



JoAnn Chavez

November 9, 1941 - March 31, 2009

JoAnn Chavez, age 67, passed away on March 31, 2009. The oldest daughter of Jose and Josefina Tijerina, she graduated from the Ursuline Academy in 1959 and married Gary Rene Chavez in 1960. They raised three sons, Gary Jr., Chris, and Steven. They were a founding family of St. Matthew's Catholic Church where JoAnn served on the earliest parish councils and taught 6th Grade CCD classes for over 20 years. After the death of her son Chris, JoAnn co-founded a support group called Survivors of Loved Ones' Suicides SOLOS in 1987. She completed all counseling courses offered by the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health under the mentorship of Dr. Homer Bain to better facilitate the SOLOS group and provide lay counseling at the Ecumenical Center. JoAnn held several workshops at national suicide prevention/survivor conferences, taught suicide sensitivity classes to the San Antonio Police Dept., and was an invited speaker at the UTSA Medical School. JoAnn is survived by her husband, Gary; oldest son Gary Jr., his wife Patti Tanner, and grandchildren Cole and Jett Chavez; youngest son Steven Leigh and his partner James Barry; sister Augie Ruter and her husband Phil Ruter; brother Louis Tijerina, his wife Gail Churchill, and neice and nephew Anne and David Tijerina; several cousins and many friends.

SERVICES

A public viewing will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2009 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, with a rosary at 7:00 pm, at Mission Park North Funeral Chapel, 3401 Cherry Ridge. A funeral mass will be held at St. Matthew's Church, 10703

Wurzbach Rd. on Friday, April 3, 2009 at 10:30 am. Interment will follow at Mission Burial Park North on I-10 past Raymond Russell Park. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to SOLOS, care of The Ecumenical Center, 8310 Ewing Halsell Dr., San Antonio, TX 78229.

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Dear Gary & Family,
I am heartbroken to learn of JoAnn's passing. I cannot imagine the AAS Conference without her. I was so looking forward to showing you and her my San Francisco at the conference this year. Some people cross our path and we are better be

Susan Belling - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ From the first moment I met JoAnn and Gary, they opened their arms and treated me as one of their family. JoAnn was a lady of distinction and class who helped countless people cope through the darkest times of their lives. I am honored to have known JoA

James Barry - April 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Dear Gary and Family, It doesn't seem possible that JoAnn is no longer with us. I left San Antonio about the time she got sick so I wasn't aware of all the hospitalizations and medical developments. That made it that much more shocking when I got the w

Louise Gregg - April 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ JoAnn was my "big sister" although she really didn't like to talk about age. A couple of times when I was in town visiting she'd introduce me as "the oldest", just as a little joke. It has been very comforting to hear and read all of the kind words so man

Ms. Augie Ruter - April 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ My Mother was a very special person with a kind and generous heart who would give of herself first to help others in need. Mother gave countless speeches around the country in order to educate and to get her message out regarding the treatment, and to d

Steven Leigh - April 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ My sister was a very good person. She touched a lot of lives in positive ways. She will be remembered fondly.

Louis Tijerina - April 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Dear Gary and family, I am so sorry for your loss. JoAnn gave so much of herself to SOLOS, she helped so many of us who came to the meetings to express our grief. She never tired of encouraging us -- to tell what was in our hearts. She understood and gav

Shirley Swift - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AV

“ Dear Gary, JoAnn's smile and warm heart will be missed. She always had a good word for everyone. I remember both of your contributions in my Spanish class at San Antonio College. May God bless you and your family. May she rest in peace. Abelardo & Ome

Abelardo & Omelia Villarreal - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Gary, Gary Jr. & Family, & Steven,

We can't begin to tell you how sorry we are about Joann's illness, & death. We wish it were possible for us to be with you all in this time of sorrow.

Mom is still in ICU, her heart rate is still not controlle

Jeanie, Gene, & Joseph Baril - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ JoAnn will be missed and never forgotten.

With much Love to Gary and his family

Speedy

Speedy Sanchez - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *I loved JoAnn dearly and she will always be in my heart. I know that she is heaven as JoAnn had no stepping stones only wings to take her to our Lord.*

May God bless Gary, Gary Jr. and Seven.

Juanita & Eliseo Saavdra

Juanita Saavedra - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ ~Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for awhile, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same.~

JoAnn has left a footprint in my heart that will stay with me forever. She was and always will be like a sister t

Celina Sanchez - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Dear Gary & Family,
I am heartbroken to learn of JoAnn's passing. I cannot imagine the AAS Conference without her. I was so looking forward to showing you and her my San Francisco at the conference this year. Some people cross our path and we are better b*

Susan Belling - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ *Dear Gary any Family. I am so sorry for your loss. Your family is one of the great memories I have of life on White Wing Ln and I think of all of you'll often. JoAnn was always so kind to Roger , he made him feel good even when he was feeling sad. God Ble*

Louise Norbery - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ *JoAnn had the gift of making everyone feel special. Her legacy to survivors of suicide will live on and on. The world is a better place for her having been here, and I will miss her terribly. God bless!*

Amy Kulp - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ JoAnn helped many people through out the United States with her kindness and understanding. She will never be forgotten for her generosity in helping others.

Janet Schnell - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ The Chavez family are in my thoughts and prayers. Thank you to JoAnn for founding the SOLOS group that has helped me and so many others. She was a remarkable woman. She will never be forgotten.

Roberta Stephenson - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KV

“ My sincere condolences to the Chavez family! You ALL are in my thoughts and prayers! "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. The rain falls soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the Palm of Hi

Kellie Vaughn - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ My deepest sympathy for your loss. Joann was a great lady and I am extremely grateful to her for founding the SOLOS support group. I attended her group after the lose of a loved one in my family. I found hope and understanding at her group. May the the Lo

Mary Tapia - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Our thoughts are with you as you go through the difficult days ahead of living without JoAnn's physical presence. We will keep JoAnn in our hearts.

Love,

Joyce & Jon

Joyce & Jon Osborn - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ I want to express my deepest sympathy on the loss of your wife and mother JoAnn. I attend the SOLOS support group and am grateful to her for providing such a needed service. She was such a comfort to me in those early, darkest days. May the Lord give you

Patricia Padilla - April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Hilda and Manny

Hilda Martinez - April 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I have many fond memories of Joann at the Incarnate Word swimming pool. She was a lovely lady and will greatly be missed.

Mildred Hartman

Mildred Hartman - April 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ *Extending our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your loved one.
Directors & Staff at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North*

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North - April 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM