



Rafael B. Peña

February 19, 1933 - July 15, 2009

PEÑA

Rafael B. Peña, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather entered into eternal rest on July 15, 2009, at the age of 76. Rafael was born on February 19, 1933, in Rio Grande City, Texas. He is preceded in death by his parents, Flavio Z. Peña and Guadalupe A. Villarreal, his brother Flavio Peña, Jr., and brother-in-law, Romeo J. Vasquez. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and devoted wife of 53 years, Rosa Lidia, four children, Rafael B., Jr. Liz, Roland, Rosie George Felan, Renee Gil Mireles, 15 grandchildren, 7 great-grand children, many nieces and nephews, and numerous friends. Rafael graduated from Hebbronville High School in 1952 and immediately entered the Air Force. Shortly after completion of basic training he was assigned to Korea working on Crypto Communications. Rafael continued in the Air Force Reserves while he worked at Kelly Air Force Base as a Computer Programmer for the Directorate of Distribution eventually retiring as a Master Sgt.

Throughout his 30 years at Kelly, he worked diligently to acquire his Bachelors degree by attending night school at Southwest Texas State University graduating in 1976. In his post retirement years, he devoted his time to his family, and thoroughly enjoyed managing the family ranch and attending any occasion involving family and friends. Rafael was an extremely caring and generous individual. He encouraged his children and grandchildren to set their

goals high and to work hard to achieve them. He was a powerful motivator who stressed that education and responsibility are the keys to success. He will be deeply missed but remembered forever. His accomplishments are many and are evident in every life he touched. His legacy will live on forever through his children and their families.

The pallbearers will be all of his grandchildren, including Christopher Peña who is currently serving in Iraq, and his closest friend Roger Munoz.

SERVICES

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 beginning at 5:00PM, with a Rosary recited at 7:00PM at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 350 Sutton, San Antonio, Texas 78228. The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 10:00AM at the church. Interment will follow at San Fernando Cemetery #2.

You may sign the on-line guestbook at www.missionparks.com under the obituary section.

MISSION PARK NORTH
3401 CHERRY RIDGE
SAN ANTONIO TX 78230
210 349-1414

Tribute Wall

ST

“ *Ralph was my mentor in 1967-68 Kelly, Commo then again when I was in over my head in 1968-69 as a young EM in a job that was way above my pay-grade; I never forgot the friendship, the counseling, the encouragement and the support that he gave me on a very*

Steve Tierney - February 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *We pray for God's hand upon you and your family to provide His comfort during this time of such great loss. Ralph was extremely kind to my family and we had the utmost respect for him. We were so fortunate to have known such a great man.*

Cindy Abrego Soto - August 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *Spent a year in Korea with "Sgt." Pena in 1968 and 1969. Became great friends. Am greatly saddened to hear of his death. Knowing him contributed to the enrichment of my life. May he rest in peace.*

Judd Knighton - August 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Rosa Lidia & Family,
I just heard of Ralph's passing. He was truly a unique, inspiring and very special dear friend. I too, will miss him greatly, but know that his super positive, can-do spirit will remain ever present with us.
I stopped to rec*

Richard A. Alvarado, CPA - August 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort.*

Jorge & Amalia Pena - July 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Our sincere condolences to all of the family and our prayers are with you through these sad times. God Bless you all.*

Jesse & Eva Pelayo - July 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *Our most sincere condolences, our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.*

Maria Eisa B. and Gilbert Gonzales - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *May the Good Lord receive Rafael with open arms and rest his soul in peace forever.*

Sylvia Saenz - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *My family and I wish to convey our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy for your loss. I shall never forget watching Rafael lead the marching band in Hebron. He did his job so well, it was clear he was the leader and in charge of that band. May*

Ma. Brunilda Saenz Laurel - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DU

“ Rosa, Ninfa and I share your grief on your losses of Romeo and Rafael. They were the two most interesting persons we have known. Rafael was like a brother to me as you know, his advise and wit will be missed by the Duke, as he liked to call me. Take Care

DUQUETTE - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CU

“ Our condolences and prayers to the family and friends. May God bless you and keep you with him.

Central Property Crimes/Robbery Unit - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Our deepest condolences and prayers to the family. God bless you and keep you.

Reyes & Maggie Lozano - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ My deepest condolences and prayers are with your family. With God's blessing

patty flores - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of loss. may the Lord give you comfort.

grace and jeffrey lanning - July 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *Mrs Pena and Family, my sincerest sympathy. I have known Ralph since I first went to work at Kelly in 1974. After he retired, we stayed in touch through our poker club that we had for many years. Ralph was a lot of fun to be around, and I always enjoyed h*

Rey Ramirez - July 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ *Most sincere condolences, our prayers and thoughts are with you. Mr. & Mrs. Mauro Vasquez, Jr. 152 Lyon Street, Mercedes, Texas 78570*

Mauro Vasquez, Jr. - July 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *Dear Pena Family:*

It is with deepest sadness that I extend my condolences to you on the loss of your beloved.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations, I am sincerely thankful for his valiant service and dedic

Senator Leticia Van de Putte - July 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *Our deepest sympathy in the loss of your love one Rafael B. Pena. A friend from old Zapata. I have relatives in Hebbronville since Tio Nicolas Trevino Flores and my grandfather Francisco Trevino Flores were brothers and my grand mother Petra Trevino de Ga*

Alonso & Beatriz Garcia - July 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Dear Rosa and family,

I am so sorry for your loss. I have wonderful memories as a child playing and spending time in your home. Your family has always been so loving and welcoming. Please know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Lov

Alexa Camacho Spahr - July 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We were really shocked to hear of his passing. We will remember him in our prayers. We will really miss him.

Stan & Priscilla Antonowich - July 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Rosa Lidia, my thoughts are with you now. You had a wonderful guy in Rafael, and were able to share a beautiful life with him and the family you both created. I'll miss my fellow Hebronville High School graduate and I send my love to all the family.

Jeanette & Norman Koger - July 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ My sincerest condolence to the Pena family. I've known Rafael since 1953. I was fortunate to have him as a friend.

Lou

Lou Bafo - July 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Rosa and all the Pena families, spouses and siblings. This was unexpected news to many of us. Ralphie was my friend who was always there to help me when I asked for advice. He was a person who would give you his shirt and help you. In our many meeting

Betty Opiela Chrisman - July 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Extending our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your loved one.

Directors & Staff at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North

Mission Park North - July 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ We will be all together again when the 7th Comm has the ultimate reunion with the Lord. I will miss you dearly until then.

Ed Moskaly - July 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ We got to know the PENA family when my Bother-in-law TONY ARCURIA passed on and the PENA'S came to LAS VEGAS to pay their respect. TONY & RAFAEL were like brothers.I continued to stay in touch with Rafael via phone calls and EMAILS.Our hearts go out to R

Joe & Jay Infuso - July 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Dear Rosa and family; While we shared some time in Korea in 52/3, I did not really know Rafael until I met him much later at a 5th Group reunion. I share your grief at this time, and my wife and I want to convey to you and your family our most sincere sym

Bill Moore - July 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ My wife and I have lost a dear friend. Things will not be right without him the same as when we both lost our dear friend Tony Arcuria in Vegas several years ago. However we know they are both looking down on us tonight. Since 1953 I John have not had a b

John Kitchen - July 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM