



Reuben M. Garcia

January 18, 2021

Loving father, husband, brother, uncle, grandfather, and a great friend - full of life, humor, wisdom, and creativity - Reuben M. Garcia, born in Naic, Cavite, Philippines to Dr. Miguel J. Garcia and Lourdes M. Garcia, has joined the arms of our Heavenly Father on Monday, January 18, 2021, in San Antonio, Texas, surrounded by his family during his last moments as he peacefully crossed over to begin his next journey. During his time here on Earth, he was not just full of life, but rather overflowing with it in all of its beautiful and colorful abundance.

At the age of 19 after studying Engineering at Mapua Institute of Technology, he attended the Philippine Air Force Flying School in 1953 with hopes of becoming a pilot. He knew of his colorblindness, but he was determined to become one so badly. And so for him to be able to pass the written tests which involved color perception, he memorized the answers to the test given to him by a friend, to which he passed the exams with flying colors (pun intended). Come the day of his solo flight on July 8, 1953, the instructor had discovered that he was unable to differentiate the colors of the horizon and due to safety concerns of his color blindness, he had left the Philippine Air Force Flying School and later joined the United States Navy in June 1954 where he had served a long and honorable 23-year career, retiring at the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer in June 1977.

Life for him didn't stop after retirement, but he continued to learn and re-invent himself. He was a man that contained multitudes, showing us that we are never just one thing. He was an engineer, a realtor, a salesman, an electrician, a woodworker - a jack of all trades. He loved to share his wealth of knowledge, especially his most recent passion in woodworking by building projects with his children.

He made sacrifices and faced tough challenges along the way, but he also came across multitudes of beautiful experiences that a lifetime has to offer. He taught us what it is to be human - we experience joy and laughter, and at times we experience pain and sadness in all of humanity's beauty and imperfections; we make mistakes, but strive to reconcile; we fall and where it seems like there's nowhere to go, we rebuild; we have our successes, to which we should celebrate; to enjoy life in all its abundance, and fill the room with laughter and our home with memories.

He continues to live on through all of us from the beautiful and meaningful life that he had created and built. He will always be remembered and forever be in our hearts.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Dolores Garcia; his children Anna Francesca Umeno (Kei), Rex Dominick Garcia (Angelica), Ofelia Derr (Dennis), Reuben Garcia Jr., and Portia Gallagher (Gary); his brothers and sisters Alicia Garcia Nazareno (Nanding), Jose "Pitoy" Garcia (Elsie), Federico "Freddie" Garcia (Gloria), Elvira "Bebot" Garcia Lubag (Marte), Leticia "Paping" Garcia Villaflor (Delfin), Carmen "Tita" Garcia Marquez (Pepito), and Manuel "Manoling" Garcia (Josie); his grandchildren Amelia Garcia, Benjamin Gallagher, Angelica Garcia, Grace Garcia, Alexis Garcia, and Nicholas Garcia; and a host of loving in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded by his parents Dr. Miguel Jocson Garcia and Lourdes

Martinez Garcia, his brother Miguel Garcia Jr., and his son Ricardo Garcia (survived by wife, Lisa Garcia and family).

Visitation is from 5:00pm - 6:00pm CST, immediately followed by a memorial service for the celebration of his life at 5:00pm on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge, 3401 Cherry Ridge, San Antonio, TX 78230. A livestream of the service will also be available. Private Interment is pending at a later date.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 21. 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/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of Reuben M. Garcia*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - February 21, 2021 at 04:29 PM

AV

“ *I remember Uncle Reuben was always a DIY type of guy. When he would stay at my parents' house he would always build something or fix something for us. One time, he asked me for a cordless drill to fix the microwave hood. When I brought it to him, he gave me this funny look and said, "Black & Decker? Don't buy that sh*t. That's garbage, it's going to break in one year." This was about twenty years ago and to this day, I've never bought another Black & Decker. Thank you Uncle, may you rest in peace.*

Alvin Villaflor - February 21, 2021 at 07:44 PM

OD

That's funny. I can totally hear him saying that. Thanks for the memory.

ofelia derrr - February 26, 2021 at 07:40 PM

MG

“ *I'll miss you Uncle! :(Love to All!*

Miguel Garcia - February 21, 2021 at 06:50 PM

JV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jean Villaflor - February 21, 2021 at 06:05 PM

JV

“ Love you Uncle Rueben, will miss you and your wonderful stories💕

Jean Villaflor - February 21, 2021 at 05:51 PM

CF

“ You will always be in our dear hearts together with your love, laughters, kindness, wisdom, humor, tears, sadness, and joy. With Love and peace be with all the Garcia family at this time. ❤️🙏❤️ Will be missing you Tito Rueben. We'll see your beautiful, smiles soon.



Cecilia Marquez Friz - February 21, 2021 at 04:37 PM

CU

“ 241 files added to the tribute wall

Chesca Umeno - February 21, 2021 at 04:17 PM

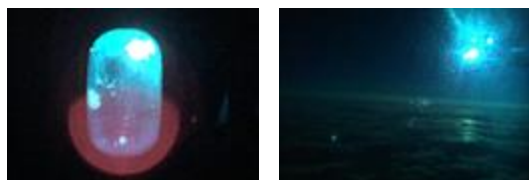
CU

“ 256 files added to the tribute wall

Chesca Umeno - February 21, 2021 at 04:15 PM

DG

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Dolores Garcia - February 21, 2021 at 04:14 PM

CU

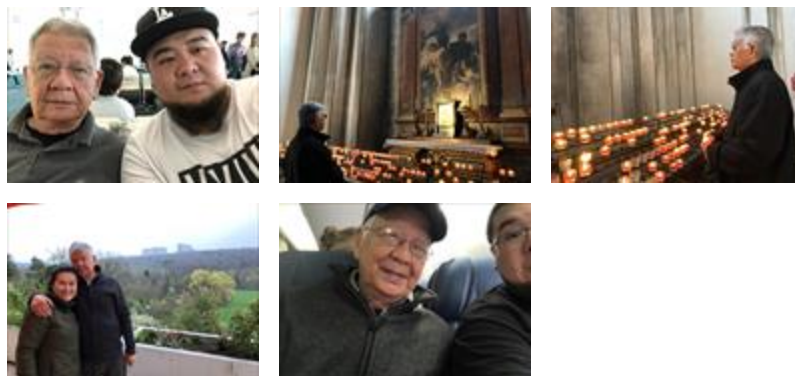
“ 256 files added to the tribute wall



Chesca Umemo - February 21, 2021 at 04:01 PM

DG

“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



Dolores Garcia - February 21, 2021 at 01:13 PM

DG

How can one say goodbye to a love one after 36 yrs of being together, day in day out, 24/7 with a few months of just being apart.... spending a day or a year or even an eternity will never be enough if you truly love that person... all I have left now of you are just memories, lots of good memories. You always fill the room with the sound of your spontaneous singing, your hey hey, hey... and your smile, your laughter...I miss you soo much it hurts! I'm gonna miss your cooking, our midnight snacks, our Netflix binge watching, Our random trips to Lowe's, our server at your favorite Thai Hut restaurant misses you too.

Someone once said "the one who truly loves you sees what a mess you can be and how moody you can get and how hard you are to handle at times and still wants to be with you." "The one s who truly loves you will never leave you for another because even if there are 1000 reasons to give up he/she will find 1 reason to hold on and stay..." We've been thru a lot, you and I... but despite all we made it through.... the past 2 yrs has been the highlight of all, just you and me together, sabi mo walang iwanan... our short trips even going to the lake or the short stops at the park, and our short strolls... the trips that Nikko and Chesca made just to be with us, we will always treasure. Bakit ngayon bigla kang umalis??!!! I was not ready yet Ben. We made more plans for the future, plans that were cut short. You were so excited to see and hold Amie in your arms, even had plans to help raise her.

My husband was full of adventures, with lots of stories and jokes to share. Full of ideas, a mind of treasures I would always tell him, he cracks me up with his jokes and his comments, you name it , any topic under the sun, be it political, religion, socio-economic, he is well versed. He will makes you think, Never a dull moment with him, he can trigger all your emotions and imaginations. I've seen his hopes, dreams, it takes only a little to make him happy, he has such a generous heart, he loves his family, and more so his brothers and sisters.

I've seen his highs when you found out Nikko and Angge were pregnant and when you held Amie, and when we first went to Austria to see his favorite - Mozart, we were going to see the rest -, Bach, Vivaldi, Andrei Reiu, but then COVID hit. I've seen several of his lows seen him cry and be vulnerable.

Despite his flaws, there still 1000 more reasons to Love him. I 've seen the Blue moon with you Ben and I Love you to the moon and back, you are now at God's side but you will always be in my heart.

Dolores Garcia - February 21, 2021 at 04:12 PM

“As a kid, I had always thought everyone around me would live forever. As I got older, I soon began to realize that those around me were also getting older. I start noticing the gray hairs, the wrinkles, the spots that weren't there, the lapses in memory - all the things that come with age. When the time came and he passed on to his next life, only then did I find just how short life actually is. It's not news, but somehow it manages to surprise us - over and over again. We mourn. We grieve. No matter how many times we go through losing someone we love, we'll always feel the pain and sadness - it never gets any easier. It doesn't matter whether we got to spend a day, years, or everyday being with them. Even if we live to be a thousand, there's never enough time being with the ones we love, We'd always want them to be around and being left behind is such a painful thing to go through. All that we are left with are memories and the things they've left behind. But despite that fact, nothing can ever take away the impact and significance of Dad's lifetime.

At family gatherings, he was always the life of the party. He'd fill the room with a hearty rambunctious laugh, holding a glass of rum & coke, telling stories and jokes with absolutely no filter in all its rawness and integrity, no holding back like a true Caviteño.

He loved music and always wanted to share that love with us in infinite ways. When I was ill on my 6th birthday, he bought a wooden music box in the shape of a piano and a tiny ukulele made out of brown coconut to cheer me up. I attribute my love for music to him.

He lived a life of his own volition. When he decided to do something, he did it. I remember during my 3rd grade summer break, Dad flew us all from the Philippines to Texas with the intent of visiting my sister Ofelia. Next thing you know, I hear my parents saying we won't be returning and that we're moving to Texas with only the stuff we brought for our vacation. Just like that, he made San Antonio our new home.

He loved to build things and work with his hands. He taught himself woodworking, often looking at tutorials for plans to try and build. I loved how his face lit up sharing his new passion and took pride in the things he built. He also taught me how to use his tools, and together we built two bar stools and a coffee table for my old apartment.

He had this machismo side of him, but we also saw how vulnerable he can be. While they were in Germany, I lost my dog Iggy to cancer last year in August. I was depressed and he'd call everyday to check on me and made sure I was okay. We'd talk about life and the pain of losing someone we cared for so deeply, how unfair life could be. He opened up and shared his pain when he went through it. I saw him cry every time he thought about it, his voice shaking, trying to hold his tears back. And now he's gone too. It's hard to accept that we now have to face a world without him.

Sure, he had flaws too, but don't we all? He showed us how to be human and to live the only life we've been given here on Earth to its fullness in all its facets. He showed us the importance of forgiveness and love. At times he'd try to win you over with food or a cup of coffee as his own way of saying sorry. Even through challenges, big or small, we strive to reconcile. He never held a grudge against anyone and he'd love you no matter what, a legacy we should continue to do and live by on his behalf - to love unconditionally.

