



## Ernestina "Tina" Puente

August 15, 1942 - November 3, 2024

Ernestina "Tina" Puente of Harlingen, Texas, passed away peacefully on November 3, 2024, surrounded by her loving children. Born on August 15, 1942, to the late Frederico and Soila Saenz-Villafranca, Tina married Francisco T. Puente on December 30, 1962. Together, they raised seven children: Frank Puente Jr. (Rita Garza), Cynthia (Doug) Thompson, Rose Mary Slagle (Dan), Edward (Laura) Puente, Diana (Tito) Resendez, Marco (April) Puente, and Gabriel (Karla) Puente. She was a devoted "Momo" to 20 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Frank Puente, Sr.

Tina was one of eight siblings and is also preceded in death by her brother, Armando Villafranca, and sisters, Irene Escobedo and Rosa Perez. Her surviving siblings include Juan Villafranca, Elva Villalon, Irma Contreras, and Jorge Villafranca.

Dedicated to serving others, Tina was a member, Eucharistic Minister, and CCD instructor at Queen of Peace Catholic Church for over 30 years. She was active on Harlingen's Community Advisory and Development Boards and involved in the local Republican Party. Tina worked at Valley Baptist Medical Center, Valley Diagnostic Clinic, TSTC, IDEA Public Schools, the Gear-UP program at Vernon Middle School, and Companion Sitters, always serving with kindness and enthusiasm.

Funeral services will be held at Rudy Garza Funeral Home in Harlingen, Texas, on November 8, 2024, with visitation at 1:00 pm and a rosary at 7:00 pm. A funeral mass will take place at Queen of Peace Catholic Church on November 9 at 10:00 am, followed by a Celebration of Life from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Cultural Arts Center located at 576 '76 Dr. in Harlingen.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

NOV 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ I am more sad that you did not want to build a better granddaughter/grandmother relationship. I am sad that most people probably never knew I am your first born granddaughter. I am sad that most people probably don't know that I am your first born son's daughter. I am more sad that I never existed to you and the rest of the Puente family except for my dad. I still wish you and your family peace and comfort. - Libby Del Barrio

Libby - November 11, 2024 at 12:08 PM



“ The Perry family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.



The Perry family - November 08, 2024 at 02:43 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.



November 08, 2024 at 12:40 PM

JR

“ Javier Rincones purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.



---

**Javier Rincones** - November 07, 2024 at 08:02 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.



---

November 07, 2024 at 05:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.

---

November 07, 2024 at 05:28 PM

HV

“ In this sorrowful time, I would like to extend to the family and all your loved ones my heartfelt condolences. Tina you will be missed, you were a beautiful and funny friend with a golden heart. May our LORD comfort each and every family member in this difficult time.

*Love, Hilda Vilt*

---

**HILDA VILT** - November 07, 2024 at 11:36 AM

MR

“ Mrs. Puente, such a beautiful lady. So full of energy and life. She always radiated a sincere & genuine love when we would greet her. I loved talking with her, and learning from her wisdom. Anytime I would see her, she would ask me to help her pray for a certain intention. I also loved that she would treat my boys with the same grandmotherly love as she treated her own. I see the same beauty and love in her daughters. Our prayers are with you all. God bless you all and your sweet Mama will be dearly missed.

Melissa Reza - November 07, 2024 at 10:19 AM

TF

“ The Mitchell Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.



The Mitchell Family - November 07, 2024 at 07:52 AM

MS

“ Mary Ann and Stephen Schott planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.

Mary Ann and Stephen Schott - November 06, 2024 at 06:38 PM

MS

“ Mary Ann and Stephen Schott purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.



Mary Ann and Stephen Schott - November 06, 2024 at 06:38 PM

GN

“ Glen and Shelby Najvar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.

Glen and Shelby Najvar - November 06, 2024 at 06:18 PM

GN

“ Glen and Shelby Najvar purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.



Glen and Shelby Najvar - November 06, 2024 at 06:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.

November 06, 2024 at 12:31 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ernestina "Tina" Puente.



November 06, 2024 at 12:31 PM

CC

“ What a beautiful woman inside & out

Constance Chamberlain. - November 05, 2024 at 06:46 PM

RM

“ Tia you were such a beautiful, elegant and so loving to Me to my Husband and my children. You always made me believe anything amazing was possible. You were smart and there was no doubt you Loved God and his son Jesus. I have nothing but amazing memories of you.

*Thank you for being so accepting of me and my family.*

*I love how much you loved my mom more than a sister in law.*

*I love you and I'll miss visiting you when I'm in Harlingen.*



---

**Rosie Villafranca Moreland** - November 05, 2024 at 10:28 AM