



## Iraida Martinez Iturralde

December 28, 1933 - April 4, 2020

Iraida Martinez Iturralde was born in Havana, Cuba on December 28th, 1933. In the '50s, she married and had two children while teaching and attending school. She graduated in 1960 with a Ph.D. in Education Science. After some tumultuous years in Cuba, she fled communism and eventually settled in San Antonio where her brother and family had arrived a few months earlier. For political reasons, she was unable to use her degree to teach, so she began working in sewing factories such as The Finesilver Manufacturing Co. Eternally driven towards education, she worked, supported her family, and began attending night school until she attained her teaching credentials. She began teaching Spanish at Southwest High School in the '60s and later John Jay High School (as well as various other institutions around town) in the '70s and '80s. At the same time, she was working towards her Master of Arts degree at UTSA, which she completed in 1975. She taught both high school and university level Spanish until retiring in 2003. She spent the rest of her years with family, friends and traveling.

Those who knew her would say she was all about family togetherness, high moral standards, following tradition, and the value of a good education. Leaving Cuba with her mother, Tina, and two sons, Gonzalo and Armando, on her own, to an unfamiliar country, is a testament to her courage and determination for a better life.

She loved her family and always encouraged her sons, grandchild, and great-grandchildren to go to college, study, and get a good job. She was a devout

Catholic who spent many nights praying for them and insisting they do the same. She loved to travel, she loved basketball (especially Tim Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs), she loved playing canasta with her friends, and she loved telling others what to do; so, it should come as no surprise that she held several officer positions (including president) in the Cuban Cultural Center of San Antonio.

She told stories about having to use a Spanish/English dictionary to translate her night- school work from English to Spanish and back to English in order to complete her studies. She recounted stories of being allowed only one chicken per household and taking Driver's Ed with militia. She told about the beautiful beaches of Cuba, and how doors were always open for one another. She told about the day a dictator took over her beloved country; she, and others, threw all their money over the pier as an act of defiance. She also shared stories about the family's sugar cane plantation being taken away, one plot of land at a time, until it was no more.

The formidable Iraida M. Iturralde lived a life full of trials and tribulations, yet she persevered and thus created a new life for those she loved. We will be forever indebted to her and the legacy she has left behind.

She is survived by her son Armando Iturralde, granddaughter Patrice Bravo and husband Agustin Bravo, and great-grandchildren Mia Bravo and Agustin (Max) Bravo.

#### SERVICES

Visitation will begin at 6:00 P.M. followed by a Rosary at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, April 6, 2020 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. The Service will begin at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at the Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Mission Burial Park North.

# Cemetery Details

## Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion

20900 IH 10 W  
San Antonio, TX 78257  
(210) 698-5252  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 6. 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

APR 6. 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78230

## Service

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APR 7. 12:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78230

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of Iraida Martinez Iturralde*



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - April 06, 2020 at 11:40 AM

MA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Marci** - April 06, 2020 at 11:14 PM

MA

*I know the three of them are together. May the rest in peace. ❤️❤️❤️*

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**Marci** - April 06, 2020 at 11:15 PM

AI

*Thank you for the visitation. My mother always thinking about your mom. Nice sentiment.*

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**Armando Iturralde** - April 06, 2020 at 11:28 PM

FR

“ *Mrs. Martinez was my Spanish teacher at Southwest High School and she was my favorite teacher.*

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**Fran Riggs** - April 06, 2020 at 08:57 PM

AP

“ *Annie Pratt purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Iraida Martinez Iturralde.*



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**Annie Pratt** - April 06, 2020 at 03:31 PM

JJ

“ *Iraida was one of the first people I met when I started teaching at UTSA. She was generous of heart and shared her sense of humor and thoughts about what was going on in Cuba and elsewhere. Because of her I was later able to obtain a position in Northside. I often saw Iraida at social functions with our mutual Latin friends. She was much loved and will always be in our hearts.*

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**Jeanne Z. Johnson** - April 06, 2020 at 02:22 PM

JS

“ *I always remember Iraida as the sweetest person in my husband side of the family. I pray for her eternal rest and the christian peace for Armando, Patrice and the rest of the family*  
*Julita Septien*

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**Julia Septien** - April 06, 2020 at 11:37 AM

ET

“ I'll always remember Iraida's cheerfulness and calm demeanor. She was a wonderful person. My condolences to her son, Patrice and family. Que en paz descanse!

