



## Maria Nela Serna

December 24, 1949 - September 5, 2025

Maria Nela Serna, 75, passed away peacefully in her home on Friday, September 5, 2025, in San Antonio, Texas.

Nela was born on December 24, 1949, in Laredo, Texas, the eldest of nine children, and was raised by her grandparents. In her final days, she was surrounded by the love of her youngest sister, Christine Cady, and her nephew, Gabriel Maldonado, Jr. She was preceded in death by her father, Roberto Cantu, her mother, Maria de Pilar Vasquez Cantu, her long-time love, Raymond B. Elizondo, and many other family members.

A compassionate caregiver, Nela spent years working as a CNA, providing care and comfort to the elderly. She was also a proud entrepreneur, having owned and operated the Sante Fe Lounge. Outside of work, Nela's passions included listening to music, dancing, and tending to her garden.

Known for her outspoken personality, Nela was a straight-talking woman who loved to laugh and loved her life. Her happiest moments were often spent with family and friends, whether playing cards, bingo, or gathering around a bonfire. After the passing of her beloved Raymond, she found joy in caring for

her many dogs and embraced her roles as "Gigi" and "Grandma." She was known for her teasing humor and playful spirit with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nela is survived by her five children: Cynthia, Josie, Jose (Crystal), Lorena (Mauro), and Ida. She also leaves behind 17 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and her two cherished dogs, Chiquita and Mickey-Boy.

Nela's memory will endure in the hearts of those who loved her—a determined soul who lived life on her own terms, and whose spirit will never be forgotten.

On Sunday, September 21, 2025 Visitation will be from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm followed by the Service at 5:00 pm at Mission Park Medical Center, 8332 Fredericksburg Road. A Reception and Fellowship will be from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 21. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Medical Center  
8332 Fredericksburg Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78229

## Service

SEP 21. 5:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Medical Center  
8332 Fredericksburg Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78229

## Reception

SEP 21. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Medical Center  
8332 Fredericksburg Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78229