



Maria Elena Rivera

December 7, 1943 - July 27, 2025

María Elena Rivera, lovingly known to family and friends as “Helen,” beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, passed peacefully into the arms of the Lord

on Sunday, July 27, 2025, at the age of 81. She was born in Alice, Texas, on December 7, 1943.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 56 years, Hiram H. Rivera; her parents, Joe and Belia Jacques; sister, Belia Torres (Ralph); great-grandson, Brian Rivera; and two step-granddaughters, Sarah Martinez and Sonia Gaitan.

She is survived by her sons, Hiram Gerard Rivera, Homer Stephen Rivera (Margaret), and Hector Roland Rivera (Donna); sister, Joann Martinez (Sam); grandchildren, Sandra Ramon (Josh), Stephen Rivera (Danielle), Anthony Rivera, Joey Rivera, Aspen Rivera (Ramon), Samantha Brockmeyer (Dylan), Jacob Rivera (Cori), Isabeau Rivera, and Nerea Rivera; great-grandchildren, James Monteagudo, Akayla Moreno, Amaya Moreno, Christopher Rivera,

Thatcher Rivera, Elias Rivera, Blair Brockmeyer, and Kyrie Ramon; godson, Paul Martinez

(Denise); as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and other extended family members.

Raised with modest means, Helen made it her life's mission to ensure no loved one went

without. She was the person people called on for help—offering a hand that often came with a

dose of tough love, but always came through. Her mantra, like her husband Hiram's, was simple

yet profound: "If I have it, you have it."

She devoted herself to uplifting and supporting her children, cheering them on from little league

fields and working school carnivals to high school marching bands, where she and her husband

became lifelong supporters of the Wheatley/Brackenridge High School Band Boosters.

Volunteering for more than a decade—even long after their sons graduated—she held leadership

roles that touched countless students and families. And her support didn't stop there. As her

grandchildren and great-grandchildren began their own journeys through school and

extracurricular activities, Helen continued showing up in bleachers, auditoriums, and on the

sidelines, cheering them on with that same unwavering love and presence.

Though quiet in her expression of faith, Helen's devotion to Divine Redeemer Presbyterian

Church was steady and sincere. She served on Session and faithfully shared

her professional talents as a bookkeeper, contributing to the church's finance team. She especially loved seeing and hearing her sons sing in the church choir, finding quiet joy in their harmony and spirit. Her family will remember her most vividly for her unwavering dedication. She leaves behind a legacy of generosity, strength, and compassion. Her life was a testament to showing up—for her loved ones, her church, and her community—with humility and an open heart. Whether balancing ledgers for the church or selling parade seat tickets, she gave with purpose and without expectation. Her strength never made a scene, but it held generations together. And her compassion, expressed through everyday acts of kindness, remains stitched into the fabric of her family's story.

Helen's legacy lives on not only in the memories of those she touched, but in every act of service and grace carried forward by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Memorial Service

Sunday, August 3rd at 5:00 PM

Visitation begins at 4:00 PM

Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church

407 N. Calaveras St., San Antonio, TX 78207

Final Visitation

Monday, August 4th at 9:00 AM

Mission Park South Funeral Home

1700 SE Military Dr., San Antonio, TX 78214

Graveside Service

Monday, August 4th at 10:00 AM

Mission Park South Cemetery

Reception to follow at the Heritage House on cemetery grounds

In Lieu of Flowers

Please consider a donation in her memory to Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Cemetery Details

Mission Burial Park South

1700 SE Military Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78214
<http://www.missionparks.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 3. 4:00 PM (CT)

Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church
407 N. Calaveras
San Antonio, TX 78207

Funeral Service

AUG 3. 5:00 PM (CT)

Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church
407 N. Calaveras
San Antonio, TX 78207

Graveside Service

AUG 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mission Burial Park South
1700 SE Military Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78214
<http://www.missionparks.com>

Tribute Wall

RM

“ *Refuge Port Ministry purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Maria Elena Rivera.*



Refuge Port Ministry - August 03, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Elena Rivera.*



August 01, 2025 at 03:53 PM

MR

“ *Aunt Helen was so gracious welcoming me into the family 30+ years ago. I'm grateful to be still connected to such a wonderful family. My prayers are for you all grieving the loss of this precious soul. I love imagining she and Hiram together in heaven. Amen.*

MaryLou Russell - July 31, 2025 at 08:56 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Elena Rivera.*



July 31, 2025 at 08:47 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Maria Elena Rivera.



July 31, 2025 at 05:51 PM



“ lourdes & michael bencomo & judy cain, purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Maria Elena Rivera.



lourdes & michael bencomo & judy cain, - July 31, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ Greg Sherri Alex and Ashley purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Maria Elena Rivera.



Greg Sherri Alex and Ashley - July 30, 2025 at 10:28 PM