



## Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr.

November 8, 1951 - January 9, 2025

Daniel G. Rodriguez, Jr., was a community leader, union organizer, and a man of integrity. He served his community in countless ways, great and small, through the strength of his character and a commitment to equality in all forms. Dan listened more than he spoke. He was unpretentious. And he had the rare ability to connect with others through empathy and straight talk. He died in his home, surrounded by his family, and listening to the music he loved, on January 9, 2025, after a valiant and hard-fought battle with cancer. Danny was born on November 8, 1951, in Laredo, Texas. He was the oldest son of 11 children born to Sofia (Garza) and Daniel Rodriguez, Sr. Sofia's philosophy about equality and justice shaped her son: "El que sabe amar es el que sabe más."

As a kid, Danny lived with his family at the Casiano Homes on the Westside of San Antonio, and later, in his teens in the Veramendi Courts. Danny was admired by his 5 brothers and adored by his 5 sisters: Rita, Laura, Rene, Annette, Hilda, Linda, Isaac, Agustin, Hector, and Rudy. When Danny was an 8th grader at Edgewood Junior High, he saw a petite, pretty girl at a football game. He was mesmerized. It was Diana Cardenas, and she was a high school freshman. Undeterred, Danny courted Diana persistently for the next 5 years until she agreed to marry him. They married in 1970, 5 months after Danny's graduation from Kennedy High School.

Danny's call was community service. As a teen, he worked for the City of San Antonio as a Community Service Officer in the housing projects. Later, Danny played a role in the City's early efforts to empower at-risk, inner-city youth. From 1971 to 1983, Danny worked for the City's Community Relations Drug Inhalant Prevention Program and various other social work efforts in the Alazan-Apache, Casiano, Viramendi, San Juan, and Mirasol – areas of San Antonio previously known as La Tripa, La Blanca, El Charco and El Ghost Town. He was also involved with the Brown Berets, Mexican American Youth Organization, and Raza Unida. Danny was not only a positive influence on Westside teens, he also offered practical help. Dan helped young men get their G.E.D.'s and learn trades. Decades after Danny left the barrio, complete strangers stopped Danny in the street and on the bus to thank him for his counsel and easy-going redirection.

Naturally, when Dan became a bus driver for VIA Metropolitan Transit in 1983, he was drawn to leadership in the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 694 ("ATU"). Dan launched the Health and Welfare Fund, which still today offers free financial aid to union members in the event of an emergency. No questions asked. For over 33 years, Dan drove a bus for VIA and he served the ATU and its 1,000 members: drivers, mechanics, station attendants and transit support personnel. Dan was elected to one term as Vice-President and 4 terms as President, for a total of 15 years on the Executive Board. Dan was a strategic negotiator. In 2015, he successfully negotiated a paid holiday for VIA employees in honor of Cesar Chavez, the legendary civil rights leader. It would be another 7 years before the City of San Antonio would do the same for its workers.

Although Dan retired in 2016, he is still remembered at VIA for his fierce advocacy but also his creativity in collaborations. His word was solid, and his handshake was sufficient to seal agreements. Among VIA executives, Dan was deeply respected and "he earned every bit of that respect." Dan received

numerous honors, including the Si Se Puede Spirit Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Cesar E. Chavez Legacy and Educational Foundation and induction into the Latino American Who's Who. Dan was active in the AFL-CIO and local Democratic politics. He voted in every election. In 2024, despite a daunting medical diagnosis and extreme physical pain, Dan swore he would vote early and in-person in the Presidential election. And he did.

Together for 54 years, Danny and Diana shared un amor eterno. They have 4 children: Sonia, Daniel III, Kristy, and Javier, who each in their own ways strive to emulate their dad. Danny and Diana faithfully nurtured their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren: Sonia, Jon, Violet, and Sofia; Daniel III, Alejandra, Jason, Taii, Danielle, Jamison, Jessica, and Diego; Kristy; Javi, April, Alora, and Tristan. And they were showered with the hugs, kisses, and giggles of 5 great-grandchildren: Ava, Maia, Camilla, Ameila, and Aidan. Over the last 8 years, Dan was also eventually won over by the persistent loyalty of his canine companion, Chico. Danny is loved and admired by his family, including his Tío Tomas Garza, dozens of cuñados, nietos, primos, and a multitude of camaradas. Danny will be remembered for his generosity, colorful maldiciones, chiding humor, and an unshakable commitment to human dignity and workers' rights. C/S

