



Maria Theresa Martinez

April 18, 1940 - November 12, 2022

Maria Theresa (Avelar) Martinez passed away on November 12, 2022 at her residence in San Antonio. She was born on April 18, 1940 in San Antonio, to Rudolph G. Avelar and Cruz Reyna Avelar. Mrs. Martinez was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Isaac V. Martinez. She is survived by her daughters, Sandra Lopez (Charles) and Cynthia Martinez; son, Isaac G. Martinez (Vanessa); brothers, Pedro Avelar, Larry Avelar (Bart) and Andrew Avelar (Rosalinda); grandchildren, Adam, Julia, Diana and Isaac; and numerous nieces & nephews.

“Terry” graduated from Louis W. Fox Vocational and Technical School in 1958 and later attended San Antonio College and received an Associate degree in Child Development. During her high school years, she was a Major of the “Tech Red Jackets” and performed for school and community functions. She was the eldest of six children with five younger brothers. She was not only a sister but a “second mother” to her younger siblings Rudy, Eddie, Pedro, Larry, and Andrew.

“Terry” married her high school sweetheart Isaac “Ike” Martinez after a traditional courtship and the exchange of many love letters from Dad while in the Army and stationed in Korea. The letters are straight out of a Notebook type romance novel. It was love at first sight and Mom liked to tell the story to her children and grandchildren. “I took my younger brother Pedro to a

Halloween party, and I saw this guy...and he apparently saw me..."

Mom worked as the administrative assistant at the Child Development Center at San Antonio College and was the welcoming face to children every morning. She oriented and guided many young college interns wanting to start a career in child development. Regardless of her administrative (and mentoring) duties, Mom was at every game, took us to every practice and found time to volunteer as a room mother. Many of the young interns in college found Mom to be someone they could go to and talk about their personal struggles. Mom was there for them too. She volunteered at St. John's the Evangelist Catholic School, Blessed Sacrament Parochial School and was a staunch supporter of the Antonian College Preparatory School Wild Game Dinner and various other sports and dance functions. When her children were younger, she participated in the Girls Scouts "cookie drives" with her daughters Sandy and Cynthia and helped their school with volunteering at church and festival functions. Dad coached baseball for Isaac and Mom made sure she got all the kids to practices and games. She also took her son Isaac and his best friend John White on fishing and camping trips up at Uncle Oscar and Aunt Rita's place on the river in Wimberley.

A great day for my mother was spending time with her family and friends. She loved, supported, and cared for her husband "Ike" Martinez throughout his career as a manager and eventual owner of an independent supermarket. The family vacationed to Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Marine World and camped in the mountains and fished along the coastline of California. In later years, her and Ike enjoyed travel as a couple to Las Vegas, Alaska, Hawaii and other adventures in Italy and Monte Carlo. Mom loved to travel, and Dad made sure she was going to do it.

Mom was an excellent cook and hosted many festive Christmas and New Year's parties for family and friends with specialties such as homemade

tamales, menudo, brisket, and various appetizers. Her Lenten meals on Good Friday were a yearly treat featuring enchiladas along with potato pancakes, salmon, and tuna patties. The Lenten sauce only came around once a year.

Once Mom became a grandparent, she was focused on teaching and supporting her grandchild, “Adam Rey,” the importance of reading, writing and of course, play. She was happy that Adam’s first cousin Joshua Avelar lived nearby, and she picked them both up after school and cared for them with an after school snack and activity. She was in heaven...she now had her own personal Child Development Center. Retirement followed but the action was just beginning for Grandma.

She became a regular fixture at soccer, baseball, track and basketball games of her grandson and nephew. She supported Adam throughout his elementary, middle school and high school sport and academic years. She also supported her own children and served as a steady beacon as they navigated adulthood and parenthood. Grandma had always been an avid sports fan, often talking about how her and her grandfather would listen to baseball games on the radio. Grandpa couldn’t wait to get home from work so he could play with his grandson. The two thrived in their new role as grandparents, as grandma provided all the children with endless love.

With the addition of other grandchildren, Grandma once again “threw” herself into the world of competitive youth dance, theatre, choir, soccer, baseball, basketball, and football. She regularly attended performances, games, and events in the Boerne community to watch Julia, Diana, and Isaac...always prepared with a goodie bag for her little ones. She essentially immersed herself into the families’ hearts in yet another community.

