



## Jose Luis Solis

March 19, 1943 - December 26, 2024

Our beloved father, grandfather, and husband Jose Luis Solis, 81, passed away on December 26, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas and entered into the presence of the Lord. His death was sudden after a 2 week stay in the hospital where heroic measures were taken to save his life. He was born in Laredo, Texas on March 19, 1943, to Francisco and Aurora San Miguel Solis and attended schools in Laredo before graduating Valedictorian from Martin High School in 1961.

Jose Luis received a full scholarship to Texas A&M in College Station and graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering. While at A&M, he was a member of the most prestigious honorary societies including Sigma Gamma Tau (National Honorary aeronautical engineering society), Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Pi, and Phi Eta Sigma.

In addition to having gained a distinguished scholarship and eminent professional attainment in Aerospace Engineering, he served in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets which prepared them for leadership in the U.S. Military or in the private sector which is what he did upon graduation in 1965. He was hired by General Dynamics (now Lockheed) in Fort Worth, Texas and worked on the wing design of the F-16 fighter jet. It was during his employment at General Dynamics that he was granted a NASA scholarship to further his education and attained a Masters of Aerospace Engineering Degree in 1970. The family decided to move to Laredo, Texas in 1974 and Jose Luis worked for Mercy Hospital, Laredo Community College and owned a construction

company designing and building residential and commercial buildings throughout Laredo.

Jose Luis married Laura Elena Solis from Zapata, Texas and had two sons, Jose Luis Solis, Jr. (Blanca) and Carlos Eduardo Solis (Terrie). He was extremely proud of his sons who respected him so much for his brilliant mind and his quiet and reserved demeanor. He was an avid reader and loved history. His grandchildren were his pride and joy; he spent countless hours with them either teaching them to drive, taking them or picking them up after school, tutoring and advising them throughout their lives. Melanie (Jeremiah), Carlos "Litos", Gabriela "Gaby", and Margarita "Maggie" simply adored him for his gentle manner and patience during the many hours he would spend with them so that they would excel in Physics, Trigonometry, English, History, and any other math-related course. His grandchildren were by his bedside constantly during his last hours at the hospital and played his favorite Aggie marching songs until he took his last breath at 4:45 PM on December 26th. He was surrounded by those who loved him.

Jose Luis is preceded in death by his parents (Francisco and Aurora), three brothers (Juan Francisco, Ernesto & Raul) and three sisters (Sofia, Aurora & Lucy). He is survived by his baby brother Rene and were inseparable growing up as the two youngest of all the siblings.

It is now time for me, Laura, my family and his friends to bid farewell to my husband Jose Luis, fondly known to his grandchildren as "Tata." I will never stop loving him; I will always consider my marriage to him as the most wonderful thing that happened in my life and thank the Lord for that. We traveled to all corners of the world and learned about so many cultures, traditions, etc. Our last trip was planned for January 27, 2025, to visit Japan, China, Taiwan and South Korea. His brother Juan Francisco was stationed in Japan and wanted to visit those headquarters as well as Hiroshima being that my husband was a "a walking encyclopedia" of world wars and history. We are very blessed that he has left us with an unbelievable and extraordinary legacy. The family wishes to thank the countless nurses and physicians at the

University Hospital Trauma Center and ICU who spent hours helping him in the most professional, caring and loving manner.

Mission Park Funeral Chapels will take care of the funeral services, which will start with the following:

\*Rosary at St. Matthews Catholic Church (10703 Wurzbach Rd) on December 31st, 2024, at 9:30 AM followed by

\*Mass at 10:00 AM

\*Burial at Mission Park Dominion (20900 IH 10 West)

\*Reception immediately following services at La Fogata Comida on 22211 West Interstate 10 Frontage Rd.

Family kindly asks friends and family that in lieu of flowers please donate to the American Cancer Society:

<https://raiseyourway.donordrive.com/campaign/Jose-Luis-Solis-Memorial-Fund>

# Cemetery Details

## Mission Burial Park North

20900 IH 10 West  
San Antonio, TX 78257

# Previous Events

## Rosary

DEC **31**. 9:30 AM (CT)

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

## Funeral Mass

DEC **31**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

## Reception to follow interment

DEC **31** (CT)

La Fogata Comida  
22211 West Interstate 10 Frontage Rd.  
San Antonio, TX



# Tribute Wall

DR

“ *Sending my condolences, I have such great memories of stories my grandmother Lydia Squier shared with me of what a wonderful man he was.* ”



diana Rodriguez - December 31, 2024 at 05:39 PM

DL

“ *Remembering Jose Luis in a fondly manner and offering my sincere condolences to you and your family, Diana Lundschen* ”

