



Azucena Reyes Anteola

November 4, 1951 - December 21, 2023

Azucena Reyes Anteola, who proudly worked with the U.S. military for 40 years and was even more dedicated to loving and caring for her family and friends, died Dec. 21, 2023. She was 72 years old.

Mrs. Anteola, whose nickname was Zeny, battled various health issues for much of the past five years, including serious back surgery in the summer of 2023 and a second round against Myeloma cancer.

A fighter her entire life, Zeny always pushed through any pain, enduring intense physical therapy as well as multiple hospital visits and treatments. It was not until her last trip to the hospital that Zeny finally got to rest in peace as Jesus welcomed her into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Zeny, a woman of strong faith, believed God blessed her with a good life so she could help and inspire others.

She served 20 years in the Air Force, winning various awards and honors throughout her decorated career, including U.S. Air Force Services Superintendent of the Year in 1990. Zeny reached a ranking as high as Senior Master Sergeant.

She had the opportunity to be promoted to the highest level rank of Chief

Master Sergeant and become the first minority female to achieve this role in her career field of services. However, the role would have stationed her away from her family, so Zeny declined the promotion and chose family over career advancement.

In 1993, Senior Master Sergeant Anteola retired from Air Force active duty. Zeny then worked in civil service for the next 20 years, managing the finances for airplane part purchases and serving as a lead logistics management specialist.

Though she accomplished a lot in her extensive career, Zeny would say her greatest achievement is her family and kids. She was married to Johnny Anteola Jr. for 50 years. They met at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc, California. And though the two had a chaperone awkwardly join them on their first date, their relationship blossomed.

At the back of an old photo album, Zeny expressed her love for her dearest husband with a handwritten poem.

"Because you mean so much to me
In every single way
The love that's in my heart
Grows deeper every day"

Together, Johnny and Zeny had three children – Veronica, Bryant-Jon and Christopher. They made sure the kids were raised in a fun, safe and loving household with help from Zeny's youngest sister Susan and their mother "Nanay," who lived with them for some time.

Years later, Zeny was ecstatic the Lord blessed her with grandchildren. "Grandma Zeny" was filled with joy while sharing her unconditional love with

Carina Senia, Matteo Anteola, Leopold Anteola and Lenya "Azucena" Anteola.

She made sure each grandchild as a baby heard her sing her happy little song "A jing, a jing, a jing."

Zeny loved spending time with her grandchildren in person and virtually. She eagerly accepted calls to watch them through FaceTime and Google Duo and sometimes looked at pictures and replayed videos of them over and over on her cell phone to help her fall asleep.

"They make me smile and be relaxed," Zeny wrote in a text. "They're good therapy, mental & emotional."

In addition to raising her family, Zeny always made sure to take care of her other relatives. As the eldest of five children from father Jesse Reyes and mother Fausta Santos Reyes, Zeny felt a responsibility to take care of each of her siblings as much as she could. She was also generous toward extended family and distant relatives, whether sending money to those in the Philippines, treating large groups of family to meals at a restaurant, or cooking and serving Filipino food when visiting her home.

Zeny always hoped her acts of generosity would serve as an example for other family members to follow. But more than anything, Zeny simply wanted to share her love.

She enjoyed telling stories in an animated fashion, often drawing laughs from those listening. She took sincere interest in hearing how family members and friends were doing, and always prayed for each of them. She especially loved talking on the phone with her sisters Magdalena Haskins and Susan Eubanks, sister-in-law Helen Almanzor, longtime best friend Virginia Winstead and her

"Mare BFF" Isadora "Ched" Anselmo.

Zeny also took pleasure in watching people enjoy the food she prepared. Among her memorable dishes were Filipino plates like: pancit made with canton noodles and chicken and shrimp, lumpia filled with ground beef and some chopped vegetables, chicken or pork adobo, as well as sinigang, pinakbet, kare-kare and afritada.

"Your Mom's cooking is the best," husband Johnny Anteola often would say.

Many of her coworkers over the years agreed, lining up quickly during office potlucks to make sure they got to try some of Zeny's food.

Among the loving relatives who Zeny is survived by is her close niece Elaine Eubanks, who took gentle care of her "Auntie Zeny" as her health declined. "Lola Zeny" also felt a close bond with her great-niece Tennessee, who was essentially an honorary grandchild.

"I'm so lucky to have beautiful grandchildren," Grandma Zeny often said. "My grandchildren are my blessing."

During her final days on earth, Zeny opened a few Christmas presents from her grandkids and hugged them tight. She expressed to her daughter-in-law Leigh Anteola how happy and proud she was that her grandchildren had become so loving, caring and giving.