# Cemetery Details

## Mission Burial Park South

1700 SE Military Dr.  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
<http://www.missionparks.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 16. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories  
1700 SE Military Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 924-4242  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Memorial Rosary

JAN 16. 6:30 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories  
1700 SE Military Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 924-4242  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Visitation

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JAN 17. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories  
1700 SE Military Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 924-4242  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Celebration of Life

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JAN 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories  
1700 SE Military Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 924-4242  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Condolences from cousin Mario Rodriguez and family. Rest in peace in the arms of the angels.* 🙏❤️



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**Donna Rodriguez** - January 16, 2025 at 06:56 PM



“ *Maria E Villarreal lit a candle in memory of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr.*



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**Maria E Villarreal** - January 16, 2025 at 06:51 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..*



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January 16, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ *Olga David Salomon purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..*



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**Olga David Salomon** - January 16, 2025 at 03:25 PM

MF

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Romo & Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..*



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**Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Romo & Family** - January 16, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..*



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January 16, 2025 at 11:05 AM

PG

“ *So proud to be your niece Tio. Reading about the great things you did for our community and the people you knew. Growing up I never knew the great things you did just you you were great! My mom adored her big brother Danny and asked you a million times if you loved her lol I'm so proud to be you niece , Tio! Rest peacefully -with Love Pamela, Giovanni, Danelle, Selena and Sofia*



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**pamela Guerra** - January 15, 2025 at 11:27 PM

AC

“ Adolph&Lidia Urrutia Family My Condole lit a candle in memory of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr.



Adolph&Lidia Urrutia family my condole - January 15, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..



January 15, 2025 at 08:37 PM

NL

“ This obituary is perfect in every way. I'm so very proud to be your niece and to have called you Tio. Tio Danny set the bar and tone in our family to be the best person you can be and lead with excellence. We know you're with the greats now, Grandma Grandpa and Gino, Rose and the countless family members that left us to join our Father in Heaven. Tia Diana and my primos we are praying for you, during this time of grief. May God give you peace and comfort that only He can provide. Love Your Niece Nina

Nina Levis - January 15, 2025 at 06:38 PM

CJ

“ Our deepest condolences to the Rodriguez family. May God give you and the family strength through this. Sending prayers. God Bless  
Carlos and Kathy Juarez 🙏

CARLOS JUAREZ - January 15, 2025 at 03:00 PM

TF

“ *The Campos Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..*



The Campos Family - January 15, 2025 at 12:39 PM

SS

“ *My sincere condolences to the Rodriguez family. As a classmate of Danny at Kennedy High School, also graduating in 1970, I remember Danny as an easy-going friend. I was fortunate to connect with him several years ago at a retirement celebration for a fellow driver. May he rest in peace.*

Samuel R. Suarez - January 15, 2025 at 09:10 AM

LS

*Rest in peace my Lovely brother Danny I will cherish all the great memories you left me with I will miss you a lot I don't know how long I will be hurting fr your passing Love you My brother have great memories of you that I will cherish and forever loving you forever I will cherish everything talks together and always will tell how much he care for me and to always stay strong and Beautiful ❤️🙏😊 may you rest in Peace my brother*

Laura Guerra Danny sister - January 15, 2025 at 06:31 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..*



January 15, 2025 at 08:30 AM

FF

“ From the Mata family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..



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**From the Mata family** - January 14, 2025 at 10:14 PM

RC

“ Rudy, Norma, & Diane De La Cruz purchased the *Forever Our Angel Bouquet* for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..



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**Rudy, Norma, & Diane De La Cruz** - January 14, 2025 at 10:13 PM

GG

“ Known Danny since our teens in basketball tournaments. He was always the same. From the courts to our employment at VIA. I honestly feel that knowing Dan for the majority of my life was a true blessing. Condolences to his family.

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**Gerald Guerra** - January 14, 2025 at 11:45 AM

BR

“ Bruce & Sherry Williams, April Rodriguez purchased the *Strength & Solace Spray* for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..