Diana Lundschen - December 31, 2024 at 08:37 AM



“ *Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of Jose Luis Solis.* ”



December 30, 2024 at 06:57 PM

LF

“ *Liz, Mike, and the Craftiquesmall family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jose Luis Solis.* ”



Liz, Mike, and the Craftiquesmall family - December 30, 2024 at 03:25 PM

“ A Tribute to My Father (Part two)

By Carlos Solis

*To the grandchildren:*

*I've always felt that my dad's greatest accomplishment was his almost daily involvement with all of you over the course of your lives. He loved you all so much. He was infinitely proud of each one of you. There was NO bigger fan of all of you than Tata. Whether it was tutoring you, driving you, mentoring you or feeding you, he was ALWAYS there for you. I am also so proud of what you all have become and how you allowed Tata to be part of your lives. He knew all of you were there for him toward the end trying to rally him to continue fighting.*

*To my mom:*

*Where can I possibly begin? Thank you for allowing me to witness a truly great love story between the two of you. As my dad was slowly taking his last breaths, you asked me to help you climb onto the bed so you could lie next to him and hug him one last time. Within a second after the embrace, he peacefully took his final breath in your arms and in front of family. This memory will last forever in my mind, and I couldn't even imagine a more graceful way to leave this world. You loved him more than any person could have ever loved him. Dad was so happy all the way to the end. You completed him. I love you!*

*As for me:*

*On Christmas night, I stayed the night with my dad because I knew we were getting very close to the end. Throughout the early hours of the 26th, I continued talking to him with the blind hope that he could still hear me. I told him I loved him, and that I was so proud of the life he lived and of his legacy. I was proud to be his son and was proud to call him my dad.*

*I will miss his calm demeanor and wisdom. I will miss his interactions with the grandchildren. He was a superstar in their eyes, and it always gave me such pride to see them interact with*

*him. I will miss his interactions with my mom and the nonstop stories of their travels. I will miss him greeting me with a beer when I got to their house. I will always miss him!*

*While looking through some of dad's pictures and documents on his desk, we noticed he had a poem close to the top of the pile in a clear sleeve protector. It's titled When Tomorrow Starts Without Me and is a poem that aims to comfort and console those who will be left behind after a death. It ends as follows:*

*So when tomorrow starts without me  
Do not think we're apart  
For every time you think of me  
Remember I'm right here in your heart.*

*I'm so glad he left this poem behind for us to see. He will always live on in my heart. I am sure of it. I love you, Dad!*

---

**Carlos Solis** - December 30, 2024 at 09:17 AM

“ A Tribute to My Father (Part one)  
By Carlos Solis

*On the morning of December 25, 2024, life as we knew it in our family was forever changed when the doctors at University Hospital told us my dad had an advanced form of leukemia with no treatment options. What we originally thought was a simple fall was actually the process of leukemia taking over in his blood. It was a fight we simply could not win. Many friends and family members visited him over the next few hours. He took his last breath at 4:45 PM on December 26th, 2024, in front of his loving wife, sons, grandchildren, and brother Rene.*

*A special thanks to the nurses, doctors, and medical personnel at the University Hospital. The level of compassion and professionalism by the staff was incredible. They tried everything humanly and technologically possible to make my dad better. Thank you!*

*Another special thanks to my long-time friend, business and law partner, Paul Smith. Paul and his wife Cindy visited my dad on Christmas night. Paul was also a former member of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, so he and my dad always had that Aggie Corps special bond. We played The Aggie War Hymn and The Spirit of Aggieland, and Paul sang the words to him while holding his hand. We have since called it my Dad's Aggie Last Rites. It was an incredibly touching moment, and I know my dad could hear you. Thank you for creating a memory I will never forget.*

*Thank you to my dad's lifelong friends Pete Castaneda, Anibal Gutierrez, Cesareo Porras, Julio Madrigal, and Raul Flores. They had known each other for decades and had a group chat going all the way to the end. Thank you for being part of my dad's life. He really loved you guys like his brothers.*

*Thank you to the Solis nieces and nephews who kept in touch with my dad in the Solis group chat over all these years. He was so proud of all of you and spoke about you frequently. You were his outlet to remind him of his beloved brothers and sisters. He was always the historian of the group and had a sharp mind all the way*