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**Elsie Timoskevich** - April 06, 2020 at 11:27 AM

TF

“ The Mark Johnston Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Iraida Martinez Iturralde.



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**The Mark Johnston Family** - April 06, 2020 at 06:25 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Iraida Martinez Iturralde.



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April 05, 2020 at 11:22 PM



“ I don't know where to begin with memories. I have so many, but if you knew my relationship with my grandma, you know that she and I, maybe because we're a lot alike with the exception of the generation we were born into, but we had many disagreements and had spans of days giving each other the silent treatment. She was so strong in more ways than one, but in time I came to understand and appreciate even the differences of opinion. Despite everything, she was always, and I mean ALWAYS, a person I could rely on. I don't want to get too emotional, so I'll just share a few stories. I loved messing with her!

- I was the fortunate one who got to be her "travel buddy". On a trip to the Bahamas, I wanted to go snorkeling and she was NOT going to let me go on my own. She insisted on going so the speed boat took us out to the catamaran; we had to hoist ourselves up to board. Well, SHE said the boats moved on her so she jumped in. I said she took too long and fell in. Either way, the men were having a cow, "The lady fell in! The lady fell in!" I was too busy flirting with someone my age, so when I turned around, she was looking up with only one lens in her glasses, "No se preocupe; yo puedo nadar." So she swam to the ladder and got on that way. Then comes the "Cabrona! Por que no me ayudaste?!"

Later, we were walking back to the hotel room and I had to go to the restroom, so I asked for her key and went to the room. About 15 minutes later, she knocked on the door, "Me cago en ti! Donde andabas? Ahi estoy tan ciego como un murcielago buscando con un ojo el numero del cuarto!"

- She used to pick me up every Friday night so I could spend the weekend with her and my great-grandma Tina. That's how I learned Spanish. I'd help her grade high school papers, we'd go to McDonald's, we'd go shopping, I'd do arts and crafts, color, puzzles, and my dad would come visit. I'd watch wrestling with him; his favorite wrestler was Bruiser Brody and my favorites were the Von Erich brothers! On Sunday, we'd have dinner at Bonanza and she'd take me back home for the school week. I always LOVED going to Grandma's house.

*- Every chance I got, I'd try to set her up with some old man. She had absolutely no interest in ANY old man, EVER! (Even though she did have a flirtatious smile and eye batter.)*

*- Report cards were always important to my grandma.*

*- My granny loved her friends and family, but that Cuban temper was not to be messed with. If you were on her poo-poo list, you knew it!*

*I'll post more stories as they come to me and I'll try to use my filter.*

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**Patrice Bravo** - April 05, 2020 at 09:26 PM

LR

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. She is at peace now and will be reunited with her loved ones. I only met her once but she was very intelligent and gracious. A lovely woman who will be missed by her family. Godspeed you gently to your rest Mrs. Iturralde.* ”

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**Luanne Reid** - April 05, 2020 at 08:57 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Iraida Martinez Iturralde.* ”



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April 05, 2020 at 08:17 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall

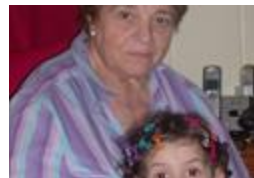


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Patrice Bravo - April 05, 2020 at 08:15 PM



“ So many memories.