I miss hearing your voice, your laughter, your stories and jokes. I miss our travels. I miss the sounds of you using your power tools for your woodwork that have now gone quiet. I miss our trips to Lowes to pick out wood for your projects. I miss going to Barnes & Noble with you to read and drink coffee. I miss seeing you around the house, tinkering with home improvement ideas with a pencil behind your ear. I miss driving and talking with you. I miss you being here. I miss you terribly, Dad. I love you.



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Reuben M. Garcia*.



February 14, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Ofelia Derr - February 14, 2021 at 04:31 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Lina Paulson - February 14, 2021 at 11:28 AM

LP

“ I met Reuben in 1957, he was in the Navy at Subic Bay, Philippines. He was very handsome, joyous, a good story teller and had a great family. During our 24 years of marriage, we had four wonderful children. He was a good family man. Being in the Navy, I have fond memories of travel and adventures. We remained friends as well with the fun loving Garcia family. Reuben, Rest in peace...like I said, I'll see you sooner or later....”
Lina Paulson

Lina Paulson - February 13, 2021 at 09:48 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Ofelia Derr - February 13, 2021 at 09:29 PM

“ Reuben, aka Kuntil, Bentot, Dad....

I have many wonderful memories of dad. One was taking us crabbing in Maryland. In the middle of the night, we would load up the 2 door 71' Impala with large aluminum trash cans and long pole crab nets, and go on the base and crab at the docks where the big ships were. We tied chicken legs to a string, flash a light and the crabs would swim up and we would snatch them up and fill the cans up. Once we were home, we'd steam them up and all us children would be like a crab picking factory, eating each others stash when the other would look away.

Dad was spontaneous. He loved cars. One day he would just show up with a motorcycle, another day, an orange 1978 MG, another day, a big black mob looking Cadillac. We were like... what????

He was very talented, loved to dance, sing, cook, read, watch history and war movies. He always told me to watch "Scent of a Woman". He loved the tango scene.

Our house was always the home for all his Seabee friends to hang out, eat and drink. He would put them to work to build a patio, an additional room and a gazebo for the house. It was fun watching them.

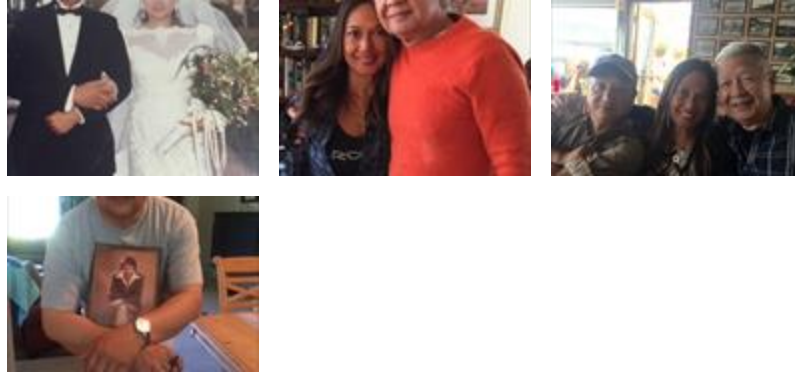
Growing up, he was strict. No make up or boyfriends till after college! Yeah right, he ended up being best of buddies to all our friends.

Although he would complain, we ended up making jokes and laughing so hard no matter the situation.

He was tech savvy. ALWAYS kept in touch continuing sharing his stories through Facebook and FaceTime, and all I could see was his ear.

After he retired, he spent time in P.I. and had a second family. Lucky them, they got to spend EVERYDAY with him! Haha! Lucky us to have more to the family. We all have a little Reuben in us. (Bobby more) lol!

No more lockdown dad..RIP. My best laughing friend will be missed.... but will forever be with us.



Ofelia Derr - February 13, 2021 at 08:31 PM

DD

“ *I mean, who likes their father-in-law? I do. Did. I was heartbroken when my Dad-in-Law and dear friend Reuben Garcia passed away. He was a great character with an iron clad sense of humor that ran below a false veneer of cynicism that not many guys can pull off. I can hear him now complaining that heaven is like a prison and he wishes he could be back in the Philippines. RIP Dad. Miss you*

Dennis Derr

Dennis Derr - February 13, 2021 at 08:18 PM

“ Reuben, aka Kuntil, Bentot, Dad....

