



## Benjamin "Ben" Mata, Jr.

March 26, 1995 - August 13, 2021

Benjamin "Ben" Mata Jr, at the young age of 26, tragically died in an auto accident, and went to his Heavenly home on Friday August 13, 2021.

Benjamin is survived by his adoring wife, Alyssa A Perez, and his three four-legged children; Titan, Harley, and Coco ("Topee-Topee"); his father, Benjamin Govea Mata, Sr. mother Gina Cortez, step father Tom Starr, his seven (7) sisters, Jamie Vivian Zylstra (and her wife Diana) Bobbie Lee Mata (and her boyfriend Evan Keaton) Danielle Nicole Starr, Naheli Mata, Gauddy Mata, Maria Mata, Grecia Mata, Rebecca McCord-Starr, Britany Ibarra; brother Thomas Starr and a whole host of friends Ben called "FAMILY".

Benjamin was a well decorated high school athlete — winning awards in both football and track and field - All District in both. Ben graduated from Medina Valley HS in 2013 where he met the love of his life – Alyssa Perez.

Ben's "children" are all four-legged charmers. While "Harley" joined his family in 2009, "Titan" came into his life in 2014. Ben loved his dogs to a fault, but nothing compares to the love he has for Alyssa.

Ben and Alyssa began their life together right after she graduated in 2016 as they faced life's challenges and victories side by side. "Coco" joined this little family in 2019 and Ben set out to make the way for him and his beautiful

family.

Ben was a fan of food and fun – from oysters, octopus and all things of the sea, to red hot peppers that would make the strongest man cry, Ben ate well and played hard, fearlessly riding his dirt bike with total abandonment, (and a scratch or bruise or two every now and then just to prove he conquered it!)

Not easily discouraged, Ben was driven to be a successful business man and entrepreneur – flipping and selling cars from a young age, recently forming a transportation LLC, and pursuing real estate investments with his “brother” Daniel Haygood. Ben was known to decide what he wanted and put his mind to get it done!

While not a religious man, Ben was clearly humbled and grateful to his Heavenly Father. Known by any who shared a meal with him, Ben never ate a bite without saying his “thanks” as he humbly bowed his head to pray.

Ben had a heart made of pure gold – his love, compassion, generosity, and empathy extended to those closest to his heart as well as strangers he saw in need on the street. Ben’s contagious smile, motivation and determination infected us all the moment he entered the room. Ben’s smile lit the room and lit the world of all who loved him.

Ben was driven by a sense of personal perfection on the outside as well – Ben was all about CLASS - conscientious about cleanliness, he was always clean, fresh smelling and fashionably dressed. Ben dedicated to maintaining his finely tuned body running and worked out on a regular basis. Throughout his life, Ben never let a physical injury slow him down, but pushed through twists, turns, and sprains, always proud to show all he could muscle through it!

While Ben was dedicated to those related by blood - Ben was an amazing

friend to those he called “family”. Ben was a driven force to be reckon with – known by all those he called family as a great protector. Ben was a reliable friend and confidant like none other. Be it blood family or friend, Ben was the light of any path he took and he never gave up on those he loved

A precious part of our hearts is gone but etched in what is left behind is a treasured memory of a smile that will inspire and encourage until eternity.

### SERVICES

Visitation will begin at 1:00 P.M. followed by the Service at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, August 20, 2021 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, 3401 Cherry Ridge Drive.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 20. 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Service

AUG 20. 2:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

# Tribute Wall

LE

“ To the Mata Family, I send my love and condolences. I grew up with Bobbie, and she was one of my best friends through elementary, middle, and high school. I know how much her siblings meant to her. I also attended high school with Ben. We came from such a small community where we all grew up together. My prayers & thoughts go out to the Mata family and everyone who was apart of Bens life.

— Lyndsie Esquivel

---

**Lyndsie Esquivel** - August 20, 2021 at 09:42 PM

JG

“ Jessica Garcia purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Benjamin "Ben" Mata, Jr..



---

**Jessica Garcia** - August 20, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Benjamin "Ben" Mata, Jr..



---

August 20, 2021 at 10:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Benjamin "Ben" Mata, Jr..*



---

August 20, 2021 at 09:43 AM



“ *Brittany Ybarra  
a day ago*

*Bj you were an amazing person and human being. You always had a smile on your face & were so kind to everyone. Always joking around making everyone laugh.. My girls & I will always remember how you made us feel like family. You always had a smile, welcoming us with hugs as soon as we would walk in. Your kindness meant the world to me. It always will. You will never be forgotten. Rest in paradise until we meet again brother.*

---

**Brittany Ybarra** - August 19, 2021 at 01:21 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



---

**Alyssa** - August 19, 2021 at 04:46 AM

HH

“ He always had a smile on his face! He was such a great athlete with so much potential. He certainly was too young to leave this Earth for his place in Heaven. Prayers for those who he left behind.

---

**HHaby** - August 18, 2021 at 10:09 PM

GO

“ My condolences to the Mata and Starr family. I coached Ben for 4 years at MVHS. He was our varsity running back his junior and senior years. He also ran track for me. Ben always gave a 100 on the game field. He was always ready for Friday night football. Rest in Peace #5.

*Coach Gustavo Ortiz*

*Former Medina Valley Football Coach*

*Head Track Coach*

*Brennan High School*

---

**Gus Ortiz** - August 18, 2021 at 04:54 PM

GC

“ My handsome baby had a heart of steel, whoever got to know him knew who he was and what he was about, regardless of his mistakes in life he was learning from them ,to make them right so I can be proud of him but in my heart no matter what I loved him dearly with all of my heart and he truly new it, but his life was taken too soon and momma will see you soon my Love! These are the BEST of 26yrs you gave me and so many memories I got to share with you... while my heart aches for you,,,I will never ever forget you Mijo 🕊️ May you RIP Love you. Mom

---

**Gina Cortez** - August 18, 2021 at 04:10 PM

TS

“ *Bj I will truly miss you I will continue to keep working out coach and dedicate my workouts to you I will drive myself hard and push myself like you would push and encourage me I will make you proud I Love you and I will miss you everyday for the rest of my life you are in my heart forever Love you Son*

---

**Tom Starr** - August 18, 2021 at 12:33 PM

BY

*Bj you were an amazing person and human being. You always had a smile on your face & were so kind to everyone. Always joking around making everyone laugh.. My girls & I will always remember how you made us feel like family. You always had a smile, welcoming us with hugs as soon as we would walk in. Your kindness meant the world to me. It always will. You will never be forgotten. Rest in paradise until we meet again brother.*

---

**Brittany Ybarra** - August 18, 2021 at 02:41 PM