



Melba Belinda Cantu

February 1, 2025

Melba Belinda Cantu, 63, of Harlingen, Texas, entered into Heaven on Saturday, February 1, 2025. She was born on October 13, 1961, in Harlingen to her loving parents, Jose Luis Cantu and Elvira Martinez.

A proud graduate of Harlingen High School, Class of 1980, Melba was a dedicated member of the marching band. She went on to earn her degree from Pan American University in 1984. She was employed for many years at the Valley Morning Star and The Monitor. Most recently, she worked at Home Depot, where her strong work ethic and friendly personality made a lasting impact on those around her.

Melba was an active member of the Resaca Jaycees and shared her beautiful voice as a member of the choir at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. She was deeply devoted to her family and was a dedicated caregiver to her parents. Melba loved her nieces and nephews dearly and took great pride in their accomplishments. Her close-knit group of friends, lovingly known as the "Circle of Friends," brought immense joy to her life as they gathered often and traveled together, creating cherished memories.

Known for her infectious smile and joyful spirit, Melba was truly the life of the party. She had a way of making people feel special, always checking in on family and friends with a phone call or a kind word. Her heart was as big as

her laughter, and her generosity knew no bounds.

She is survived by her devoted parents, Jose Luis Cantu and Elvira Martinez; her brothers, Jose L. Cantu, Jr. (Norma) and Jaime "Jimi" Cantu (Roselinda "Rosie"); her nephews, Joseph Christopher Cantu and Jacob Cantu (Stephanie); her niece, Amelia Tarbutton (Luke); and her seven beloved great-nieces and nephews: Lina, Adelle, Emma, Jude, Justus, Chloe, and Crosby. She also leaves behind her dear aunt, Lucila Cantu, many treasured friends and her beloved chihuahua, Lil.e, who was the light of her life.

Visitation will begin Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 1:00 PM until 9:00 PM and a recitation of the holy rosary will be prayed at 7:00 PM. Funeral services will be held Monday, February 10, 2025 departing the Rudy Garza Funeral Home at 9:30 AM for a 10:00 AM Mass of Christian burial at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Melba's life was a beautiful example of love, kindness, and unwavering dedication to those she held dear. She leaves behind a legacy of laughter, hard work, and deep compassion that will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

Cemetery Details

Restlawn Memorial Park

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

Previous Events

Funeral

FEB **10**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
412 S C St.
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 423-0855

Tribute Wall

MS

“ To the Cantù Family and beautiful Melba’s Circle of Friends, Class of 1980 – HHS,

Please accept my deepest sympathy during this difficult time. Melba’s passing leaves a profound void in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. She and I had been friends since first grade at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, and I will always treasure the many memories we shared over the years, especially at Dear Ole HHS.

I pray that your cherished memories bring you peace and comfort in the days ahead. May her legacy of kindness and strength live on in all of us.

*With heartfelt condolences,
Melissa De Los Santos - Lucio*

Melissa De Los Santos-Lucio - February 09, 2025 at 07:53 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melba Belinda Cantu.



February 09, 2025 at 03:55 PM



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

February 09, 2025 at 03:55 PM

FJ

“ Family of Sam Hernandez, Jr. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Melba Belinda Cantu.



Family of Sam Hernandez, Jr. - February 08, 2025 at 10:14 PM

FJ

“ Family of Sam Hernandez, Jr. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melba Belinda Cantu.

Family of Sam Hernandez, Jr. - February 08, 2025 at 10:14 PM

LO

“ To my wonderful friend and coworker: you were a true friend who I will miss very much. I treasured our conversations and the time we spent laughing together. Melba you will be greatly missed by all that knew you, I know that your resting comfortably and still watching over all of us as we continue to miss your smile, laughter and most of all your friendship. Rest in peace my friend.

Lucy Olvera-Deak - February 08, 2025 at 09:49 PM

TF

“ The Home Depot Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Melba Belinda Cantu.



The Home Depot Family - February 08, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Melba Belinda Cantu.*



February 08, 2025 at 09:05 AM



“ *I met Melba at Immaculate Heart of Mary catholic church joining the choir and singing along her side. She was a wonderful person and a great friend. Her parents Mr. and Mrs. Cantu became my godparents. Heaven gained an angel with a beautiful voice and a loving heart. She will be greatly missed.*

Elias Torres, Jr.

Elias Torres Jr - February 07, 2025 at 06:52 PM



“ *I met Melba at HHS and shortly after we worked at Penneys at Sun Valley Mall and at VMS. She was a character with such a great personality. To her wonderful parents and family I send my deepest condolences. We shall miss her but know we will see her again. Cherish those memories made forever in your hearts. Rip Melba Forever in her Saviors arms ❤️.*

Ida Gomez- Friend - February 06, 2025 at 02:43 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Melba Belinda Cantu.*



February 06, 2025 at 02:28 PM



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

February 06, 2025 at 02:28 PM



“ *Mr and Mrs. Cantu and family, May you and yours find peace and comfort in the memories shared of Melba. I have no doubt, she is singing with the angels.*
Rosie Calzada

Rosie Calzada - February 05, 2025 at 08:38 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Melba Belinda Cantu.*



February 05, 2025 at 11:12 AM



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

February 05, 2025 at 11:12 AM

AR

“ I was shocked and devastated when I heard about Melba's passing. I cherish her dearly, she was a life mentor and a great listener to me. She gave me guidance and comfort and she was a wonderful person. We spoke of many things when we worked together at Home Depot, I will never forget our last conversation. To her family, I am so sorry for your loss and my deepest condolences to you. To her close group of friends, I am sorry for your loss. She spoke often about her family and friends, I felt as if I knew them personally from her stories. You are in my prayers during this difficult time. May God give you comfort.

To my dear friend Melba,

Thank you for the tough love, the encouragement to just go for it, the great advise and for lending a ear, I am sure I drove you crazy. Thank you for sharing your life stories with me. You will be greatly missed my friend.

Adrian Robles

Adrian Robles - February 05, 2025 at 10:45 AM

SS

“ I first met Melba at work at Home Depot and have enjoyed working with her and loved her stories of the places she would go with her friends. She was always such a very happy person and always joking! I hate that will never get to see her again! She was a beautiful person and I wish her family my deepest condolences and prayers.



Stephanie Smith - February 04, 2025 at 10:06 PM

EG

“ My most sincere condolences to her family. I knew Melba while we were in elementary school at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic school and we lived across the street from each other. I pray that your memories bring you comfort and remind you that she is resting in the palm of God’s hand. Rest In Peace.

*Erica De La Garza
(Whitinger)*

Erica De La Garza - February 04, 2025 at 05:36 PM

AG

“ My sincere condolences to the Cantu family and loved ones. I met Melba at the age of 19 at Valley Morning Star. She taught me how to correct her ads on her computer when she was off or just needed help. I then joined Resaca Jaycees at the age of 21 where her and Lali Betancourt took care of me. Melba was loving, caring and most of all fun. She made everything fun! There was Never a dull moment with her. I will forever cherish these memories. May you rest in peace Melba and may the perpetual light shine upon you.
Love you, Alma Delia Gonzalez

Alma Delia Gonzalez - February 04, 2025 at 04:03 PM