



Mary Lou Rodriguez

January 2, 1943 - December 31, 2025

A wonderful woman, spouse, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, cousin, niece, co-worker, mentor, mother-in-law, advocate and friend has passed to spread her joy to her transitioned family and new friends. Mary Lou Rodriguez, 82, of San Antonio, Texas died peacefully surrounded by family on December 31, 2025, two days shy of her 83rd birthday.

She was born January 2, 1943, in San Antonio, Texas to John Salinas and Carmen (Valdez) Salinas, who treated her with all the love and admiration befitting their third child. She enjoyed working with her mother at the general store they ran on Castroville Road before its conversion to her father's radio and television repair business. Mary Lou attended Edgewood High School before going on to work as a secretary and administrative assistant. She spent most of her career working with the San Antonio City Clerk's Office. While in that office, she took minutes of the City Council meetings and later was responsible for all honorary resolutions

and proclamations
to recognize different events or causes around the City. This was the work she
found most
satisfying and really defined her work life.

Mary Lou met the love of her life, Arturo Rodriguez, at Edgewood High School
where they
dated through graduation. Like many high school loves, they separated shortly
thereafter. A
year later they were reunited at a dance. Arturo and another man asked Mary
Lou for the next
dance...and she chose the other man. Persistent now as he was then, Arturo
made a second
effort to dance with her and that effort was rewarded with a marriage that
lasted 62 years. They
married on April 28, 1963. Both would say it was the best 62 years of their
lives. The title Mary
Lou would likely have found the most fitting is "Awesome Spouse."

They soon started a family. Sonia Rodriguez made the couple a family on May
20, 1964. With
all the bluster and excitement of a hurricane, Sonia kept both on their toes
throughout their lives.
But the love was strong and endured as Sonia provided such great love and
care during Mary
Lou's declining years. Monica (Rodriguez) Gonzalez joined the family on May
16, 1968. She
immediately gave them an additional child to love and nurture. During the teen
years, let's just
say Monica provided balance to what Sonia provided. Arturo D. Rodriguez, Jr.
joined the family

June 5, 1970. As the youngest boy, he was showered with all the love an entire family could bring. Through all the years with her kids, Mary Lou loved them all equally and provided the home they loved. Mary Lou was simply the best mom ever.

Though she loved being a mother, Mary Lou excelled at being a grandmother. Through Monica's marriage to Juan Gonzalez, Mary Lou spent a lot of time with Jonathan and Michael Gonzalez. Through Art's marriage to Kate (Luton) Rodriguez, Mary Lou enjoyed time with Madeline and Diego Rodriguez. Even while living through the effects of Alzheimer's Disease, she never forgot her grandchildren and was always there for their birthdays, holidays, performances, and sporting events.

Mary Lou even had great-grandchildren. Through Jonathan's marriage to Ashley (Maher) Gonzalez, Mary Lou was a great-grandmother to Patrick, Alex, a sweet son whose life ended to soon, and Alana who Mary Lou got to meet.

As she lived with Alzheimer's through her parents and siblings' own bouts with the disease, Mary Lou was very aware of the road she faced when she was ultimately diagnosed with Alzheimer's. But instead of letting the disease control her fate, she embraced the diagnosis and

became an advocate for patients. She gave speeches, did commercials and interviews, and was recognized for her work advocating for the continued dignity of patients during their last days.

She was a beacon of light for caregivers during that period of time.

Mary Lou had two siblings, Mary (Salinas) Pacheco (spouse Joe Pacheco) and Rodolfo Salinas (spouse Gertrudis Salinas). All both preceded her in death.

Lastly, if you know Mary Lou, you had an instant friend. To all that met her, you could not have asked for a more joyful person to know. She was the best wife, mother, and grandmother. While her joy on earth is certainly missed, the family is comforted that her joy is being spread to everyone as she crossed from this life.

SERVICES

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, Visitation will begin at 5:00 P.M. followed by the Rosary at 6:00

P.M. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, 3401 Cherry Ridge Drive. On Monday, January 12,

2026 the procession will depart the Funeral Home Chapel at 8:45 A.M. for a 10:00 A.M. Funeral

Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church 1204 Castroville Road. Interment will

follow at San Fernando Archdiocesan Cemetery II.

Donations in Mary Lou's name may be made in lieu of flowers to <https://event>

[s.alz.org/fundraisers/arturorodriguez/mary-lou-rodriguez-memorial-page](https://www.alz.org/fundraisers/arturorodriguez/mary-lou-rodriguez-memorial-page) in support of the Alzheimer's Association.

Cemetery Details

San Fernando Cemetery #2

746 Castroville Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78237

Tribute Wall

VE

“ I worked with Mary Lou at the Alcohol Action Project for the City of San Antonio in the early 1970s. She was a wonderful and patient supervisor. I had much respect for her and enjoyed working with her. Mary Lou and family moved to El Paso for a time and I went to visit them there. Her children were still small. Mary Lou and Arturo took me around the city and to other areas near El Paso. I lost track of the family for many years and recently connected with them again. I was so pleased to have reconnected. I will always keep Mary Lou in my memories. She was an amazing person. My deepest condolences to the family. Her friend, Vel Espinoza

V.N. Espinoza - January 15 at 09:45 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mary Lou Rodriguez.



January 11 at 12:01 PM

RA

“ *The best friend in my life, Mary Lou and I were friends since 3 years of age. We were neighbors on Moraima Street, went to school together, graduated together, and went to senior prom and Arthur was allowed to drive us! Since 13 years of age, she and her family motivated my desire to dance and travel.*

Her friends occasionally went with close friends to dance clubs in SA and they let us join them. We saw waltzes, two-steps, danzones performed beautifully. Also occasionally, the family would travel to Mexico to visit relatives and they would invite me join them. I loved it!! Mary Lou introduced me to a whole new world that changed my life. She didn't realize what a treasure she was to me. It warmed my heart each time I called her later in life and she always recognized my voice and remembered me. She was a saint, full of love and caring for all. Now she is a beautiful Angel. Blessed be our Lord and God to have blessed so many of us who knew her. My prayers go out to Arthur and their wonderful children and grandchildren.

Rose Mary (Hernandez) Alais - January 10 at 05:51 PM

MB

“ *Melissa Bolden purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of Mary Lou Rodriguez.*



Melissa Bolden - January 10 at 04:38 PM



“ *Majestic Heart was purchased for the family of
Mary Lou Rodriguez.*



January 10 at 01:29 AM

AG

“Come to me all ... I will give you rest” - Matthew 11:28
Our hope prayers are with you
Joel and Albert

Alberto Guerra - January 07 at 09:16 PM

TF

“The Luebke Family purchased the Fairest of All
for the family of Mary Lou Rodriguez.



The Luebke Family - January 06 at 09:54 PM