It was easy for Mom to strike up a conversation with anyone. She took every

opportunity to show genuine affection toward children, whether at an event, church, or the local grocery store. Her life was dedicated to the happiness of children. It was her gift. She would memorize the names of her grandchildren's teammates and be sure to provide them a treat at the end of the season (or the beginning of a game if she could get away with it). She cheered on her grandchildren's friends as much as her own. Given her baseball experience, it wasn't uncommon for her to provide some post-game strategic advice for her son, the youth baseball coach. She was usually right.

One of her favorite traditions was Fiesta. Grandma was out on St. Mary's street come rain or shine celebrating Fiesta at the parade with her family. She arrived decked out in beads, flowers, crowns, and the brightest pink shirt in all of San Antonio. She was always stocked with extra medals, beads, and cascarones to give to her grandchildren (and would usually slip a \$20 bill for some candy, too). Grandma was the queen of Fiesta and made sure to share her love for the celebrations with the entire family.

She loved the Astros, the Cowboys, the Longhorns, and of course the Spurs. She went through the ups and downs of each of the teams and thankfully was able to witness the championships of each of her favorite teams before she departed. Yes, she was one of those Spurs fans cruising down Commerce Street after the first Spurs championship. She made sure that each of her grandchildren (and children) were duly outfitted with the proper attire for the appropriate season and occasion. Mom was wild in her spirit and probably the most substantial unknown donor to each of the abovementioned organizations.

After her husband departed, she missed him dearly and kept his spirit alive with many stories about their remarkable history together. They had many dear friends who, along with their children, have become part of our family today.

As things began to “wind down,” Mom began to volunteer at St. Gregory’s with the Society of the Guadalupanas and St. Vincent de Paul. Her duties revolved around service to those in need. Whether it was buying and taking groceries to an elderly person or just extending kindness and prayer to a person in need, she was there. She became a Eucharistic minister and gave communion to those who could not make it to the church services any longer. Throughout her life, she encouraged her children and grandchildren to be involved in the church. She led by example and over the past several years she became interested in the Divine Mercy of Christ. She wanted her grandchildren to know the importance of kindness, trust, and forgiveness even when it was difficult.

Throughout the past years, Grandma spent much of her time texting us and other family members the upcoming shows on TV, sports games and of course the weather. They went something like this: “Brrr. 31 Sunday for Boerne.” That was an alternative to one of her other earlier approaches to just saying “Make sure the kids wear a jacket!”

Mom had two basic rules about raising children: “Give them two choices that you need them to do” and “children need hugs.” When talking with older kids and adults she used Socratic questioning in getting people to think about their decisions. She allowed the people with whom she was talking to come to their own decisions and to see the facts as they stood. If needed, she would be direct, succinct, and precise.

She donated to the Running Strong for American Indian Youth and to the St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in memory of her young cousin Mark Watson who succumbed to Cancer at a young age.

“Theresa,” “Terry,” “Mom,” and “Grandma” touched the lives of many people.

Many of our friends refer to her as a second mom. Recently, she began to speak more of her grandfather and those baseball games on the radio, she also spoke more about Dad and their life together. She missed her brothers Eddie and Rudy as they had passed on years before. Despite these transitions, Mom found joy in her grandchildren and in the little things in life itself. She continued to fully live life. She danced until she could not dance anymore. She never gave up. When she planned for her departure, she wanted to make sure it was a celebration of life. We are going to miss you, but we truly know that you are with your sweetheart again surrounded by your loving family and friends. We were so lucky to have you and will remember your words and actions.

Bye Mom!

SERVICES

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 beginning at 6:00pm, followed by a Rosary at 7:00pm at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 23, 2022 at 10:00am at the church, with interment to follow at Resurrection Cemetery.

For personal acknowledgement, please sign the online guestbook at www.missionparks.com in the Tributes section.

MISSION PARK FUNERAL CHAPELS NORTH
3401 CHERRY RIDGE DR.
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78230
(210) 349-1414

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery at Cordi - Marian

11624 Culebra Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78253

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **22**. 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
700 Dewhurst
San Antonio, TX 78213
(210) 342-0281

Rosary

NOV **22**. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
700 Dewhurst Rd
San Antonio, TX 78213-3416
(210) 342-5271

Funeral Mass

NOV **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
700 Dewhurst Rd
San Antonio, TX 78213-3416
(210) 342-5271

Tribute Wall

MP

“ Terry and my mom worked together at a few of the Catholic schools we attended and was always so sweet, and a "back-up mom" when we all needed it. My 2 older brothers David and Greg Daniels went to school with Isaac, and many cousins (DeMunbrun and Dolch) attended school with the girls. 60 years of family connections and Terry had such a loving and thoughtful heart, she will be missed!

Margaret Peche - November 26, 2022 at 04:02 PM

AA

“ Our most sincerest condolences to the entire Martinez family, your Mom was always there for the community and her family. Sandy, Cynthia and Issac, your Mom will always be remembered for her generosity as a room mom, a community servant and a great Mom. I returned to town to hear of your Mom's passing from my daughter who was also saddened by her passing. She knew her Your Mom too and experienced her devotion at St. Gregory's as a room mom too but to her grandson. She will be missed! Our thoughts and prayers to the family and Thank you for sharing you Mom with our family!

Albert & Annette Aleman

Albert Aleman - November 25, 2022 at 03:49 AM

DB

“ We express our sincerest condolences to the Martinez/Avelar Families.
May she rest in eternal peace.
David and Yolanda Benavides



David and Yolanda Benavides - November 23, 2022 at 09:59 AM

DG

“ *RIP Teresa. My mother Toya (Aurora) always talked highly of you as she did of Cousin Rita and Tia Tiodora, and all of her adopted, generous family of San Antonio. I was very young when we visited from Dallas and I spent most of my time with cousin Jesse except when we were called in for dinner. Oh those fun times and how you were so much a part of making us feel special.*

God bless and keep you.

David (Danny) Guerrero.

Daves_air_conditioning@msn.com

David Guerrero - November 22, 2022 at 11:19 PM

LC

“ *Love Trey and Jeanette Currey purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



Love Trey and Jeanette Currey - November 22, 2022 at 12:27 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 22, 2022 at 12:06 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 22, 2022 at 10:50 AM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 21, 2022 at 10:55 PM



“ *Mr. & Mrs. Elpidio Martinez and Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



Mr. & Mrs. Elpidio Martinez and Family - November 21, 2022
at 09:25 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 21, 2022 at 01:23 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 20, 2022 at 09:25 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 20, 2022 at 05:34 PM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 19, 2022 at 06:41 PM



“ *My one and only sister. i already miss our phone calls. It's so hard to believe that you are gone. May you rest in peace.
Love Larry*



Larry Avelar - November 19, 2022 at 12:01 PM

SE

“ Theresa and I worked together in the Child Development Center at SAC. She was a lovely, friendly, kind lady who was a delight to be around. She loved her family dearly and shared many family stories. Adam Rey was a child in my classroom and Theresa was a helpful, doting grandmother. Prayers for her family.

Sandy Enders - November 19, 2022 at 11:09 AM

LL

Like Sandy Enders, I worked for many years with Theresa at the SAC Child Development Center. It was a joy to work with her! She was that ever-present person who greeted children, parents and faculty with a smile and kind words each day. I, too, had Adam Rey in my room and I have never seen a grandparent so crazy about a grandchild. She was so proud of him. I had not seen Theresa for many years but I never forgot her or her family. She loved you all so much. How lucky you were to have her. I offer my deepest condolences on this huge loss in your lives.

Linda Lowman - November 21, 2022 at 09:25 PM

KF

“ Kit, Lisa & Meagan Flynn purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.



Kit, Lisa & Meagan Flynn - November 19, 2022 at 08:59 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.



November 18, 2022 at 12:42 AM

NF

“ Oh Mrs Martinez as I always called her was who we all called the "cool mom"!

I'll ALWAYS remember the early morning rides to middle AND high school in her fluorescent colored Nova! I don't know if it was green fluorescent or yellow fluorescent, but it was unique and noticeable as Mrs Martinez was!

Mrs Martinez will NEVER be forgotten...I'll carry all the wonderful memories in my heart!

Sandy, Cynthia, and Issac I share with you my sincere and deepest condolences.

Your mom was a brave individual for she'd allow me to spend the night at y'all's house often...she also was brave enough for me to join y'all to a weekend trip to Brownsville while Mr Martinez's was temporarily for a job.

Oh! It was sooo much fun!..I had sooo much fun that as soon as u got home I went on and on and on etc to my mommy about how much fun I had and on Monday mommy called Mrs Martinez to thank her for allowing me to share a wonderful weekend the entire family.

There's not enough time or space to share ALL the beautiful memories that I had with this beautiful person I call Mrs Martinez

This entire posting is sent with "gentle love".

God bless

Nanette

Nanette Fierro - November 18, 2022 at 12:37 AM

RC

Theresa was my neighbor for 28 yrs. She was so full of the love of God and life. She loved people, especially little people. She was always generous with her kind gifts toward our grandchildren. She was so down to earth, fun and young at heart. I will miss her dearly and she will always hold a special place in my heart.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Theresa's loved ones. God's love, comfort and peace be with you all.

ROSALINDA CUBILLOS - November 18, 2022 at 03:09 PM

GV

My sincerest condolences to Theresa's children and family. We were classmates and Red Jackets together.

She had a beautiful personality, always with a smile, kind and had a great sense of humor. Peace and Love be with you all. Grace Huerta Villarreal 58'

Grace Huerta Villarreal - February 19, 2023 at 11:00 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 17, 2022 at 10:38 PM

EA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Ernest Avelar - November 17, 2022 at 07:30 PM

EA

“ How fortunate I am to have had Aunt Theresa in my life! The memories go all the way back to when I was a kid - my brother Greg and I would spend many days during the summer at her house with our cousins Sandy, Cynthia and Issac. She always was so kind and loved to laugh and make us laugh. After my parents passed away, she would call and check on me and years after she'd comment on how much she missed her brother (my Dad) and my Mom and that she always lit a candle for them at church. Every year I looked forward to going to her home for New Year's Eve to enjoy all the good food and her company. Thank you Aunt Theresa for all the kindness, love and memories!

Ernest Avelar - November 17, 2022 at 07:23 PM

NB

“ Nephews Greg, Ernest & Bob purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.



Nephews Greg, Ernest & Bob - November 17, 2022 at 07:04 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.



November 17, 2022 at 09:20 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 16, 2022 at 11:38 PM



“ *Gamboa Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



Gamboa Family - November 16, 2022 at 11:15 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Julia Ginther - November 16, 2022 at 10:58 PM

“ There is a cliché that people say about the recently departed: “now they are only a memory.” However, memories are what keep us going. Memories are our foundation that we rely upon throughout life’s challenges. Making new memories is the goal of every interaction with our friends, family, and peers. My Aunt Theresa was a wonderful “memory maker” and now she is a beautiful memory.

Theresa watched and cared for me in a way that was closer than a typical aunt/nephew relationship. I spent countless hours at her home as a child. My cousin Adam – Theresa’s grandson -- was my schoolmate from kindergarten until our undergraduate studies at The University of Texas at Austin. She would pick us up from school and made sure we were well entertained and well fed in her home. Theresa was a constant source of love and support throughout my life. It was difficult to stay discouraged if she was around. I loved the way Theresa loved my friends. She always asked about my childhood friends, going through a roster of anywhere from three-to-twelve people to see if they were doing well. Many of my childhood friends saw Theresa as a grandmotherly figure in their own lives. She welcomed my wife Sarah into her life with open arms. Theresa had a lot of love to give and it was well received by numerous members of the St. Gregory The Great and Antonian College Prep communities. Theresa was tremendously generous with her home and with her time. She volunteered to organize food pantries and delivered meals and groceries to members of her church community.

Just a month before her passing, in the midst of her own struggles with her health, Theresa gathered what little strength she had left to comfort me in my weakest, darkest moment: the loss of my teenage cousin Kaila. Theresa’s love and kindness was limitless. She will never be only a memory, but an example and an aspiration. I can only hope to become a fraction of the type of elder to the young children in my family that Theresa was to me.





Joshua Avelar - November 16, 2022 at 06:09 PM

RA

“ *Rosy and Andrew Avelar purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



Rosy and Andrew Avelar - November 16, 2022 at 02:29 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Maria Theresa Martinez.*



November 16, 2022 at 02:04 PM