Zeny always got emotional and teary-eyed when she had to part ways with her family, whether after lengthy trips or short vacations.

But she never wanted people to worry about her.

She just hoped that her loved ones would always look out for each other.

"Love you all so much," Zeny wrote in a text following one of her trips to California. "Take care. Already missing you guys."

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation

give.themmr.org @ <https://themmr.org/?campaign=470475>

Reception to follow at Lin's International Buffet 7915 W. Loop 1604 N San Antonio, TX 78254

Cemetery Details

Resurrection at Cordi - Marian Cemetery

11624 Culebra Road
San Antonio, TX 78253

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 4. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive
San Antonio, TX 78230

Rosary

JAN 4. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive
San Antonio, TX 78230

Funeral Mass

JAN 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Claret Catholic Church
6150 Roft Road
San Antonio, TX 78253

Interment with Military Honors

JAN 5. 11:30 AM (CT)

Resurrection Cemetery at Cordi - Marian
11624 Culebra Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78253

Tribute Wall

VI

“ We shared so many fun memories together for over 45 years. As years pass by we grew more closer not even as a friend, but a sister. We cried and laughed together. We had encountered difficulties but we always overcome them . We both love sharing notes that we loved each other.

The Lord blessed you with great intellectual abilities to help others, like me. No matter what the nature of such a problems you're willing to lend a hand without anything in return. I'd say for those who don't get to know you and didn't closer, they didn't know what they missed.

We shared so many fun and wonderful things together through the years, like when we were pregnant, after I had the baby I sent you the maternity clothes and after you give birth and I get pregnant you send me back the clothes. You and I both inflicted with cancer and we both lost our hair. You send me the wig among other things after your hair had grown back. Again those sharing and giving to one another are the most precious things and memories that never forgotten.

I love you so and I know I will miss.

I'm deeply grieved for you passing early but I know deep within The Good Lord call you home with Him so you don't have to suffer anymore pains.

Carina, Matteo, Leo, and Lenya are going to be alright. They have a good parents who loves and take care of them.

You rest now and be with Jesus forever.

Love you and always miss you! ~ Viring

Virginia - January 05, 2024 at 02:46 PM

HW

“ Johnny, BJ, Veronica and Christopher my deepest condolences to you all. Your mom was an awesome coworker and friend. She will be greatly missed. I am truly thankful she showed me how to make her delicious egg rolls last February. She was an incredible cook and I never once ate anything of hers I didn't absolutely love. May she rest in eternal peace. Love you Zeny.



Harriet Willingham - January 05, 2024 at 12:31 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



January 04, 2024 at 11:08 AM

TS

“ Terry Binns and Doug Sheward planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Azucena Reyes Anteola.

Terry Binns and Doug Sheward - January 04, 2024 at 11:08 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



January 04, 2024 at 11:07 AM

GL

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Uncle Johnny, Veronica, BJ, and Chris. The last time I spoke with Auntie Zeny, she was at home recovering from surgery. As we talked on the phone, I could just picture that happy smile on her face. I hope you all take comfort in the wonderful memories you shared together and that beautiful smile of hers. May she rest in peace. Our deepest sympathy and love, Gail, Jason, Elsa, Lauren & Alexandra

Gail Lazo - January 03, 2024 at 11:54 PM

AA

“ Tita Zeny has always been supportive of my family, Ria, Jared and Aidan. She will be sorely missed. Our hearts go out to Veronica, BJ, Chris and their families and Uncle Johnny and the rest of the Anteola family. With love, AJ

AJ Almanzor - January 03, 2024 at 07:43 PM

PL

“ Pete and Liana purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



Pete and Liana - January 03, 2024 at 05:37 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



January 02, 2024 at 11:54 AM

WF

“ Wilfred Shipley and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Azucena Reyes Anteola.

Wilfred Shipley and family - January 02, 2024 at 11:54 AM

IA

“ Isadora A. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Azucena Reyes Anteola.

Isadora A. - December 31, 2023 at 04:00 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



December 31, 2023 at 03:13 PM

MI

“ It was so awesome that my Mom and I got to spend some time with Auntie Zeny in September! I especially enjoyed the time it was just her and I and Carina and she was telling me stories of Grandma (Anteola). I could sit and listen to her all day. She made my favorite Filipino dish when we got to Texas too. (She remembered what my Dad would cook for me and my family) She told me next time we come she was going to make the other favorite dishes I liked. She was the best cook! I will miss our random texts, her cooking and all of the stories she knew. Her world was her family, especially her grandkids. She was so loved and had so much love to give. May she rest in peace now. Love and miss you Auntie Zeny❤️



Michele - December 31, 2023 at 08:47 AM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



December 30, 2023 at 07:54 PM

FC

“ Frank C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Azucena Reyes Anteola.