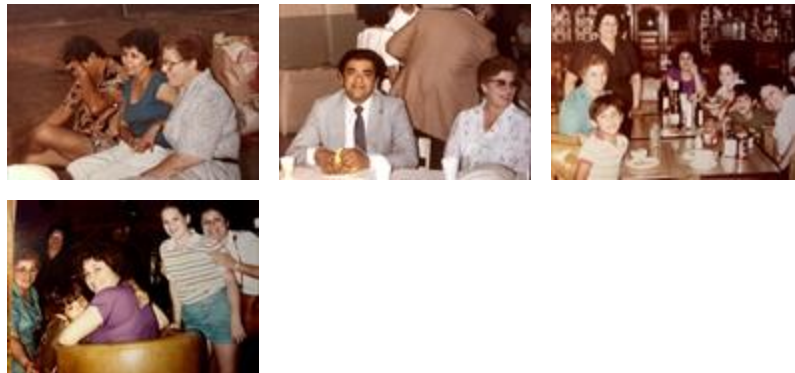


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Patrice Bravo - April 05, 2020 at 08:07 PM

AO

“Tia Aya” was always very loving and kind to our family. Never to forget us on a birthday or a special holiday. My condolences to her family, friends and all who loved her. May she Rest In Peace.



Alex Ojeda - April 05, 2020 at 07:17 PM

ST

“ Ms Iturralde was my Spanish teacher. What a wonderful teacher she was, and a genuinely nice person as well. She had a big impact on me. I’ve thought about her often over th years. My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time.

Steve Thompson - April 05, 2020 at 05:23 PM

AI

“ 19 files added to the album Memories Album



Armando Iturralde - April 05, 2020 at 03:58 PM

AI

*Photos copied to Photos and Videos Tab / Memories Album*

**Armando Iturralde** - April 05, 2020 at 03:55 PM

BN

“ *Bill & Young ja Brown, Reno NV purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Iraidia Martinez Iturralde.*



**Bill & Young ja Brown, Reno NV** - April 05, 2020 at 02:46 PM

EV

“ *I was so sad to hear that Iraidia passed away. She and I taught Spanish across the hall from each other at Jay High School a few years before she retired. She was a great lady. In many ways she was a great mentor to me. My deepest sympathy to the family. Evangelina Vera.*

**Evangelina Vera** - April 05, 2020 at 02:37 PM

MF

“ *Mercedita Lage and family purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Iraidia Martinez Iturralde.*



**Mercedita Lage and family** - April 05, 2020 at 12:14 PM

AI

“ 19 files added to the tribute wall



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**Armando Iturralde** - April 05, 2020 at 11:57 AM

JG

“ Iraida was my mentor, my best friend, my co-worker, my counselor and in my heart, she was my mother who guided me through life. I am a better person for having her in my life.

We met in 1974, while studying to get our Master's Degree in Spanish at U.T..S.A.

We became Adjunct Professors at U.T.S.A in the evenings and summers. from 1978 - 2003, while working full time at Northside I.S.D. We were both so grateful to Drs.Frank and Barbara Pino for their trust in us, making us part of their faculty at U.T.S.A. We shared the same office, and I would always walk her to her class in the evening.

Iraida went to my wedding in 1980, and she was at the hospital for the births of each of my three sons. When my first born had to be an emergency C section, she was there with me and took me to the hospital Chapel. We talked and she held my hand assuring me that everything was going to be fine.

Whenever there was a situation in my life, I knew that I could count on her , and she would be there for me. So in the last part of her life, I would visit her at the hospital, at the nursing home, and at the end, in her group home that Armando had been so wonderful

in finding, making sure that her every need was being met. We would talk about our good times together, and I would always tell her how grateful I was for having her in my life.

I would pray for her and try to comfort her. She told me that she was ready to go to Heaven, if God would accept her. I told her that there is no doubt about that. She was

Heaven bound ! I also told her that one evening she would go to sleep and the next morning, she would wake up in Heaven ! Thank you ,Iraida , for your love, your words of wisdom, and your dedication. You will live forever in our hearts !

*Tu amigo,  
Jimmy C. Gonzales*

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**Jimmy C. Gonzales** - April 05, 2020 at 07:41 AM