



## Raymond Mata Vargas

January 8, 1935 - February 3, 2025

It is with great sorrow and love that wife Roxana and daughter Roxie Vargas announce the passing of beloved husband and father, Raymond Mata Vargas, on Feb. 3, 2025. A disabled Navy Veteran, and retired Kelly Air Force Base B52 & C5 Aircraft General Foreman, Raymond Mata Vargas, age 90, was born January 8, 1935, in San Antonio-TX to Cleofas and Porfiria Vargas who have preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death is his son, Raymond Vargas, Jr; eight brothers, Pat, Paul, Cleofas, George, Henry, Gabriel, Tony, Bobby, and sister, Eleanor.

He is survived by his wife, Roxana Vargas; his children, Cynthia Trevino (Roland), David Vargas (Rosie), Mark Vargas (Danisia), and Roxana Celeste "Roxie" Vargas. He is also survived by his late son, Raymond Jr's wife, Yolanda Vargas, brother Eddie Vargas and ten grandchildren: Stephanie De Santiago, Roland Trevino Jr., Priscilla Trevino, Monica Torres, Mark Jr "Marco" Vargas, Nicole Vargas Valdez, Nicholas Vargas, David Vargas Jr, Chrissy Vargas, and Robert Moralez. He has 31 great grandchildren, and 8 great-great grandchildren.

Raymond, a US Navy Petty Officer, Quartermaster, served during the Korean War on the U.S.S. Oriskany, an Essex class aircraft carrier, where he

sustained wartime injuries aboard the aircraft carrier operating off the Sea of Japan. The Oriskany was part of Task Force 77, which was the aircraft carrier battle strike force of the United States Seventh Fleet of the US Navy. It was after a bombing mission, that one of the aircraft's bombs did not disengage properly and exploded on deck while the aircraft was landing on its return mission. Raymond sustained significant injuries as a result of the explosion and received treatment at several Naval Hospitals at Yokosuka, Japan, San Diego and Texas for the next 3 years, leading to a disability retirement after 4 years in service. He later began his 37-year Air Force civil service career as a sheet metal mechanic apprentice at the San Antonio Air Logistics Center at Kelly AFB, TX. He completed a 4-year apprenticeship and was certified by the Department of Labor as a master mechanic journeyman. The following 33 years, he spent in a supervisory and management capacity as an aircraft general foreman for sheet metal and manufacturing, aircraft parts and repair, heat-treating jet engines, welding aircraft parts, B-52 bomber and C-5 cargo aircraft repair and modification and machining aircraft parts. During his various managerial assignments, he supervised multiple teams of supervisors and a 225- member workforce of sheet metal mechanics, welders, machinists, and heat-treaters, all in support of the Air Logistics Center's aircraft programmed depot maintenance mission for the B52 Bomber and C-5 Cargo aircraft. Throughout his managerial career, he was an active member of the Federal Managers and Kelly Management Associations. Early in his civil service career, he coached Pop Warner football for Youths and also CYO girls' softball and boy's baseball teams. He encouraged and took an interest in coaching his children, Raymond, Jr., Cynthia, David and Mark in the CYO softball and baseball programs, especially since they were so athletic. His active community involvement resulted in him being recognized by Kelly AFB leadership who assigned what it was then to become his future wife, a Kelly AFB mission newswriter, Roxana Villarreal, to write up a feature news article on his many contributions to youths in the community. Her feature on Raymond was publicized in AFNEWS and the San Antonio Express News. He

later married Roxana Villarreal, and they have been married for 44 years.

An avid golfer, Raymond, was a member of the Kelly AFB Weekenders' Association and won a few city amateur tournaments in his class. Upon his civil service retirement, he served as a golf marshal at various PGA events at the Oak Hills and La Cantera country clubs and Seniors PGA tournaments at the Dominion. Both he and his wife, Roxana, enjoyed marshalling at the Valero Texas Open. As a retiree, he loved to play golf with his wife Roxana, daughter Roxie and sons, Raymond Jr, and Mark. He proudly taught Roxie to play golf and continued to coach her when she was on the golf team at Marshall High School.

A 38-year member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Helotes, Raymond was an active member of the OLG Military Family Ministry, along with his wife Roxana and daughter Roxie. A devout Catholic, he has always had a deep and abiding faith, carrying on a Catholic Tradition passed on from his parents and grandparents.

He also had a deep love of music and played the Spanish Guitar. He enjoyed entertaining family and friends by playing and singing many Spanish ballads along with his brothers and was gratified to see so many of his children and grandchildren display musical abilities and talent like him.

A lifetime of contributing to the community and mentoring others, he was loved by everyone he knew and will always be remembered for his generosity of spirit and kindness.

Visitation will begin at 5:00 P.M. followed by the Rosary at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, 3401 Cherry Ridge Drive, San Antonio-TX.

Final Viewing will be February 21 at 9:00am at the Funeral Home. The Procession will depart the Funeral Home at 10:00 A.M. for the Funeral Mass to be celebrated at 11:00 A.M at St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church, 105 Roft Rd, San Antonio, TX 78253. Interment with Military Honors will follow at Resurrection Cemetery at Cordi-Marian, 11624 Culebra Rd., San Antonio-TX. Reception to follow at Our Lady of Guadalupe Annex Property (3rd Floor Ballroom), 11762 FM1560, Helotes, TX 78023 @ 3pm

In addition to flowers, contributions are welcome to be made to VFW Post 7108 in Helotes, TX at the following link: <https://vfw7108.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp> to Donate in Raymond M. Vargas' name.

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery at Cordi - Marian

11624 Culebra Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78253

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 20. 5:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Rosary

FEB 20. 6:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Final Viewing

FEB 21. 9:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Procession

FEB 21. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Funeral Mass

FEB 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church  
6150 Roft Road  
San Antonio, TX 78253

## Interment with Military Honors

FEB 21 (CT)

Resurrection Cemetery at Cordi - Marian  
11624 Culebra Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78253

## Reception to follow interment

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FEB 21 (CT)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Annex Property (3rd Floor Ballroom)  
11762 FM 1560  
Helotes, TX 78023

# Tribute Wall

OV

“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Olivia Villarreal - February 20, 2025 at 12:48 PM

OV

“ Raymond was the best brother in law ever! He was a kind and gentle man who loved his family and country! So many memories of the joy he brought to our lives and how he just loved my cat, Sammy! Lol! Memories of numerous Spurs games, barbecues, playing his guitar and just his presence will be so missed! Love you Raymond and fly with angels as you were such a blessing to all of us! Prayers and peace to Roxana & Roxie!

Olivia Villarreal - February 20, 2025 at 12:36 PM

GF

“ Gerardo Herrera & Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Raymond Mata Vargas.



Gerardo Herrera & Family - February 20, 2025 at 11:01 AM

MR

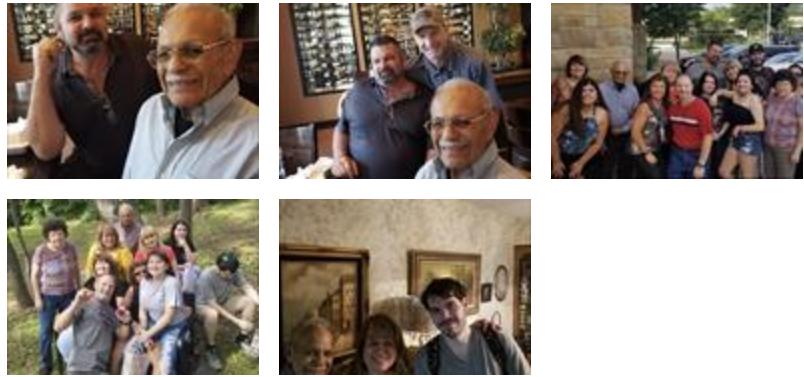
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



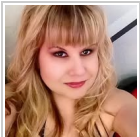
Maria Ramsey - February 19, 2025 at 10:58 PM



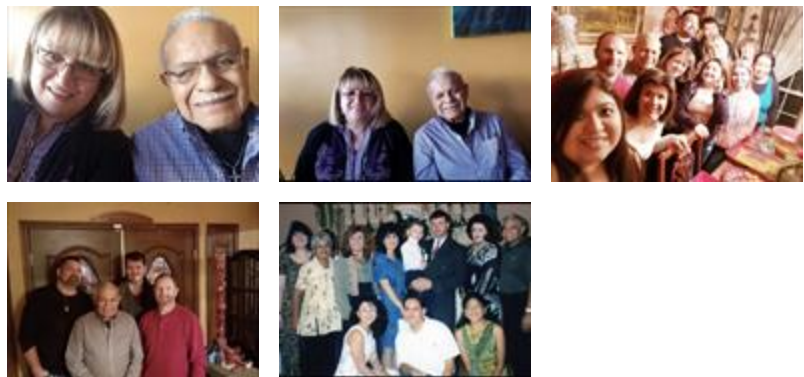
“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



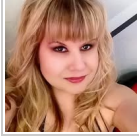
Florence Gogel - February 19, 2025 at 10:23 PM



“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Florence Gogel - February 19, 2025 at 10:22 PM



“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



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**Florence Gogel** - February 19, 2025 at 09:51 PM

MM

“ He was a kind man with a good heart, ill always remember the memories we had together whether it be him singing and playing guitar at birthdays or when we played golf when i was younger. I love you uncle Raymond and i miss you but know ill see you again one day.



