



Maria Elena Saldivar

November 15, 1991 - January 28, 2026

Maria Elena Saldivar, age 34, entered eternal rest on January 28, 2026, in Harlingen, Texas.

Maria was a proud graduate of Santa Maria High School, Class of 2010, where she participated in the Criminal Justice program and UIL. She had a deep love for her family and friends, especially Jessica and Norma. Together, they were affectionately known as “the Three Musketeers,” sharing countless memories going out to eat, spending time together, and supporting one another through every season of life. They will miss her dearly.

Maria found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She loved going to the beach, listening to music, and expressing her creativity. Much of her time was spent at home crafting stickers, hair bows, and mums, which she proudly sold to her local community for football games. Her creativity, kindness, and warm spirit touched many lives, and she was truly loved by all who knew her.

She is survived by her parents, Jose M. and Laura Elena Saldivar of Santa Maria, Texas; her siblings, Jose Manuel Saldivar, Jr. (Jessica Abigail Zuniga) of Edcouch, Evelyn Saldivar, and Moises Saldivar, both of Santa Maria, Texas; her maternal grandmother, Felipa Amaya of Mexico; her paternal grandmother, Maria Del Carmen Gallegos; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday, February 1, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with a Celebration of Life Service at 7:00 p.m. at the Rudy Garza Chapel of Peace in Mercedes, Texas.

Arrangements are under the direction of Rudy Garza Funeral Home in Mercedes, Texas.

Maria Elena Saldivar, de 34 años, falleció el 28 de enero de 2026 en Harlingen, Texas.

Maria fue una orgullosa graduada de la Escuela Secundaria Santa Maria, Clase de 2010, donde participó en el programa de Justicia Penal y en UIL. Tenía un profundo amor por su familia y amigos, especialmente por Jessica y Norma. Juntas eran cariñosamente conocidas como "las Tres Mosqueteras", compartiendo innumerables recuerdos: saliendo a comer, pasando tiempo juntas y apoyándose mutuamente en cada etapa de la vida. La extrañarán mucho.

Maria encontraba alegría en los placeres simples de la vida. Le encantaba ir a la playa, escuchar música y expresar su creatividad. Gran parte de su tiempo lo dedicaba en casa a hacer calcomanías, lazos para el cabello y adornos, los cuales vendía con orgullo a su comunidad local para los partidos de fútbol. Su creatividad, amabilidad y espíritu cálido tocaron muchas vidas, y fue verdaderamente amada por todos los que la conocieron.

Le sobreviven sus padres, Jose M. y Laura Elena Saldivar de Santa María, Texas; sus hermanos, Jose Manuel Saldivar, Jr. (Jessica Abigail Zuniga) de Edcouch, Evelyn Saldivar y Moises Saldivar, ambos de Santa María, Texas;

su abuela materna, Felipa Amaya de México; su abuela paterna, Maria Del Carmen Gallegos; y numerosos tíos, tías, primos y familiares extendidos.

La visita se llevará a cabo el sábado 31 de enero de 2026, de 1:00 p.m. a 9:00 p.m., y el domingo 1 de febrero de 2026, de 1:00 p.m. a 9:00 p.m., con un Servicio de Celebración de la Vida a las 7:00 p.m. en la Capilla de la Paz Rudy Garza en Mercedes, Texas.

Los arreglos están bajo la dirección de Rudy Garza Funeral Home en Mercedes, Texas.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Rudy Garza Funeral Home - Mercedes
236 S Ohio Ave
Mercedes, TX 78570
(956) 565-1175
<https://www.rudygarzafunerals.com>

Visitation

FEB 1. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Rudy Garza Funeral Home - Mercedes
236 S Ohio Ave
Mercedes, TX 78570
(956) 565-1175
<https://www.rudygarzafunerals.com>

Celebration of Life Service

FEB 1. 7:00 PM (CT)

Rudy Garza Funeral Home - Mercedes
236 S Ohio Ave
Mercedes, TX 78570
(956) 565-1175
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Tribute Wall



“ *Yesica y familia Montero purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Maria Elena Saldivar.*



Yesica y familia Montero - January 30 at 11:14 PM



“ *Eduardo & Yesenia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Maria Elena Saldivar.*

Eduardo & Yesenia - January 30 at 05:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Maria Elena Saldivar.*



January 30 at 05:10 PM

MC

“ I had the privilege of knowing Mary since her sophomore year of high school in Santa Maria. Early on, I noticed how interested she was in forensic science, and I invited her to join my Criminal Justice Club, and I began training her in Crime Scene. From that point on, Mary truly flourished. She went on to win at both regional and state-level Crime Scene competitions and later became the very first captain of my Criminal Justice Club.

Mary was deeply respected and loved by her classmates. She led by example, and her leadership was truly second to none. She was one of those rare students who stayed in contact with me over the years. Mary was so dedicated to the Criminal Justice program that she even came back after graduation to help train and mentor younger students in the skill she loved so much. That dedication says everything about who she was.

I was fortunate to have many conversations with Mary over the years, and she was truly a wonderful person. She showed a tough exterior at times, but those who truly knew her understood she had one of the kindest hearts you could ever find. She also had a creative side; she loved arts and crafts. She made every homecoming mum for my daughter. I have kept every single one of them, and now they mean even more to me.

My heart is completely broken, and my soul aches for her family. I will miss the looks she used to give me when I tried to be funny, and she didn't think it was funny at all. I will miss how she would call me out when I did something wrong. But most of all, I will miss her big heart and her true self.

A piece of my heart has gone with her, and it will never be the same. There will never be another Mary. But she will live in my heart and in my memories forever.

To the Saldivar family, please know that she made a lasting impact on so many lives, including mine and my family. I am deeply grateful to have known her, and I will carry her memory with me always. You are in my heart, thoughts, and prayers.

Mr. Cisneros - January 30 at 03:01 PM

MC

“ 19 files added to the album *Mary Criminal Justice*



Mr. Cisneros - January 30 at 01:45 PM