



Gabriela Garza Canchola

July 27, 1933 - October 18, 2017

GABRIELA GARZA CANCHOLA

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Gabriela Garza Canchola passed into the arms of Our Heavenly Father peacefully at home at the age of 84 surrounded by all of her loving family. Her intellect, beauty and humble kind nature made her incredibly rare. She was truly a force of nature and our crown jewel. Preceded in death by parents Juan and Fela Garza, sisters Delia Gonzales and Mary Garza (Edward), brother-in-law Arturo Villarreal, daughter-in-law Marie Canchola, and her dedicated husband of 60 years Oscar S. Canchola. Survived by: brother Sergio Garza (Rose), sisters Felicia Villarreal and Minerva Galvan (Paul), children Denise (Phil), Bernadette (Mike), Vincent (Cathy), Teresa (Roger), James (Mache), Thomas, Albert (Leticia), Corina; 12 grand-children and 12 great-grandchildren. A Rosary to be recited at Mission Park North Funeral Home, 3401 Cherry Ridge, Sunday October 29th at 2 P.M. viewing at 1 P.M. The Mass will be held at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 10703 Wurzbach Rd on Monday October 30th at 9 A.M. with procession directly after the service to Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery on Harry Wurzbach Rd for interment.

EARLY LIFE

Born on July 27, 1933 in Weslaco, Texas the third of six children, to parents Juan E. and Felicitas Gonzales Garza

Life in Weslaco was considerably comfortable for young Gabriela where activities revolved around agriculture which helped foster a love of fresh vegetables and fruits. The town water tower would overflow offering a summer cool off. She loved the beach and the black and white lighthouse at South Padre Island which sparked a life-long love for lighthouses.

SAN ANTONIO LIFE

Gabriela was a teenager when the family moved to San Antonio. She attended Sidney Lanier Junior-Senior High School where at that time she was bestowed with the nick name 'Grable' by her best friend, which she has been lovingly referred to since.

Gabriela attended Luther Burbank High School graduating in 1952. Her special interests were Arts & Crafts, Sewing and Math. She was tasked with after school responsibilities such as hand-delivering household bills downtown for payment and by going to work to provide extra money for the family.

Due to a back injury, Gabriela's father lost his employment and it fell upon her mother to provide for the family. One day, Gabriela's mother came to her and asked about how to become an Avon sales representative. Gabriela wrote a letter to Avon in New York using an address from a box of face cream and inquiring about her mother becoming a Sales Representative in San Antonio. Gabriela took her mother to their first Avon meeting high atop the Tower Life Building where Gabriela interpreted for her mother, her desire to start a home Avon business. The Avon Area Manager agreed and was enthusiastic about the idea of a Spanish speaking representative. Gabriela's mother and father went on to build a highly profitable business winning national recognition. Gabriela was proud knowing she helped her parents launch a successful business, which completely sustained their household, until her parents' retirement.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Gabriela was introduced to Oscar as a teen by a mutual friend who attended high school with Oscar at Fox Tech. They married on June 27, 1954 and made San Antonio their home. Oscar began his printing career at The San Antonio Light Newspaper and he joined the Army reserves. Gabriela took secretarial classes and worked at the iconic downtown Solo-Serve Department store.

Soon after marriage her child rearing years began which took all her love, time and attention. Tending to her children's needs, their education and managing a busy household resulted in what Grable would describe as 'raising eight children, three dogs and two cats'. That was more than enough for any strong woman in her own right to accomplish. Gabriela also worked outside the home as a library assistant and teacher's aide. A memorable story was when Gabriela saved the life of a child. She saw one of her students in the infirmary who did not look well. She entered the infirmary, examined the child, and correctly diagnosed him with appendicitis. Gabriela secured emergency services for that child and she always wondered what became of him believing he was destined to be someone special.

Gabriela eventually sought more lucrative employment as a sales associate working first at Winn's Department Store and then at Montgomery Ward. After retiring from sales, she transitioned back to working with children at Mount Olive Lutheran pre-school, where she served as a teaching assistant. Working with children was the love of her life.

