



## Rey Chacon

December 19, 1946 - May 19, 2026

Manuel R. Chacon, a proud veteran, devoted family man, and a constant source of light to all who knew him, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on May 19, 2026.

Born on December 18, 1946, to Manuel Chacon and Santos Cantu Chacon, but was raised by Jose and Dolores Q Cantu, Rey lived a life defined by honor, dedication, and an unwavering love for his family. As a young man, he answered the call to serve his country, joining the United States Navy and serving bravely during the Vietnam War. The discipline and strength he gained as a soldier stayed with him throughout his life, but it was his gentle heart and radiant smile that truly defined him.

Rey was a man who brought light into every room he walked into. He possessed a rare, joyful spirit and used his quick smile to remind those around him that life is good.

Rey married his high school sweetheart Gloria Reyna. From the very beginning of their journey together, Rey made sure she knew the depth of his devotion, waking up each and every day to say "I love you" a promise of affection he kept until his very last breath.

As a father of two, Rey transitioned from being a soldier for his country to

being a fierce protector and supporter of his children. His love only grew as his family expanded, and he became a pillar of strength, support, and endless affection for his grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Rey legacy is not just in the years he lived, but in the countless joyful memories he created. The laughter, the everlasting great times, and the warmth of his presence will never fade from the hearts of those who loved him. He taught his family how to love deeply, laugh easily, and appreciate the good in everyday life.

Rey was a respected entrepreneur who proudly owned and operated J&S Liquors in Weslaco, Texas, for more than 10 years. He was also a dedicated member of The American Legion J.A. Garcia Post 172 in Mercedes, where he faithfully served as Commander during the terms of 2004–2005, 2011–2012, and 2013–2014. A proud veteran, Rey deeply valued the camaraderie of his fellow servicemen and found great purpose in serving alongside the veterans he proudly called his brothers.

Rey enjoyed life to the fullest and treasured the simple joys that brought him peace and happiness. He loved watching National Hockey League games, listening to music, and dancing. One of his favorite places was South Padre Island, where he enjoyed sitting by the beach and listening to the calming sound of the waves. Rey also enjoyed gambling, playing cards, golfing with friends, and sharing laughter and stories on the greens. He loved traveling with his family and was grateful for the opportunity to take memorable cruises with his wife and close friends.

Above all else, Rey cherished the time spent with his beloved wife, children, grandchildren, and loved ones.

Rey will be profoundly missed by all who knew and loved him, but his memory will forever live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Manuel and Santos Chacon, brother Miguel Chacon, Pedro "Pete" Chacon, and Hector Chacon.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Gloria Reyna Chacon of La Feria, Texas; his daughter, Jennifer C. Sanchez and her husband, George O. Sanchez, of Harlingen, Texas; and his son, Salomon A. Chacon and his wife, Winter Cardenas, of Pharr, Texas.

He also leaves behind four cherished grandchildren: Alex Sanchez of Vail, Colorado; Miranda S. Kalnas and her husband, Michael, of Burnet, Texas; Calista C. Alonzo and her husband, Manuel, of Odessa, Texas; and Kairi A. Chacon of Weslaco, Texas; as well as one precious great-grandchild, Meadow Rosae Kalnas.

Also surviving Rey are his siblings, Manuel Chacon and his wife, Jo, of San Antonio, Texas; Eddie Chacon of Denver, Colorado; Nelly Chacon; along with numerous extended family members and dear friends.

A memorial visitation will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m., followed by an 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service at the Rudy Garza Chapel of Peace in Mercedes, Texas. Military Honors will be conducted under the auspices of The American Legion J.A. Garcia Post 172 of Mercedes, Texas.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Harlingen Medical Center, Bristol Hospice of Harlingen, especially Destiny Pineda, and nurses Janie, Vickey, and Frank, for the compassionate care and dignity they provided to Rey throughout his final days. The family also wishes to thank David and Susan Wittenbach from Duddlesten Funeral Home of Raymondville, Texas for their

unwavering care and support during this difficult time, as well as ASAP Printing Solutions of McAllen and First Community Bank of Harlingen for their kindness and support.

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

# Upcoming Events

## Memorial Visitation

MAY **26**. 9:00 AM (CT)

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

## Memorial Service

MAY **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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