



Henry A. Vidal, Jr.

August 15, 1927 - July 20, 2024

Henry A. Vidal, Jr. died peacefully on July 20, 2024, at his home in San Antonio, TX. He was born on August 15, 1927, in San Antonio, TX, to Henry “Enrique” A. Vidal, Sr. of San Antonio, TX and Louise Williams of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Shortly after the birth of their second child Alex, their mother died, and the two children would live with their grandparents until their father would wed Mary Cortez and start a new family that welcomed siblings Roland R. Vidal and Gloria Vidal Garcia (Rudy). Henry joined the new family and Alex would be raised by his grandparents. Although separated at an early age, Henry would often ride his bicycle across town to visit his brother. They would remain very close all their lives.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Henry, or “Junior” as his parents called him, had a paper route and as the oldest, performed chores at home and watched over his younger brother and sister. He recalls the days when a horse driven ice truck would deliver ice for the refrigerator and one of his chores would be to make sure the drip pan would be emptied as needed. Growing up during the Great Depression, he matured early and learned the value of hard work and being a good provider like his father, who he idolized.

Henry attended Thomas Jefferson High School where he joined the ROTC and played the trumpet. After school hours he worked at Wolf & Marx department store making deliveries. In 1945 immediately after graduation,

WW II was still raging and like so many other brave men of his generation, Henry signed up for the Navy. At 17, he would need his father's permission to join.

Henry returned to San Antonio from the Navy and took on a job at a paint store. He would use this experience later in life and work with his brother Alex painting houses. In 1950, Henry and Alex together decided to take the San Antonio civil service exam for the position of policeman or fireman. They mutually agreed to select fireman and having both done well on the exam, soon began their fire service careers.

Firefighting in the 1950's was different than today. Cadets would go to training school during the day and work at a fire station at night. Their firefighting coats were made of cotton, firefighters were not allowed to wear gloves, they had no breathing apparatus and as was often said, "all the ladders were made of wood...but the firemen were made of steel". Henry and Alex would both achieve the rank of Captain and serve 42 and 44 years respectively.

Henry met and married Mary Louise "Mary Lou" Villareal in 1951. They had three children, sons Henry A. Vidal, III (Nancy) and Paul E. Vidal, Sr. (Sharon) and daughter, Norma J. Vidal.

After Henry and Mary Lou divorced, he found love again with a friend from his high school days and went on to marry Emma E. Flores. He welcomed his stepchildren Linda Reyes, Richard "Rick" A. Reyes, II (Janet), Patricia "Pat" Smith (James) and Raymond Reyes (Patricia).

Henry and Emma were married for 48 years. During their marriage they both enjoyed dancing, traveling and being with family. Their LBJ lake house provided many a memorable weekend with jet skis, fishing, BBQ, and fireworks for family and friends. Henry enjoyed going to the gym, walking,

reading, listening to music, socializing with friends and an afternoon nap. Henry and Emma were inseparable until their union ended in 2018 when Emma passed away after a long illness. During the last years of her life, Henry alone cared for his wife Emma and never left her side.

Henry was a loving son, brother, husband, beloved father, uncle, grandfather and great grandfather. He was a kind, caring, giving man who loved his family dearly. He was this rare person who could not speak ill of anyone or complain about anything. His selflessness, grace and humility in life will always be inspiring to us. And although we miss him greatly, we are thankful to God for having his love in our lives. We will carry it with us forever.

Henry was grandfather to Paul E. Vidal, Jr. (Yuri), Scott T. Vidal, Amanda M. Vidal, Traci Roberts, Matthew Roberts, Richard A. Reyes, III (Amanda) and Angela Reyes (predeceased in death). He was great-grandfather to grandson Nicholas A. Vidal and granddaughters London N. Clark and Olivia R. Vidal.

Henry was preceded in death by his parents, brother Alex Vidal, Sr. and wife, Emma E. Flores Vidal.

A visitation for Henry will be held Thursday, August 8, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 7 PM at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, 3401 Cherry Ridge St., San Antonio, TX. The rosary will begin at 6 PM.

A funeral service will begin on Friday, August 9, 2024, at 11:30 AM at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 4201 De Zavala Road. Interment service with Military Honors to follow immediately thereafter at San Fernando Cemetery No. 2.

Cemetery Details

San Fernando Cemetery #2

746 Castroville Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78237

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 8. 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Rosary

AUG 8. 6:00 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

AUG 9. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
4201 De Zavala Rd
San Antonio, TX 78249

Tribute Wall



“ Sandra and Oswaldo Guerra purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Henry A. Vidal, Jr..



Sandra and Oswaldo Guerra - August 09, 2024 at 12:26 PM



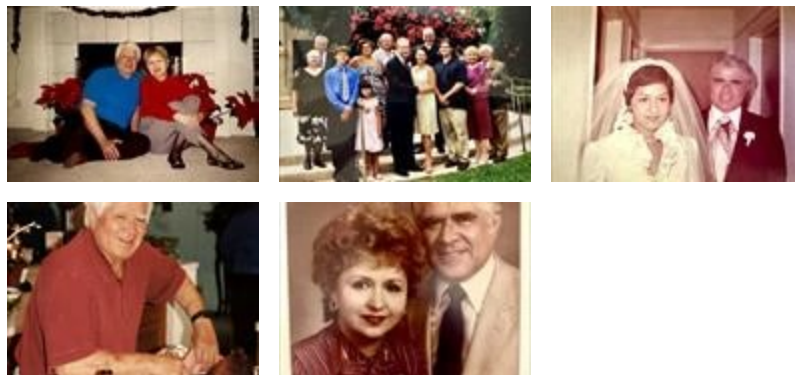
“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Henry A. Vidal, Jr..



August 08, 2024 at 09:44 AM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



pat - August 07, 2024 at 09:57 PM

TB

“ *The Burgers purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Henry A. Vidal, Jr..*



The Burgers - August 06, 2024 at 10:14 PM

YV

“ *14 files added to the tribute wall*



Yuri Vidal - August 01, 2024 at 02:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Henry A. Vidal, Jr..*



August 01, 2024 at 01:40 PM



“ *Yuri Vidal sent a virtual gift in memory of Henry A. Vidal, Jr.*



Yuri Vidal - August 01, 2024 at 01:18 PM