Frank C. - December 30, 2023 at 07:54 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



December 30, 2023 at 06:46 PM

RW

“ Back when I was just starting my life as an Airman, I remember going into the building where they "can and pickle" you. Anyone who has been in the service knows that's where you get fitted for your BDUs. I was called aside by one of my T.I.s, SSGT. Hoop, and asked if I had any family in the military and I yelled, "Sir, Yes sir!" He said there was no need to say it aloud as he was informing me that one of my family members was here to see me. I was "Oh NO!" This was not good because if the T.I.s know you're a BRAT, they could make it more difficult for you in training just for shits and giggles. He told me "I pulled you aside so you wouldn't be singled out." I said "Thank You sir." I still had no idea who exactly who it was. Then he said, "she's inside waiting for you." I was like, "it's my Aunt?" And it was. I guess my folks had her check on me? They could've sent my Uncle as he was stationed at the same base. But I guess cuz she had more stripes at the time, and it would be more intimidating to the other Sgts as she was in uniform and was a SMsgt. Ha ha! She looked at me and asked how I was doing and if I got the uniforms I needed for training. I responded, "just fine ma'am, yes ma'am". "Are you excited?" She asked. I replied, "I'm just hoping to get through all this ma'am." I was answering as if I didn't know her and she was just making small talk checking on all the airman as they were getting their gear. We didn't have the same last name so it was as if I was in the clear from any favoritism. But then she told me she wished me the best and blurted out to the other Sgts. "If I hear anything bad happens to this airman, heads are gonna roll! Is that clear?" And all I heard was "Yes ma'am!" And my head just sank and I said to myself, "I'm screwed," ha ha
Love and miss you Auntie ~ Rick

Rick Winstead - December 30, 2023 at 03:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



December 30, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Barde Reyes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Azucena Reyes Anteola.

Barde Reyes - December 30, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Nicole O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Azucena Reyes Anteola.

Nicole O. - December 29, 2023 at 04:02 PM



“ Phi Iota Tau Honor Society purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



Phi Iota Tau Honor Society - December 29, 2023 at 03:57 PM

PS

“ *Phi Iota Tau Honor Society planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Azucena Reyes Anteola.*

Phi Iota Tau Honor Society - December 29, 2023 at 03:57 PM



“ *72 files added to the album Memories Album*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - December 29, 2023 at 01:53 PM

FL

“*Sis. Zeny joined the Phi Iota Tau Honor Society in 1970. She was then, as she would be to those who would know her later, a generous, engaged, determined, and courageous person. In an organization composed of the top students of the then 25,000-student FEATI University, she was recognized by her colleagues as the organization’s “1971 Scholar of the Year.” Even then, hers was already a life committed to the pursuit of excellence.*

We teased her about sounding like the exuberant Zeny Reyes during her university days whenever she talked about Carina, Matteo, and Leopold. You can’t help but be amazed at how grateful and joyful she was for the blessings she had been given- despite the health issues. She was one of those rare people who, even as she shares about her health challenges, ends up lifting you up with her courage and unyielding faith. She was then, has been, and will always be, one remarkable lady!

Bro. Fred Loyola- PIT68



Fred Loyola - December 28, 2023 at 09:01 PM

CB

“*The Lone Honor Society, Phi Iota Tau is so grateful and honored to have Sis Zeny Reyes Anteola as a member, for she's really a good example of a fine and respectable sister to us. With her being gone, her family can only be consoled by the thought that she is now resting and at peace with the Lord. Her memories will remain with us always.*

Ching Burke - December 27, 2023 at 10:51 PM

PS

✝️ Prayers offered for the repose of the soul of Sister Zeny Anteola ✝️



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Her O Lord. And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her. May She Rest in Peace Amen 🙏🙏🙏. Sis Zeny will be always in our memories. Sincere Condolence to the family. 🙏✝️

Peter Siglos - December 27, 2023 at 11:31 PM



Gilbert Magbuta

Rest in peace our dear Sister Zeny.

Sincerest condolences to her family.

Gilbert Magbutay - December 30, 2023 at 07:17 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Azucena Reyes Anteola.



December 27, 2023 at 06:45 PM

LT

“ Loyd and Josie Troy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Azucena Reyes Anteola.

Loyd and Josie Troy - December 27, 2023 at 06:45 PM