

## Henry Christopher Ortega

October 12, 1940 - August 17, 2021

Henry Christopher Ortega, beloved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, passed away August 17, 2021, at the age of 80. He was born on October 12, 1940, to Henry L. Ortega and Gladys (Ortega) Moya in San Antonio, Texas.

The eldest of two sons, he attended Burbank High School and then entered the School of Architecture at Texas A&M in College Station. A proud member of the Corps of Cadets, he received his commission into the United States Air Force upon graduation where he served as a second lieutenant for three years. He then followed his dreams and his love for architecture, enjoying a professional career with stops in Boston, New York and Spain before eventually returning to San Antonio.

His social life was filled by gatherings with his fellow Aggie alums, regularly hosting his spiritual men's group, and his service as president and member of the Texas A&M Hispanic Network.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sylvia A. Ortega, of San Antonio; daughter, Lisa M. Ortega, of San Antonio; and daughter Monica Feid, son-in-law Eric Feid and granddaughter Morgan Leigh Feid, of Plano, Texas; along with brother Louis C. Ortega and sister-in-law Sylvia M. Ortega, of San Antonio; a niece, several nephews, numerous cousins and their loving

families.

Due to COVID-19, there will not be a public service. Condolences may be shared on the tribute page and, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Henry C. Ortega, Class of '62, to the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets at <https://member.corpsofcadets.org/give.aspx?action=G&giftType=2&memory=1>.

# Tribute Wall

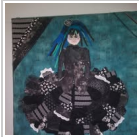
LD

“ *My best friend and best man at our wedding. Thanks for your love and commitment to my professional development and for being there when no one else was.*  
*Larry DeMartino*



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**Larry DeMartino** - September 06, 2021 at 06:42 PM



“ *We are so sorry to hear this sad news. Henry's calm demeanor and joyful personality were something everyone could count on. Remembering all the dinners and tapas our group shared in Utrera.*

*Brian and Ginny Mitchell*

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**Virginia Mitchell** - September 02, 2021 at 09:53 AM

LR

“ *My dear friend, Henry Ortega was a kind and generous man. In 1967, in my move to Watertown, MA., Henry and Sylvia, took me and my family at the time, into their home for two weeks. Later, Martin and Ortega employment in 1973-74. Since those early years, we have maintained a close friendship, and in 2012, culminating with bi-weekly breakfast meetings with fellow San Antonio Aggie Architects (Aggie Vatos). At these breakfast socials, Henry's interest in Texas History, related to early Mexican-American experiences, became our reading material as well. I will thank him forever for that. Adios, my good friend.*

*Lee Reyna*

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**Lee Reyna** - August 30, 2021 at 01:20 PM

MM

“ Please accept my condolences on Henry's death. We have all lost a design colleague who worked to improve his community beyond the limits of his paid commissions. Texas lost a great citizen.  
Michael Murphy '61

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**Michael Murphy** - August 28, 2021 at 01:47 PM

JG

“ Henry was a great Aggie Buddy!! And a super architect!! We shared many hours in the pre-covid years joining with other Aggie Buddies of the Class of '62 in the SA area, and remembering our days in Aggieland. We told each other about our careers and our families, and our love for Texas A & M. I learned more about Henry's love for his family and his beloved San Antonio. We consumed classic mexican food, and planned reunions and other future gatherings. We sized up various Aggie sporting events, especially the football and baseball teams. It is sad that covid broke that connection with me and Henry for the last two years. I would have liked to talk to him more and understand more about his gentle and thoughtful approach to life. Best regards to Henry's family. Grace and peace.  
John German, Class of '62. TAMU

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**John German** - August 26, 2021 at 09:01 PM

CG

“ Henry, I am so grateful that God gave me the gift of your friendship throughout these years. You touched so many hearts with your kindness and with your enthusiasm on every opportunity you had to share it with the world. I learned so much from your passion and love for architecture as your mentee, but most importantly your love for Sylvia, your family, and your friends. When I think of you there’s always a smile on your face, and words of wisdom that keep inspiring me every day. You helped me believe in my dreams and to maintain an adventurous heart always as the key to living a life full of great experiences like you did. Thank you for all the beautiful memories. I know deep in my heart that we’ll meet again and have more of our charlas, and share some good laughs. Sary and I will never forget you, Henry. May God bless you.