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**matthew Mewborn** - February 19, 2025 at 07:39 PM

KR

“ If you did not know my uncle Raymond, he was the most loving, kind hearted, and family oriented man. There was not a day or moment where he was not lending a helping hand, supporting his family, or playing his guitar while singing to us on our birthdays. I am truly blessed to have had an amazing, Godly man as my tío. I am especially grateful that he was able to meet my son and create unforgettable memories with him, my lovely cousin, and his beautiful wife, my tía. ❤️

Lastly, it so hard to pick a favorite memory when there are so many amazing ones. From the moment I was born, my tío loved and supported me in every way. I'll always cherish the memories of sleeping on his chest in his recliner at my tía's house as a baby, feeling safe and loved. As I grew up, that love never wavered, he was always there, especially front row at my basketball games, cheering me on with so much pride. His unwavering support and presence meant everything to me, and I will forever be grateful for the love he poured into our family.

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**Kayla Ramsey** - February 19, 2025 at 01:30 PM

YF

“ Your Brighton Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Raymond Mata Vargas.



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**Your Brighton Family** - February 19, 2025 at 10:23 AM

JG

“ I was fortunate enough to meet Raymond almost 20 years ago. I found him to be one of the most kindest men I’ve ever met. I will never forget how he brought me into his yard and showed me his beautiful garden and the way it was set up. He was so proud. A wonderful, beautiful family man. Rest in peace, my friend.

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**John Giannullo** - February 19, 2025 at 08:24 AM

BF

“ Betty Vargas & Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Raymond Mata Vargas.



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**Betty Vargas & Family** - February 18, 2025 at 10:48 PM

MD

“ My most notable memories of Uncle Raymond are from when I was in the fourth grade. He would pick me up from school everyday and we would listen to the radio. He always had the most kind and caring nature to me, and I always enjoyed talking to him. I would join him as he would cook Chili Mac and Pork Chops for dinner. He also would let me up in the balcony study in their room and I could watch rain from out of the window. I will miss him a lot. I have much love for my godfather, godmother and my cousin Roxy.

- Love, Meghan

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**Meghan Duarte** - February 18, 2025 at 10:33 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond Mata Vargas.*



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February 18, 2025 at 06:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Mata Vargas.*



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February 18, 2025 at 04:28 PM

FG

“ *It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Raymond, a beloved husband, father, and friend. Raymond was a true blessing to our family when he met the love of his life, my sister Roxana. Together, they shared more than 40 years of marriage, standing side by side through all of life’s joys and challenges.*

*Raymond’s generosity knew no bounds. He was always there to lend a hand, whether helping my mom, my sisters, or anyone in need, without ever asking for anything in return. His selflessness was a gift to all of us.*

*As his health declined, Roxana stood by him, offering him unwavering love and care. Her dedication to him never wavered, and it was clear to all that Raymond was comforted by her devotion, which remained until the very end.*

*Though we have lost a great man, husband, and father, we take comfort in knowing that God has called him home to be one of His angels. Our hearts are heavy, but we trust in His love and grace to carry us through this sorrowful time.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Roxana, Roxie, and all of Raymond’s children as they navigate this immense loss. May God surround them with peace, strength, and comfort in the days ahead. Rest in peace, Raymond—you will be deeply missed but forever loved.*

*Love Florence, John, Matt, Meghan, Bruno & Grace*

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**Florence Gogel** - February 18, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ *The world has lost one of the truly great and honorable people when the Lord called Raymond home. I, as most people who knew him, consider myself eternally blessed that I got to love and know him and spend time with him. Special memories are the many times that we played golf together, Raymond teaching me and showing me the truly proper way to play. I thought I knew something about golf until I started playing with Raymond. I quickly realized that I had a lot to learn and he was very willing and able to show me.*

*God bless you Raymond. Your place in heaven is undoubtedly assured and certainly well deserved. Your memory will live on with all of us, forever...*

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February 18, 2025 at 10:39 AM



“ *Raymond has been my brother in law since I was about 10. He was the best ever. He played a role in my life that I will always be blessed for. He was just like a brother to me. He taught me about cars, and how to grill. He was always there for me and my sisters and always allowed us to come on dates with him and Roxana. My deepest condolences to my sister Roxana and niece Roxie and all his children. Praying Gods comfort and peace be with you all. Raymond was deeply loved and will be missed.*



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**Maria Ramsey** - February 18, 2025 at 12:30 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Mata Vargas.*



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February 13, 2025 at 04:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Mata Vargas.*



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February 13, 2025 at 03:35 PM