*to the very end. He will be missed in the chat.*

*Thank you to my Tio Rene Solis who is the last remaining sibling of Solis brothers and sisters. You and my Dad have always had a special bond. You have been an amazing source of so many stories about him and the family. Thank you for continuing to be part of our lives.*

*My dad liked to screenshot quotes and sayings. The most recent quote on his phone said: In the end, it's not the years in your life that count...it's the life in your years. My parents were avid travelers and history buffs. They visited dozens of countries over five continents in the last 30 years. They had a 3-week trip planned to Japan and China in January and that trip would have been their 40th trip abroad. His final months and years were packed with "life." We threw him an amazing 80th birthday party in March 2023 where we got to celebrate his life with family and friends. Since that party, he was able to witness so many incredible events. He got to see his oldest grandchild Melanie graduate from UTSA in 2023 and she also got married in 2024. He got to see his other granddaughter Maggie excel at UTSA and travel to Spain and Costa Rica for school. He got to see his grandson Carlos (Litos) become a real estate agent and traveled with him and my mom to Spain, Portugal and Morocco for 3 weeks this Fall. He got to see Gaby excel in her studies at UT Austin and got to see her get accepted this month into the doctoral program at the UT Health Science Center for Occupational Therapy. This summer, my parents took a train trip from San Francisco to Chicago. They talked about the breathtaking views cutting through the Rocky Mountains. They also talked of the delicious deep-dish pizza they had in Chicago. While I will always be sad about him not being around anymore, I am so thrilled that he had such wonderful experiences toward the end of his life.*

---

**Carlos Solis** - December 30, 2024 at 09:16 AM

CS

*A Tribute to My Father (Part two)*

*By Carlos Solis*

*To the grandchildren:*

*I've always felt that my dad's greatest accomplishment was his almost daily involvement with all of you over the course of your lives. He loved you all so much. He was infinitely proud of each one of you. There was NO bigger fan of all of you than Tata. Whether it was tutoring you, driving you, mentoring you or feeding you, he was ALWAYS there for you. I am also so proud of what you all have become and how you allowed Tata to be part of your lives. He knew all of you were there for him toward the end trying to rally him to continue fighting.*

*To my mom:*

*Where can I possibly begin? Thank you for allowing me to witness a truly great love story between the two of you. As my dad was slowly taking his last breaths, you asked me to help you climb onto the bed so you could lie next to him and hug him one last time. Within a second after the embrace, he peacefully took his final breath in your arms and in front of family. This memory will last forever in my mind, and I couldn't even imagine a more graceful way to leave this world. You loved him more than any person could have ever loved him. Dad was so happy all the way to the end. You completed him. I love you!*

*As for me:*

*On Christmas night, I stayed the night with my dad because I knew we were getting very close to the end. Throughout the early hours of the 26th, I continued talking to him with the blind hope that he could still hear me. I told him I loved him, and that I was so proud of the life he lived and of his legacy. I was proud to be his son and was proud to call him my dad.*

*I will miss his calm demeanor and wisdom. I will miss his interactions with the grandchildren. He was a superstar in their eyes, and it always gave me such pride to see them interact with him. I will miss his interactions with my mom and the nonstop stories of their travels. I will miss him greeting me with a beer when I got to their house. I will always miss him!*

*While looking through some of dad's pictures and documents on his desk, we noticed he had a poem close to the top of the pile in a clear sleeve protector. It's titled *When Tomorrow Starts Without Me* and is a poem that aims to comfort and console those who will be left behind after a death. It ends as follows:*

*So when tomorrow starts without me  
Do not think we're apart  
For every time you think of me  
Remember I'm right here in your heart.*

*I'm so glad he left this poem behind for us to see. He will always live on in my heart. I am sure of it. I love you, Dad!*

---

**Carlos Solis** - December 30, 2024 at 09:17 AM

BT

*Oh my goodness Carlos and family. I have tears running down my cheeks reading this amazing tribute to your Dad, Tara, husband, brother .. on and on. So many things to so many beautiful people through an extraordinary life. I loved coming for the holidays and celebrations at your beautiful home and listening to his stories of travel/experiences. One of the only ones to know I am Polacca (Polish) within minutes of meeting him. I love that story.*

*Gods blessings and strength to you all during this most difficult time.*

*❤️🙏 Dr. Beverly Thornberg*

---

**Beverly Thornberg** - December 30, 2024 at 03:16 PM

BT

*(Tata) ^^ autocorrect at its finest.*

---

**Beverly Thornberg** - December 30, 2024 at 03:17 PM