



Rudy Ruiz, Sr.

July 27, 1953 - May 8, 2026

Rudy Ruiz, Sr., 72, entered into eternal rest on May 8, 2026, in Harlingen, Texas. He was born on July 27, 1953, in Harlingen to Cipriano Ruiz and Pauline Juarez Ruiz.

Our dad was one of the hardest-working people we knew. The work ethic he instilled in all three of us is something we carry proudly every day. He believed in showing up, working hard, and always helping others, no matter how tired he was. If someone needed help, he never hesitated. He would drop everything for family, friends, or even strangers in need.

Our dad had a heart bigger than words can describe. He would give you his last dollar or the shirt off his back without expecting anything in return. Helping others brought him joy, and the way he loved and cared for people taught us loyalty, sacrifice, and kindness. His strength and generosity are things we will carry with us forever.

Dad finished strong by walking into God's grace with a surrendered heart before the Lord. We find peace knowing God's mercy is never too late.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'" — Luke 23:39–43

He is survived by his beloved wife, Brunilda Fernandez of Harlingen; his three loving children, Debbie Ann Ruiz of Fort Worth, Texas, Erica Alvarado and her husband Alfonso of Midlothian, Texas, and Rudy Ruiz, Jr., and his wife April of Midlothian, Texas. He was also a proud grandfather to Jonathon Ruiz-Silva, Faith Silva, Celeste Quesada and her husband Samuel, Jasmyne Alvarado, Riley Angel Ruiz, and Lillian Ruiz, all of whom brought immense joy to his life.

Also left to cherish his memory are his siblings, Rosemary Fonseca and her husband Ruben of McAllen, Texas, Rebecca Lopez and her husband Ruben of San Antonio, Texas, Rita Grimando of Weslaco, Texas, Ricky Ruiz and his wife Letty of San Antonio, Texas, Ray Ruiz and his wife Annie of Farmers Branch, Texas, and Rosie Garza and her husband Mario of La Feria, Texas, along with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Rudy was preceded in death by the mother of his children, Lillie Salmeron Ruiz; his parents, Cipriano Ruiz and Pauline Juarez Ruiz; and his brother, Robert Ruiz.

Serving as pallbearers will be Rudy Ruiz, Jr., Riley Angel Ruiz, Jonathon Ruiz-Silva, Alfonso Alvarado, Joel Silva, and Samuel Quesada.

Visitation will be held on Friday, May 15, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM, with a celebration of life service at 5:00 PM at the Rudy Garza Chapel of Peace in Harlingen, Texas, with Pastor Vanessa Salmeron of Latter Reign Ministry officiating.

A graveside service with military honors under the auspices of the American Legion Post 205 and VFW Post 2410 will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 2:00 PM at Mont Meta Memorial Park Cemetery in San Benito, Texas.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Vanessa Salmeron for her prayers, love, and unwavering support during this difficult time. They also extend their sincere appreciation to the ICU staff at Harlingen Medical Center and Gentiva Hospice for the compassionate care and kindness shown to Rudy and his family.

Rudy will be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, proud grandfather, and cherished brother whose greatest joy in life was his family. He leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, and dedication that will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **15**. 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

MAY **15**. 5:00 PM (CT)

Rudy Garza Funeral Home - Harlingen
1702 E Harrison Ave
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 425-8200
rgfhtx@aol.com
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Graveside Service with Military Honors

MAY **16**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Mont Meta Memorial Park
26170 Texas 345
San Benito, TX 78586
(956) 399-3097

Tribute Wall



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..*



May 16 at 12:36 PM



“ *Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..*



May 15 at 09:45 AM

DE

“ My father was many things to many people, but to me, he was my coffee partner, someone who loved his dogs, and someone who truly loved to make people laugh. Some of my favorite memories are the simple ones—sharing coffee, hearing his humor, and seeing the joy he brought to others in his own way. I have his sense of humor and this huge for me . We love to make people laugh. He always shared how he loved talking with of his brothers , Ray Ruiz. My dad loved all his siblings so much . They are all pretty amazing. He loved family. Always boasting about his children. How proud he was of us. Life wasn't always perfect, and our journey together had its challenges, but one of the greatest gifts I was given was seeing my father's heart change. I got to witness growth, healing, and a deeper faith in him. I saw him fight to the very end with strength and perseverance. I will always carry the memories of his laughter, his love for simple things, and the man he became.”

Oh daddy thank you for willingly changing your heart. That's all I ever wanted . Rest in grace and mercy in heaven . I love you see you soon.



debbie - May 15 at 01:57 AM

CQ

“ *Celeste & Sam Quesada purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..*



Celeste & Sam Quesada - May 14 at 08:48 PM

RR

“ *On January of 2007 Robert, Rudy and I while visiting our parents graveside, Robert suggested we inquire about buying burial plots for the three of us. Robert said, brother's we're getting old and I'd like the three of us be buried close to mom and dad. The three of us bought plots. Robert's buried in his, Rudy will be buried in his. I just never thought it'd be so soon. I will miss Rudy's laughter and joking around. I shall miss talking to him on the phone or when I traveled to the Valley visiting him. He's left a void both in his presence and my heart. Rudy could be the kindest human being you'd run across, loved talking for hours, especially if he was drinking coffee. Rest easy dear brother, I shall miss you immensely. 😔*



Ray Ruiz - May 13 at 08:54 PM

DF

“ *Dalworth Restoration Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..*



Dalworth Restoration Family - May 13 at 11:43 AM

OF

“ Ovidio and Carmen Lopez and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..



Ovidio and Carmen Lopez and Family - May 13 at 08:37 AM

SF

“ Salmeron Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..



Salmeron Family - May 12 at 08:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..



May 12 at 08:16 PM

GB

“ Gateway First Bank purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..



Gateway First Bank - May 12 at 05:15 PM

GR

“ *Gina Ruiz purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..*



Gina Ruiz - May 12 at 01:57 PM

EF

“ *Eddie and Ayda Montalvo and family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Rudy Ruiz, Sr..*



Eddie and Ayda Montalvo and family - May 11 at 06:25 PM