cestero, sisters; Argentina Solis, Catalina Solis, Alicia S. Diaz, and her brothers Noel H. Solis and Leopoldo Solis Jr.

Surviving are her children, Debbie Cestero D'Souza (Dinesh) and A.J. Cestero (Mari), grandchildren Justin and Julienna Fancher, Danielle D'Souza Gill (Brandon), great granddaughter Marigold Gill, brothers; Carlos Solis (Bea), David Solis (Mary Helen) and sister Karen S. Martinez, and numerous nieces, nephews, grand nieces, and grand nephews. She attended and was the pianist at the church her mother helped found, El Buen Samaritano Methodist Church.

Mitzi was a retired teacher, having first taught at Zavala Elementary School in Harlingen, Texas. She then made a decision to go to Venezuela and teach at the Standard Oil Company school in Lagunillas, Zulia Venezuela and also Park Academy in Caracas, Venezuela. She married and had her children there and made Venezuela her home for thirteen years, before coming back to Harlingen, Texas where she would live the majority of her life. She then taught at Crocket Elementary in Harlingen, and the last 25 years of her career she

taught First Grade at her beloved Bowie Elementary in Harlingen, Texas.

She retired in the year 2000 and went to live with her daughter Debbie and family in Sugar Land, Texas, but always came home to Harlingen to spend time with her son A.J. and daughter-in-law Mari, and finally settled back in Harlingen in 2015. Besides being the pianist at her church, she was active in The Lions Club of Harlingen , The Red Hat Society, and a member of the United Methodist Women's Organization-Rio Grande Conference serving in various leadership positions at local, district and national levels.

Her departure is sadly felt by her beloved family and countless friends. We would like to thank JoAnn Folsom for the wonderful caregivers she provided; Ida Vento, Abigail Gonzalez, Julia Sobol, Ofelia Jackson, and Mindy Love. Also caring for her were Lupita Gascon and Sara Rendon. Also, Dr. Donald Roa who took great care of mom, social worker Debi Ruelas, and Dr. Grayson and Cindy Sellers, Dr. James Castillo, Alisha Lopez and the rest of the DHR Health Hospice team.

Visitation will be held Friday, July 26th from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM and a prayer service will begin at 7:00 PM at Rudy Garza Funeral Home located at 1702 E. Harrison Ave, Harlingen Texas 78550.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 27th departing the Rudy Garza Funeral Home at 8:30 AM for a 9:00 AM church service at El Buen Samaritano Methodist Church, located at 806 W. Grant Ave, Harlingen Tx 78550. Burial will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park in La Feria, Texas.

She cherished all who loved her and would be truly honored to have you attend her services.

Honored to serve as pallbearers for Mitzi will be Justin Fancher, Ian Martinez, Brandon Gill, Daniel Martinez, David Solis, and Chuck Solis. Honorary pallbearers; Lee Solis III, Robert Diaz Jr., Rudy Diaz, Ron Diaz, Noel Solis Jr.,

Harvey Martinez, David Phillip Solis, Dinesh D'Souza and Alex Salazar.

Cemetery Details

Restlawn Memorial Park

14166 U.S. 83 Business
La Feria, TX 78559
(956) 797-2322

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 26. 12:00 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

JUL 26. 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

JUL **27**. 9:00 AM (CT)

El Buen Samaritano Methodist Church
806 W. Grant Ave.
Harlingen , TX 78550

Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Nuestro más sinceras condolencias. Los pastores Careaga*

Javier Careaga - July 26, 2024 at 07:29 PM

MI

“ *Mary Burtch and Michael Burtch II purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.*



Mary Burtch and Michael Burtch II - July 25, 2024 at 06:53 PM

VF

“ *Vilma and Baumgartner family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.*



Vilma and Baumgartner family - July 25, 2024 at 05:20 PM

TF

“ *The Raul and Nena Martinez Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.*



The Raul and Nena Martinez Family - July 25, 2024 at 01:35 PM

DS

“ Mitzi was considered a family member of the Sullivan family. Her mom and John T. Sullivan's mom we're best friends and Margaret, John's oldest sister and Mitzi were like sisters. Mitzi shared in all of our family celebrations when she could. She and Margaret loved to travel, going out to eat and going shopping. They'd be up early to go to Black Friday sales and after Christmas sales. They'd go out to eat and come back like little girls excited to look at all their purchases. Our daughter Jennifer said she considered her her aunt and our granddaughter Emily was always asking about her since we weren't able to get together because of John and Mitzi's health. We will cherish our times with Mitzi, Karen and Margaret. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family.

Dolores Sullivan - July 25, 2024 at 11:08 AM

JF

“ John T. Sullivan and family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.



John T. Sullivan and family - July 25, 2024 at 10:53 AM

TF

“ The Nehls family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.

The Nehls family - July 24, 2024 at 08:56 AM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.



July 24, 2024 at 08:56 AM



“ Rick & Karyn Henvey & family & theOlsons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.

Rick & Karyn Henvey & family & theOlsons - July 23, 2024 at 09:37 PM



“ Rick & Karyn Henvey & family & theOlsons purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.



Rick & Karyn Henvey & family & theOlsons - July 23, 2024 at 09:37 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.



July 21, 2024 at 07:54 PM

ES

“ Ed & Glennie Svoboda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.

Ed & Glennie Svoboda - July 20, 2024 at 12:26 PM

ES

“ Ed & Glennie Svoboda purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.



Ed & Glennie Svoboda - July 20, 2024 at 12:26 PM

SH

“ Sewell Audi North Houston purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Elena Esther Solis "Mitzi" Cestero.



Sewell Audi North Houston - July 18, 2024 at 05:14 PM

DL

“ You were such a special friend such a wonderful prayer warrior always there to give an encouraging word always there with a smile you touched my life and my family’s life and such a powerful way you will never be forgotten. You will always be loved. Thank you for everything and every prayer you gave us, we will always love you and keep you, dear to us. Rest in peace.



David longoria - July 14, 2024 at 02:02 AM