*Carlos García*

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**Carlos Garcia** - August 24, 2021 at 10:51 PM

EL

“ Henry made an immediate impact the first time I met him -- warm, present, funny, human. I have seen him with Sylvia and admired their love and joy. He radiated when he told me about his first grandchild! I am blessed to have known him and treasure his wisdom and goodness. Elaine Lang, New Braunfels, Texas

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**Elaine Lang** - August 24, 2021 at 11:42 AM

MG

“ *Sylvia and Family, My condolences for Henry's passing. I knew him as a good architect and friend. I remember you Sylvia, since I worked at Joskes, while working to earn money to go to UT. May the Lord take good care of him. Blessings*  
*Michael Garcia*

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**Michael Garcia** - August 23, 2021 at 06:25 PM

BC

“ *You truly were a spiritual being having a human experience. You taught me spirituality and humanness like no one else. You were a true friend and mentor. I miss you terribly and can't wait until we meet again. God bless you Henry.*



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**Bob Coltrin** - August 23, 2021 at 11:16 AM

MP

“ *When I think of Henry I think of Sylvia. When I spoke to Henry I always felt the love he had for Sylvia and Vs. Henry will be missed but never forgotten. It was always a pleasure seeing his smiling face and kind hearted nature. My condolences and love to Sylvia and the family.* 🙏🥰🌸🌺

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**Mary Paul** - August 22, 2021 at 05:42 AM

JR

“ Henry always made you feel like you were the only person in the room. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word to say! As the proud mother and mother-in-law of Aggies, Henry and I always spoke about our love for Texas A&M! I saw his love for Sylvia each time we all were together! He was kind, attentive, and loving towards her. I can't even imagine the loss his family must be feeling, I was only a friend, and I am heartbroken. Sylvia and family, I pray that your memories will bring you some comfort during this very difficult time. Jaye Ross

Jaye Ross - August 21, 2021 at 09:34 PM

CC

“ What a stand up guy! Very generous of spirit, accepting of all God's people. Henry's whole face smiled when he greeted you, always making sure to look straight into your eyes with warmth. Such an extinguished fine man, who represented the best of humanity. One class act you were Mr. Ortega! You will be missed. Courtney Cody

courtney Cody - August 21, 2021 at 08:46 PM

CR

“ Dear Sylvia and family, my prayers and love goes to you in this painful moments. My condolences for the loss of the wonderful men Henry was. He left a mark of love in so many people and he will be greatly miss 🙏

cristy - August 21, 2021 at 08:30 PM

CR

Dear Sylvia and family, my prayers and love goes to you in this painful moments. My condolences for the loss of the wonderful men Henry was. He left a mark of love in so many people and he will be greatly miss 🙏

cristy - August 21, 2021 at 08:33 PM

MM

“ Henry will be greatly missed by his Aggie Vatos classmates that met every couple of weeks for breakfast. Henry was the most admired member of our group due to his humor, wit, intelligence and overall knowledge. Henry possessed everything that anyone would want in a true friend, warmth, compassion, understanding and someone you could always depend upon. Henry was a very talented architect and had a charismatic personality and was someone with whom you always enjoyed being in his presence. Henry, I wish we could have one more occasion when we could share a final abrazo. Farewell, dear friend.

*Mike McChesney*

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**Mike McChesney** - August 21, 2021 at 07:00 PM

LO

“ Brother, I miss you already. Thanks for the wonderful memories of our growing up together. Our fun times will always be remembered. The picnics we had at Guadalupe River were the best. Dad and Mom were always so proud of you being an Aggie. Needless to say I will always cherish that memory. That's why tears come to my eyes when I hear the Aggie Band play. All of your Carvajal family and cousins admired the wonderful gentleman you were. Thank you for always encouraging me and loving me. You were truly a good, caring, and loving brother.

*Love,  
Louis and Sylvia*

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**Louis Ortega** - August 21, 2021 at 04:48 PM

MM

*Henry will be greatly missed by his Aggie Vatos classmates. Henry was always the most admired member of the group who would meet every couple of weeks for breakfast. Without Henry, the meetings will not be as enjoyable, because Henry always brought humor, smarts, wit, information and knowledge into our conversations. Henry possessed everything anyone would want from a true friend, compassion, understanding, trust, humor and someone you could always count on. Henry was also a very talented architect and had a charismatic personality that made you feel good to be in his presence. Henry, I'm sorry we didn't have the opportunity to give you a final abrazo. Farewell, dear friend.*

*Mike McChesney*

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**Mike McChesney** - August 21, 2021 at 05:53 PM

PA

*A gentleman of noble character and honor. Love and support to Sylvia and your family. I shall answer "here" when your name is called at Muster.*

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**Philip Agnew** - August 26, 2021 at 08:43 PM

JS

*Our sincerest condolences to Henry's Family. We will always remember him for his gentle demeanor that always made us feel comfortable and welcome. We will miss that smile and gentlemanly character. Please accept our prayers to assist during this difficult time. Here-Presente!*

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**Joe Jesse & Minnie Sanchez** - August 26, 2021 at 09:54 PM

WN

*My deepest sympathy to Sylvia and Family. Henry and I were architecture classmates at Texas A&M. He was a great person, a loyal Aggie and a terrific architect. The Class of '62 will sorely miss our buddy. Here!*

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**Weldon W Nash** - August 26, 2021 at 10:18 PM