



## Elva Lee Zemis Pagel

August 25, 1930 - December 18, 2020

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Elva Lee (Huskey) Zemis Pagel was born on August 25, 1930 in San Antonio, Texas to Chester Huskey and Dorothy Faz Huskey. As a young child Elva lived in the San Antonio area with her great grandmother Beatrice Cardenas Rodriguez Thomas (Mama Chiquita), her grandmother Elva Rodriguez Huskey Medina (Mama Grande) and her younger brother, Chester Jr. At one time they lived in a house in Berg's Mill and one of Elva's childhood memories was that of ringing the bells for mass at nearby Mission San Juan Capistrano. She and her brother ran free, fishing and swimming in the San Antonio River, bringing home fish for Mama Chiquita to fry up for dinner. It was this early talent and love for fishing that continued throughout her life. Graduating from Breckenridge High School in 1948 and after taking a job at an insurance company, Elva met Jack Zemis, a young New Yorker and Air Force serviceman, at the Catholic USO. They married in 1949 and started their family. They lived with "Granny" (Mama Grande) until they could afford to buy a home in Dellview, one of the new suburbs of San Antonio. It was there they became charter members of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church. With four children Elva devoted her life to her children's activities including baseball, softball, and Girl Scouts. She received the St. Agnes award for service and

leadership in scouting. She continued to be a member of the St. Gregory's choir long after her children had graduated from high school and left home. Jack passed away in 1989. Elva married John Pagel in 1998 and they eventually moved to Aransas Pass and lived there until his death in 2010. She returned to San Antonio where she continued to participate in the St. Gregory's choir and mentored students at Kuentz Elementary in Helotes. She enjoyed trips with her special friend, Gerry Gueldner until his death in 2018. The last two years of her life were spent at Villas de San Antonio. It was there that she developed many more friendships over games of Mexican Train, poker and Canasta.

Elva is preceded in death by her beloved grandmother Elva Medina, father Chester Huskey; 1st husband, Jack Zemis, 2nd husband, John Pagel; brother, Chester Huskey, Jr.; and her daughter in law, Karen Zemis. Elva is survived by her daughters, Cindy Morris (James), Julie Zemis and Elaine Fischnar (Matthew); son, Russell Zemis; and grandchildren, Misti Brown (Mark), Caitlin Morris, Carly Christopher (Clayton); great-grandchildren, James and Charlotte Christopher.

#### SERVICES

Visitation will be held on Sunday, January 3, 2021 from 6:00pm-9:00pm, with a Rosary at 7:00pm at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, where it will be live streamed. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 1:00pm at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, with interment to follow at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family requests gifts be sent in her honor to St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, the Helotes Humane Society, or the San Antonio Food Bank.

For personal acknowledgement, you may sign the online guestbook at [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com) in the Tributes section.

MISSION PARK FUNERAL CHAPELS NORTH  
3401 CHERRY RIDGE DR.  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78230  
(210) 349-1414

# Cemetery Details

## Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 3. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

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

## Rosary

JAN 3. 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Mass

JAN 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church  
700 Dewhurst  
San Antonio, TX 78213  
(210) 342-0281

## Interment

JAN 4 (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery  
1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of Elva Lee Zemis Pagel*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - January 03, 2021 at 11:24 AM

GJ

*Our sincerest condolences. The Juarez family*

Gilbert and Deborah Juarez - January 03, 2021 at 08:05 PM

CH

“ *Elva you will always have a special place in my heart I will miss you dearly. May God bless each and everyone of you today and everyday 🙏 My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.*

Christine Hoog - January 03, 2021 at 02:27 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elva Lee Zemis Pagel.*



January 03, 2021 at 01:33 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elva Lee Zemis Pagel.*



January 02, 2021 at 12:06 PM



“ *Love, Carly, Clayton, James and Charlotte purchased the Divine Light for the family of Elva Lee Zemis Pagel.*



**Love, Carly, Clayton, James and Charlotte** - December 31, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elva Lee Zemis Pagel.*



December 30, 2020 at 10:13 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Cindy Zemis Morris** - December 30, 2020 at 02:20 PM

CM

*Thanks for the years of Girl Scouting*

**Cindy Zemis Morris** - December 30, 2020 at 02:22 PM

EF

*Thanks for being the Cookie Chair too 😊*

**elaine Fischnar** - December 30, 2020 at 02:26 PM

GD

*Dear Cindy, Elaine, Julie and Russell,  
Chuck and I send our condolences and prayers to each of you. Elva was a lovely lady and a good friend of our family. Her loving and giving heart touched us and many others. She was a sweet companion to dad and they enjoyed many fun times together. We send our love and know she is in God's living arms and rejoicing in her heavenly home. Cindy, what memories of those girl scouting days with both of our moms! Hold the memories you have close to your hearts. God bless you with His healing hand. Hugs and love.  
Chuck and Ginger (Gueldner) Dicker*

**Ginger Gueldner Dicker** - January 02, 2021 at 10:39 AM

GD

*Our deepest sympathy is sent to you from our hearts to yours.?*

**Ginger Gueldner Dicker** - January 02, 2021 at 10:44 AM

MB

*“ So blessed we got to celebrate your 90th birthday with you!*



**Misti Fischnar Brown** - December 30, 2020 at 01:49 PM

MB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Misti Fischnar Brown - December 30, 2020 at 09:49 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Elva Lee Zemis Pagel.



December 29, 2020 at 09:57 PM

EF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



elaine Fischnar - December 29, 2020 at 08:46 PM

GK

*I miss my dearest Friend so very much here at the Villa. Each time I walk by Her door, a deep place in my heart hurts without Her gentle, loving Spirit to comfort and built me up. She was a very Special Women!!! She was gift from God for Me!!*

Gladys Kana - January 03, 2021 at 10:53 PM