



## Maria Elva Rivera

February 10, 1944 - July 15, 2025

Maria Elva Rivera, age 81, entered into eternal rest on July 15, 2025, in Olmito, Texas. A beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Mary lived a life devoted to faith, family, and kindness.

She is survived by her loving children: Lupe Rivera of Robstown, Texas; Pete Rivera and his wife Laura of McKinney, Texas; and Fred Rivera and his wife Vivian of Dallas, Texas. Cherished by all who knew her, Maria was also a proud grandmother to Samantha Coronado (Fred), Christina Rivera, Emilee Rivera, and Felix Rivera; and a treasured step grandmother to Magdalene Villarreal, Morningstar Van Slyke, Martha Van Slyke, Jerome Van Slyke, Josephine Van Slyke, Damian Van Slyke, as well as her three step great grandchildren; Lucia, Selena, and Stella.

Maria was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Urbano Rivera; her parents, Pedro and Adelina Rocha; her sister, Emma Jimenez; her brother, Joe Rocha; and her step-grandson, John Van Slyke.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Maria's life during visitation on Friday, July 18, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with a rosary to be recited at 7:00 p.m., at Rudy Garza Palms Funeral Home in La Feria, Texas. A chapel service will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. with Deacon Joe Torres as celebrant at the Rudy Garza Palms Chapel of Peace in La Feria,

with interment to follow at Heavenly Grace Cemetery in La Feria.

Pallbearers will be Lupe Rivera, Pete Rivera, Fred Rivera, Ralph Rivera, Al Salazar, and Danny Jimenez.

The Rivera family extends heartfelt gratitude to their dear friends and neighbors, Al and Esmeralda Salazar, for the unwavering love, care, and support they provided to Mary throughout her final days. Their compassion and presence were a blessing and a comfort, and they will always be considered part of the family.

Maria's warmth, resilience, and deep love for her family will be remembered always. She leaves behind a legacy of faith, strength, and unconditional love.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Rudy Garza Palms Funeral Home in La Feria, Texas.

# Previous Events

## Rosary

JUL 18. 7:00 PM (CT)

Rudy Garza Funeral Home - Palms Chapel  
219 S Main St  
La Feria, TX 78559  
(956) 797-3122  
rgfhtx@aol.com  
<https://www.rudygarzafunerals.com>

## Chapel Service

JUL 19. 1:00 PM (CT)

Rudy Garza Funeral Home - Palms Chapel  
219 S Main St  
La Feria, TX 78559  
(956) 797-3122  
rgfhtx@aol.com  
<https://www.rudygarzafunerals.com>

## Departure to Cemetery

JUL 19. 1:30 PM (CT)

Rudy Garza Funeral Home - Palms Chapel  
219 S Main St  
La Feria, TX 78559  
(956) 797-3122  
rgfhtx@aol.com  
<https://www.rudygarzafunerals.com>

## Burial

JUL 19 (CT)

Heavenly Grace Memorial Park  
26873 White Ranch Rd.  
La Feria, TX 78559  
(956) 797-5614

# Tribute Wall



“ *Maria was a great Mom & Grandma. She once tried to teach me how to make tortillas. She gave up on teaching me when Urbano said they were shingles and all miss shaped. She is loved by many. She will be missed.* ”



Lucy - July 18, 2025 at 09:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Maria Elva Rivera. ”

July 18, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Maria Elva Rivera.* ”



July 18, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Maria Elva Rivera.* ”





July 17, 2025 at 11:55 PM

RR

“Lupe, Pete, and Fred, your loved ones, I extend my deepest and most heartfelt condolences with regard to the loss of your Mother. My memories will always take me to the time while serving at Camp Lejeune NC. We were getting ready to deploy and having a unit gathering. One of the senior leaders wife approached me and told me that Maria had requested that I call her. The Marines around all were asking me who Maria was and why I had never mentioned her. My response and a true response which was that “I have no idea who Maria is”. The next day I visited Urbano and ELVA at your home at Camp Lejeune. Your Mom was quick to point out that I had not called her the previous day as she had asked for me to call her. I explained that I was asked to call someone, but it was a Maria, and I knew no such person. I gather by now you must realize all the many years I knew and adored your Mother, I never knew until that day her first name was Maria. I only knew her as Elva. All that aside Maria or Elva, she will always have a place in my heart. Again, Debbie and I have you all in our prayers, and our deepest sympathies to you and your loved ones. Our love Uncle Ralph

Ralph Rivera - July 17, 2025 at 08:08 PM

MM

Lupe, Pete, and Freddy, you all have been on my mind, wondering how you all are doing. I know it was hard missing your dad, but missing a mother is even harder, especially when now you don't have either parent. I hope you all know that you have all your Rivera aunts and uncles who will always be there for you with just a phone call away. Please keep in touch, okay? Love, hugs and prayers are with you and your families always. Love you much, Tia Olivia & Uncle Al  

Maria Olivia Mejorado - July 25, 2025 at 01:02 AM