I have many wonderful memories of dad. One was taking us crabbing in Maryland. In the middle of the night, we would load up the 2 door 71' Impala with large aluminum trash cans and long pole crab nets, and go on the base and crab at the docks where the big ships were. We tied chicken legs to a string, flash a light and the crabs would swim up and we would snatch them up and fill the cans up. Once we were home, we'd steam them up and all us children would be like a crab picking factory, eating each others stash when the other would look away.

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No more lockdown dad..RIP. My best laughing friend will be missed.... but will forever be with us.

Ofelia Derr - February 13, 2021 at 08:15 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Reuben M. Garcia.*



February 12, 2021 at 11:29 PM

“ There were no strangers to Dad. Growing up we saw him befriend a colorful cast of characters. Once you met the charming and handsome Reuben, you’d never forget him and his “ye-hey” attitude.

Dad’s strong ties to the Garcia clan provided lifelong memories of laughter and “puro good time good time kayo” moments. I am grateful that during our childhood he opened our homes in Maryland and Virginia to visiting uncles and aunties. These extended stays allowed us to appreciate their unique personalities and to create bonds with our cousins. No matter how long the years or the miles apart from each other, this bond makes the reconnection with each other seamless, stateside or in the Philippines.

His personality was like his music choices - eclectic- from classical to swing, jazz, bossa-nova, ballads, rock and pop. I’d play the piano while he, uncles and friends would drink their whiskeys and belt out songs for hours, trying to outdo each other with their best Filipino Frank Sinatra voices. When deployed overseas his letters would delight us, especially when he included cassette mixed tapes he’d created - they were the coolest! Dad loved cranking up the volume of classical symphonic pieces until the house shook. He could play the piano by ear - like his life, improvising his way.

We will miss his cackling laugh, even his lack of filter when making acerbic yet funny cracks. Always had a good joke or story at hand. He ran the gamut of emotions- no holds barred. He could be stubborn, mean spirited and complain about stuff, yet still be lovable in his Reuben way - human.

He had a zest for life, experiencing the full spectrum of what yin-yang represents. Reuben’s energy lives on it is a gift he has shared and passed onto us. YE-HEY!!



Portia Garcia Gallagher - February 12, 2021 at 09:47 PM

RG

“ To Reuben M. Garcia from your son Reuben M. Garcia Jr.

Oh what a life you lived! I'm sad that you're gone but I can't help but celebrate the life you lived. The way you lived your life, not only had an impact and effect on family and friends but also shaped the lives and persona of those who live on to continue your legacy of love, adventure and pursuit of happiness. One of my earliest memories was when we were stationed in Norfolk VA. I was probably 5. You just got home from deployment and came into my room right before bed and asked me how I felt about starting kindergarten and I said I was scared. (I can't believe I remember this shit) and you told me to have some balls and I asked what are balls and you told me it was having strength and courage and I asked "how many balls does Tarzan have? And you said at least ten. Your life and especially your life in the Navy traveling all over the world Norfolk, Iceland (where Ricky and Ofelia were born and me in Bayonne, Maryland, Sangley Point Philippines, I believe, gave us that sense of adventure. And with it was always your sense of humor. You were a a funny and great story teller and I always felt safe when you were around. Love you...miss you...mean it!

Reuben M GARCIA - February 12, 2021 at 08:15 PM

FF

“ From Tessie Lubag and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Reuben M. Garcia.