ATTRIBUTES

Gabriela was not only a stunning beauty she was a strong intellectual, extremely well read, mechanically oriented, a critical thinker, when under pressure she was 'grace under fire'. Gabriela was sought out for her wise opinions, not only providing solutions but inspiring hope and vision. Gabriela was a peace lover who avoided conflict for herself.

But for others and those who faltered she was a brave and formidable

champion; she was a helper all of her life. Under-estimated, Gabriela's quiet strength of character, wisdom and emotional resilience defined her both as the rock of her family growing up and the cement that kept her children together. Home is always where our mother is.

Gabriela's interests and passions revolved around childhood education and the healing arts. She was a voracious reader, loved to sew and became a master of complex knitting, cross-stitch and crochet. Gabriela gave up her ambition to become a nurse when she became the mother of eight, but she never lost her interest in the nursing profession. Gabriela encouraged her daughters and granddaughters to learn nursing and the medical professions. Denise is a Doctoral level Nurse Practitioner, Bernadette is an RN with an MBA, Teresa obtained a Health Information Management degree, Corina is a Restorative Therapist and Certified Nursing Assistant, daughter in law Leticia, RN is a masters level nursing educator, granddaughter Emily Canchola Hernandez is an RN, granddaughter Lauren deTournillon is an LVN, granddaughter Jaclyn Bishop is a Certified Nursing Assistant and granddaughter Andrea is in her third year in college with her eye on a doctorate in osteopathy.

In the final analysis, Gabriela had all the attributes of a professional nurse. Nursing is the most trusted profession in the country. Although she did not attain nursing education, she inspired her daughters and granddaughters to acquire that wisdom. When family members have fallen ill and they needed someone to protect them as they healed. The nurses in the family who have heroically cared for their loved ones are emulating the spirit of Gabriela Canchola.

Gabriela was in good humor, kept delightfully comfortable and we send a special thanks to Heart to Heart Hospice and our nurse Cathy Campbell RN, her team Yolanda Luna, Maria Soto and Albert, Martha Weiss NP, Krista Murr RN, Rebecca Yuille RN, Chaplain Jeremy Miller, Cynthia Morrison SW. Celeste Tidwell and and Lena Perez RN, from Helping Our Seniors, LLC. And our beloved personal caregivers Rosana Ortiz, Leticia Lopez, and Laura

Bensor.

In lieu of flowers, please donate for research and the cure at the Alzheimer's Association in her name at www.alz.org.

Cemetery Details

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 1:00 PM - 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/>

Rosary

OCT **29**. 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/>

Funeral Mass

OCT **30**. 9:00 AM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church
10703 Wurzbach Rd
San Antonio, TX 78230

Tribute Wall

CT

“ *Celeste Tidwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Gabriela Garza Canchola*



Celeste Tidwell - October 27, 2017 at 02:35 AM

CT

“ *I met Ms Gabi in very early January , she was always so well dressed with beautiful headbands in her hair. I found out very quickly she like musicals and Princess movies / we endulgd in the musical Hairspray , and 2015 cinderella , the Disney movie Enchanted and most recently Malecifiant . She ate so well , lunch was our special time. I think given the yummy sounds she made , sweet potatoes with butter and brown sugar were her favorite . I miss her more than words can say . Thank you lord for placing her in my life , and I hope she gets a chance to meet my 2 grandmothers all in the loving arms of our lord.*



Celeste Tidwell - October 27, 2017 at 02:32 AM

TS

“ *The first time I met Mrs. Canchola, I gave her a hug and told her that she had the most wonderful daughter, Denise. Over the years I got to know all the Canchola children, and everyone in the Canchola family is wonderful. Mrs. Canchola's spirit lives on in her children and her family will be influenced by her forever. Love to all. Theresa Sutter*

Theresa Sutter - October 24, 2017 at 09:44 AM

CL

“ *May she Rest In Peace and she will be missed dearly no more suffering love y'all*



clown_19662002@yahoo.com - October 23, 2017 at 07:29 PM

LP

“ *I LOVING MEMORY OF A BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL LADY, R.I.P.*



Lena perez - October 22, 2017 at 08:22 PM