



Maria Elena Cantu Melendez

July 28, 1938 - March 21, 2026

Maria Elena Cantu Melendez born in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico on July 28, 1938 to her parents Rudolph and Ignacia Cantu who preceded her in death. A woman of grace and boundless love passed away peacefully on March 21, 2026 surrounded by the family that was the center of her world.

Maria Elena's life was defined by her devotion to those she held dear. For fifty seven beautiful years, she was the beloved wife and constant companion of her surviving husband, Hector R. Melendez. Together, they built a life rooted in partnership and deep love, providing a cornerstone of strength for their entire family. They shared a love for GOD and their faith was undeniable. Maria Elena enjoyed and lived her life to the fullest. She always set the standard and was dressed so beautifully in her floral or animal print along with her signature red lipstick. Maria Elena and Hector enjoyed socializing; they shared a love for dancing to their favorite cumbia's, polkas and country songs. A love for travel took them on countless fishing trips to Rockport and Corpus Christi, Texas. Maria Elena and Hector's many road trips across the west coast included mandatory stops in Las Vegas, Nevada. Maria Elena and Hector enjoyed their time together celebrating "Fiesta", taking in the parades, visiting Market Square and attending NIOSA. It was truly her favorite time of the year. Maria Elena's zest for life continues in the traditions she passed on to her family.

A dedicated mother, Maria Elena instilled values of kindness and resilience in her children, Cristina Melendez Gonzalez and Hector Manuel Melendez. She was the heart of her home, and prepared the most delicious meals for her family. The eldest of her siblings she was a sister who offered steady friendship. An aunt, who was a source of warmth and wisdom to her nieces and nephews. Her legacy truly blossomed through the generations that followed. She was a cherished grandmother to Sarah Balthazar (Earl), Christopher Gonzalez (Crystal), Samantha Cunningham (Brandon), and Mikayla Melendez. Each of them carries a piece of her spirit, whether through her stories, her guidance, or her quiet examples of compassion. Her beloved grandchildren will always hold her famous saying in their hearts, "Aye Que Chula". Maria Elena also found immense joy in her eight great-grandchildren, her legacy of love continues through Alessandra Lia Gonzalez, Elliott Michael Gray Davila, Aiden Christopher Gonzalez, Jackson David Gray Cunningham, Christian Alexander Gonzalez, Phoebe Mariah Balthazar, Emilia Lynn Gray Cunningham, and Caleb Anthony Gonzalez.

She leaves behind wonderful memories and lessons in life. Her laughter shared around the table especially when she was sipping her "cafecito y pan dulce". Maria Elena held a steady support during difficult times, and a love that was as selfless as it was enduring. While she will be deeply missed, the impact of her life will be felt for generations to come. We take comfort knowing what we once deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we deeply love becomes a part of us.

Cemetery Details

San Fernando Cemetery #2

746 Castroville Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78237

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Holy Rosary

APR 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

APR 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Luke Catholic Church
4603 Manitou Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78228

Reception to follow

Graveside Service

APR 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

San Fernando Cemetery #2
746 Castroville Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78237

Procession departing church at 1:30 PM following reception

Tribute Wall



“ Our heartfelt condolences to Hector and the family. We are saddened to hear of Maria Elena's passing. We send our thoughts, love and prayers during this sorrowful time. De Anna Melendez-McMullen on behalf of the family of Mary Henrietta "Queta" Tenorio-Melendez.



De Anna Melendez-McMullen - April 09 at 04:33 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Maria Elena Cantu Melendez.



April 06 at 04:54 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Maria Elena Cantu Melendez.



April 03 at 10:36 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Elena Cantu Melendez.*



April 03 at 08:07 AM



“ *It is with a heavy heart that I share my deepest condolences for the passing of Maria Elena Melendez. She will truly be missed by all who had the honor of knowing her. Maria Elena was a very lovely lady whose kindness, warmth, and spirit left a lasting impression on everyone she met.*

I am grateful and humbled to have had her in my life. I have had the privilege of marrying a beautiful daughter, and being part of a loving family that continues to carry her light forward. Her legacy lives on in each of them, and that is a gift beyond measure.

Please know that all my respect, love, and prayers are with her and with everyone who feels her loss. May her memory bring comfort, and may her spirit continue to guide and inspire us always.

Ted Gonzales - April 01 at 06:30 PM



“ *The Casanovas purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Maria Elena Cantu Melendez.*



The Casanovas - April 01 at 06:22 PM