



Ermelinda L. Cantu

September 11, 1941 - January 6, 2025

Ermelinda L. Cantu, 83, of Harlingen, Texas, entered into eternal rest on Monday, January 6, 2025. Born on September 11, 1941, to Fructuoso Leal and Clemencia Garcia, she was a loving mother, devoted wife, and steadfast friend who left a lasting mark on all who knew her.

Ermelinda was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Carlos A. Cantu; and five siblings: Odilia Self, Olga De Los Santos, Raul Leal, Fructuoso Leal, and Gil Leal.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Norma Garza, and son-in-law, Danny who cherished her deeply. Her beloved son Carlos L. Cantu, joined her in eternal rest just one day later, on January 7, 2025. She is also survived by three brothers, Hector Leal, Arturo Leal, and Lionel Leal; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cherished friends.

A dedicated professional, Ermelinda served as a Child Nutrition Auditor for the Harlingen School District for 30 years, ensuring the well-being of countless students. She was actively involved in her children's school activities, creating lasting memories and fostering strong community ties. Ermelinda had a passion for traveling and gardening, and her kindness and willingness to help others made her a treasured member of her family and community.

Ermelinda faced a five-year battle with cancer with strength and courage, inspiring all who witnessed her determination. Her family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the friends and colleagues from the Child Nutrition Department, the dedicated doctors and nurses at Valley Baptist Medical Center, Dr. Sarhill and the Texas Oncology team, Dr. Diana Lozano, the team at MD Anderson, Dr. Huen and her nurse Megan, and her provider Maria Hernandez for their compassionate care.

Visitation will begin on Friday, January 17, 2025, at Rudy Garza Funeral Home from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM and a rosary will be prayed at 7:00 PM. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, departing the Rudy Garza Chapel at 9:30 AM for a 10:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial at Queen of Peace Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Restlawn Cemetery. Honored to serve as pallbearers are Andrew Leal, Andy Self, Robert De Los Santos, Eddie Moreno, Rene Lopez, and Arturo Leal, Jr.

Ermelinda's warmth, generosity, and enduring spirit will be deeply missed but lovingly remembered by all whose lives she touched.

Cemetery Details

Restlawn Memorial Park

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

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

WF

“ With love from the Self family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Ermelinda L. Cantu.



With love from the Self family - January 16, 2025 at 10:34 PM

RF

“ Russell Gussman and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ermelinda L. Cantu.



Russell Gussman and Family - January 15, 2025 at 09:34 PM

RF

“ Russell Gussman and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ermelinda L. Cantu.

Russell Gussman and Family - January 15, 2025 at 09:34 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ermelinda L. Cantu.



January 14, 2025 at 09:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ermelinda L. Cantu.

January 14, 2025 at 09:51 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ermelinda L. Cantu.



January 14, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Ermelinda L. Cantu.



January 10, 2025 at 12:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ermelinda L. Cantu.

January 10, 2025 at 12:20 PM

EV

“ I remember Mrs Cantu from my elementary school at Ben Milam, she was our Lunch lady for years, she was a lovely lady and always very nice. I got to know her son through my husband not knowing they were related Carlos was a good guy always with a fun spirit. May they both rest in peace.

Elizabeth Villarreal - January 09, 2025 at 09:56 PM

DA

“ My condolences goes out to the Cantu and Garza families for their loss of such a great lady, Mrs. Cantu. So sorry to hear about her passing who was a beautiful lady and truly one of nicest persons I've ever met. I'm blessed to have known Mrs. Cantu through my great friend, Norma. Such great memories of her and always willing to open her home and providing lunch or dinner when needed. I'm sad to hear about the loss and hurt for my dear friends Norma, Dan, and other family members. May Mrs. Cantu and her son Carlos rest in peace.

Dan Araiza - January 09, 2025 at 12:26 PM