

Miguel "Mike" Valdez Jr.

May 21, 1936 - June 11, 2021

Our father was a great man. He was a mentor, manager, coach, soldier, president, and even a knight. He was a loving and compassionate man and a faithful servant of the Lord. Most importantly, he was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a brother, an uncle, a son, and a friend to many. He selflessly gave his time to this community, touching many lives along the way.

Miguel G. Valdez, Jr. was born in San Antonio, Texas, on May 21, 1936, to Miguel and Guadalupe Valdez. He was the oldest of their five children, the only son and big brother to sisters Olivia, Helen, Irma, and Mary Lee. He was raised on the east side of San Antonio, attended Emerson Junior High, and graduated from Fox Tech High School. He was an exceptional athlete and played baseball and basketball. One of his favorite stories to tell is when he helped his team win the city basketball championship by making a last-second half-court shot beating Lanier. He loved all sports, but his true love was baseball. He was a talented left-handed pitcher and first baseman. Mike played in various amateur baseball leagues and played on the same team as his father, giving him the unique opportunity to pitch while his father caught.

Mike married Laura Irene Ruiz on July 19, 1959. He adored his wife and never stopped commenting on how beautiful she was, often joking that he had married up. He served in the Army Reserves from 1958 through 1966. He was called to active duty during the Vietnam War but received a deferment because he was the father of two young girls, Sonia Lamar and Rosa Laura (Thumbelina/Tumbo). He worked various jobs from bowling alleys to the shoe department at the San Antonio favorite, Joske's. He eventually gained employment at Kelly Air Force Base inspecting parts for the C-5 cargo planes. He had a long successful career and retired in 1995 after 30 years of service.

Mike began his volunteer service to the community by coaching his sons Mike and Louie in t-ball, basketball, and flag football. He loved coaching, the idea of shaping young lives, keeping them off the streets, showing them how to work together, and having common goals. When his sons became too old, he began coaching his niece Liz's girls CYO

softball team. He coached in several community organizations including Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 5 Diamonds, St. Leo's CYO, and St. Leo's Catholic School through the years; and even led a little league boys baseball team to an undefeated championship season. To this day, he proudly displays the winning baseball signed by those boys. He then coached men's baseball teams at Colt 45 and The Spanish American League, eventually becoming league president. Mike even wrote sports articles for La Prensa, a Spanish News publication.

Events

JUN **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

27

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr, San Antonio, TX, US, 78214

JUN **Rosary** 06:30PM

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Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr, San Antonio, TX, US, 78214

JUN **Funeral Mass** 09:00AM

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St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
4401 S. Flores, San Antonio, TX, US, 78214

JUN **Interment**

28

Mission Burial Park South
1700 SE Military Dr., San Antonio, TX, US, 78214

Comments



“ Love and miss you, Dad.



Sonia - June 30 at 07:54 PM



“ Love and miss you dad.



Sonia - June 30 at 07:53 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to the Valdez family. May he rest in Peace. M. Beltran and Inez Beltran

MANUELITA M BELTRAN - June 27 at 08:54 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Miguel "Mike" Valdez Jr..



June 26 at 03:41 PM



“ Jon, Liz, Kyle, Luke & Erin Green purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Miguel "Mike" Valdez Jr..



Jon, Liz, Kyle, Luke & Erin Green - June 25 at 11:56 PM



“ Mrs. Gloria Mora and Family purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Miguel "Mike" Valdez Jr..



Mrs. Gloria Mora and Family - June 24 at 03:01 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Miguel "Mike" Valdez Jr..



June 24 at 12:20 PM



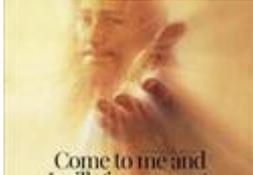
“ Another great Brother In Christ, Warrior Brother & St. Vincentian has gone home to rest.

Thank you Mike for all the years of friendship. It was a honor to work with you back in 1995 at St. Leo's Church St. Vincent de Paul helping our community.

May you Rest In Peace and may the Perpetual Light shine upon you

I'm sure Blackie Riojas, my husband, Jesse Farias, Jesse, Lillie, Mr. Lara and the other SVDP beloved members welcomed you home See you later.

My deepest and most sincere condolences to his family. May our Lord give you all strength during this painful time. Sorry for your loss



Debra Longoria Rivas - June 23 at 11:26 PM