From Tessie Lubag and Family - February 12, 2021 at 08:03 PM

CM

“ Reuben my dear Brother, ever since your passing, I still see you as a vibrant and joyful person. I appreciate all the wisdom you imparted to me. Among them are to be compassionate to one another and to forgive and forget . Life is what you make it. Live it to the fullest. I remember our childhood which was full of fun and joy. God gave us the greatest gift of life, like a seed that we planted and watch it grow as we follow His footsteps . I love you, my dear, dear Brother. May God keep you in the palm of His hand in His kingdom.
This one is from your brother-in-law, Pepito: Reuben, I really miss your FaceTime calls from Germany. I'll never forget you with such enjoyable chats. You even advised me that salt and sugar are the enemy of the state. May the perpetual light shine upon you. RIP.
Good bye.

Carmen Garcia Marquez - February 12, 2021 at 06:40 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Reuben M. Garcia.



February 12, 2021 at 05:28 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Reuben M. Garcia.



February 12, 2021 at 05:15 PM

CD

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Carmen Marquez Duenez - February 12, 2021 at 01:51 AM

CD

“ *My fondest memory of my Uncle Reuben would be all the precious times our families would gather around the kitchen table, eat breakfast lunch and dinner, and never running out of “kwento”. Uncle was one heck of a storyteller. Whether it be sad, funny, lighthearted, political or pious he kept us immersed and drawn until the end. At times it would bring deep meaning, other times just left it to our imagination. He was famous for how he describes a person to the “t”. Josie Butong Pakwan... her eyes were as small, black and beady as the watermelon seeds. As random as it sounds, it brought tears of laughter!*

He told us stories that reflect his life experiences. He was a caring and sensitive man. “Fruit of the Spirit”

For now we will miss him and his amazing stories as we sit around our table. Our Lord has already prepared a beautiful banquet waiting for him in heaven!

Please save me a seat one day, you always called me, Menchu

Carmen Marquez Duenez - February 12, 2021 at 01:46 AM

BL

“ What a beautiful tribute Chesca wrote to her father, Reuben. As I read it a lot of memories came back to me as we were growing up in Naic.. He is 7 years older than me, but I remember Reuben telling Paping & me to pick up the “caimito” fruits Manoling & he will throw down to us as they climbed up the tree & picked the fruits cuz our granma Goya don't want us to have some, so we got around getting fruits without our alola knowing it . there are so many fond memories I had of him, like when he joined the U.S. Navy at Sangley Pt. at Cavite, then he came home bringing us “pasalubongs”, we were so happy to get them. There are so many happy memories we could have reminisced together with our siblings but he won't be here to share with us. God has other plans for him& I pray that God will grant him eternal rest . I am so soo sad that he is gone.😭

Bebot Garcia Lubag - February 11, 2021 at 07:53 PM

CM

Reuben my dear brother, ever since your passing, I still see you as a vibrant and joyful person . I appreciate all the wisdom you imparted to me. One of them is to be compassionate to one another, also to forgive and forget . Life is what you make it. I remember our childhood which is full of fun and jokes. God gave us the greatest gift of life, like a seed planted and watch it grow, that's what we all are. We all love each other, family. I love you, my dear, dear Brother. Goodbye. May God take you in the palm of His hand. God bless your soul. Love Tita. This is from your brother-in-law, Pepito.
Reuben, I really would miss your FaceTime calls from Germany. I will never forget you. You advise us that salt and sugar are the enemy of the state.
May God bless your soul and the perpetual light shine upon you.

Carmen Garcia Marquez - February 12, 2021 at 06:08 PM

CE

“ We will always forever remember you uncle. Thank you for giving all of us your memories and abundant love. Be with our God now and RIP. LOVE ALWAYS



cecilia - February 11, 2021 at 12:30 PM

GG

“ *“May the choir of Angels come to greet you. May they speed you to paradise. May the Lord enfold you in His Mercy. May you find Eternal Life.” ---A Song of Farewell. I will cherish all the beautiful memories that we have in my heart, my dear Uncle Reuben...*



gladys grepo - February 11, 2021 at 10:55 AM

AN

“ Ben , my big brother you will always be in my
♥



Alicia Garcia Nazareno - February 11, 2021 at 12:26 AM