



Jesusita "Susie" Leal Castaneda

October 29, 1947 - June 24, 2026

Jesusita "Susie" Leal Castaneda, 78, entered into eternal rest on June 24, 2026, in Harlingen, Texas, surrounded by the love of her family.

Susie was a devoted woman of faith whose greatest joy in life was her husband and family. For most of her life, she worked as a caregiver for a home health agency, compassionately serving those in need with the same love and dedication she showed her own family. Selfless, kind-hearted, and generous, Susie was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Her caring spirit and genuine compassion earned the respect and admiration of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A steadfast advocate for her children and grandchildren, Susie believed deeply in the value of education. She continually encouraged her family to pursue higher learning and achieve their dreams. Because of her unwavering support and encouragement, several of her children and grandchildren went on to build successful careers in education, a legacy of which she was immensely proud.

Susie shared a beautiful 60-year marriage with the love of her life, Juan P. Castaneda. Together, they built a home filled with faith, love, and cherished memories. Nothing brought Susie greater happiness than having her family gathered around her table. She was especially known for her delicious

homemade meals and fresh flour tortillas, lovingly prepared for every family gathering. Her home was always open, her table was always welcoming, and her cooking became a tradition that brought generations together. Creating those special moments with the people she loved most brought her immeasurable joy.

She was preceded in death by her beloved son, Juan Pablo Castaneda, Jr.; her parents, Robert Leal and Christina Villarreal; her son-in-law, Frank Guajardo; and her siblings, Ella Moncebaez, Robert Leal, Jr., Christina Vargas, and Lupe Leal.

Susie leaves behind to cherish her memory her beloved husband of 60 years, Juan P. Castaneda of Harlingen; her loving children, Ana Christina Castaneda of Harlingen, Alma Angelica Castaneda of Michigan, and Belinda Marie C. Aleman and her husband, Ramiro, Jr., of Harlingen.

She is also lovingly remembered by her cherished grandchildren: Jacob Paul Castaneda, Stafini Quiroz and her husband, David, Evalyne Marie Ramirez and Juan Contreras, Ramiro Francisco Aleman III, Isabella Rene Aleman, and Joe Guzman III and his wife, Maggie.

Her legacy continues through her beloved great-grandchildren: Joel Castaneda, Jozlyn Castaneda, Adelyn Castaneda, Jacob Castaneda, Jr., Jacob King Castaneda, David Carlos Quiroz, Jr., and Samuel Levi Quiroz. She is also survived by her brother, Amaro J. Leal, Sr.

Visitation will be held on Monday, June 29, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. at the Rudy Garza Chapel of Peace in Harlingen. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Rudy Garza Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Juan Torres officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Ashland Memorial Park Cemetery in Harlingen, Texas.

Pallbearers will be Ramiro Aleman, Sr., Ramiro Aleman, Jr., Ramiro Aleman, III, Jacob P. Castaneda, David C. Quiroz, and Juan Contreras.

Susie's unwavering faith, compassionate heart, and unconditional love for her family created a legacy that will endure for generations. Her kindness, generosity, and the countless memories she created around her family table will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. She will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever cherished.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction and compassionate care of Rudy Garza Funeral Home in Harlingen, Texas.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN **29**. 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

JUN **29**. 7:00 PM (CT)

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1702 E Harrison Ave
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Chapel Service

JUN **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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Burial

JUN 30 (CT)

Ashland Memorial Park Cemetery
21037 Godwin Rd
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 425-2939
<https://www.rudygarzafunerals.com/ashland>