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**Bruce & Sherry Williams, April Rodriguez** - January 14, 2025 at 10:39 AM

NR

“ *My sincerest condolences to Diana and the Rodriguez family. Keeping the family in my prayers. May he rest in peace.*  
*Dr. Norma Ramirez*  
*Kingsville, Texas*

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**Noma Ramirez** - January 14, 2025 at 10:27 AM

JG

“ *My deepest condolences to his wife and family. I'll never forget Dan's smile during our conversation. Dan was a great guy to talk to. He always listen to what you had to say and listen to any point of view you had. I grew up in the Barrio too, so that's probably why we clicked, as we would talk back in those days. I always had a lot of respect for him and will always remember him as a great friend. RIP My Friend.*

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**JAVIER A GONZALEZ** - January 13, 2025 at 11:19 PM

RV

“ *Dan was completely a outstanding person. I got to know Dan at Via, we were both bus operators and shared much time at our job..Dan walked the building slowly,always listening to others and building friendships.. If there was a good joke,he laughed the hardest..his demeanor to others gave him the opportunity to be elected our Union President..he did his best also he gave his best to Via..He will be missed. R.I.P, your friend. Rudy Valdez..*

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**Rudy Valdez** - January 13, 2025 at 09:31 PM

JB

“ Janet Barnes lit a candle in memory of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr.



Janet Barnes - January 13, 2025 at 08:45 PM

KB

“ Kanet Barnes lit a candle in memory of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr.



Kanet Barnes - January 13, 2025 at 08:44 PM

DE

“ My deepest condolences to you and your family.



Diana Evans - January 13, 2025 at 07:56 PM

AM

“ To my lovely brother you will be missed. You were an amazing brother whom I looked up to. You will always be in our hearts. Rest in peace brother . Love you forever your little sister Annette and brother in-law Hector Mata y family.

annette mata - January 13, 2025 at 07:37 PM

MP

“ Sending lots of love and prayer for the Rodriguez Family. I was saddened with the news of this great man passing. I had the pleasure of meeting Dan Rodriguez, his two sons and his brother Rene in 2013. That April of 2013 was when my employment with Via started. Few months into being employed, I ran into some hard times. I had heard other union members saying they would go to union bank and get loans. So I said, why not, I'm new to this bank but I am a union member, I will try it out. When I get to the bank, I saw other union members there and I remember asking what all is needed to get a small loan. They asked how long I had been employed with via. I answered with just couple months. They said sorry, you're going to need a cosigner, another member of the union. I asked the teller at the bank, if he was a union member he answered yes and then I asked if everyone else in here is union, he answered majority of them. I thought, nobody here will sign for me. I got it though, I was a new guy. The teller mentions, go to the union office, they'll find you someone to sign for you. That was my first time going to union office. I remember walking into the office. I didn't know where to go or who to speak with. I just opened the door, and saw stairs. A man upstairs calls me in. That man was Dan. He introduced himself to me and asked how can he help me. I mentioned I went to the bank and was told I need someone to sign for me on a small loan. Mr. Dan Rodriguez didn't ask me anything besides are you a union member, I answered yes and he said ok Mr. Prieto good enough for me, I believe you're going to be a good union memeber. I'm going to sign for you. I was blown away and surprised how fast he signed. I had great experiences meeting all the Rodriguez Family that were employed at Via at that time. The Rodriguez Family, you all are in my thoughts and prayers. Much love and condolences to you all during this time.

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Moses Prieto - January 13, 2025 at 05:38 PM

JC

Condolences to the family 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

James E Coleman - January 13, 2025 at 11:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr..



January 13, 2025 at 03:45 PM

SM

“ Sandra Martinez lit a candle in memory of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr.



Sandra Martinez - January 12, 2025 at 09:53 PM

AM

Danny you were an amazing brother. We will missed you . We will always have you in our hearts . Love you forever your little sister Annette and Héctor 🙏

annette mata - January 13, 2025 at 03:55 PM

ND

“ Norma DeLaCruz lit a candle in memory of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr.



Norma DeLaCruz - January 11, 2025 at 08:47 PM

DC

“ Proud to have had you as my uncle, we will take good care of Aunt Diana. I'm sure our family in heaven welcomed you with open arms. Rest in peace till we meet again. Dee Dee



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**Diane De La Cruz** - January 11, 2025 at 07:17 PM

RV

“ Roger Z & Sandra P Villarreal lit a candle in memory of Daniel G. Rodriguez Jr.



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**Roger Z & Sandra P Villarreal** - January 11, 2025 at 04:45 PM