



## Ruben M. Sanchez

February 20, 1958 - March 18, 2026

Ruben M. Sanchez, born on February 20, 1958, in San Antonio, Texas, passed away on March 18, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones.

Ruben met his beloved wife, Leana, when his family moved into her neighborhood—a chance encounter that would grow into a lifelong love. In 1979, they became sweethearts and shared 47 beautiful years together, including 32 years of marriage. Their life was a testament to love, devotion, and unwavering partnership, as they stood side by side caring for family and friends, including helping his wife care for her mother, who lived with them, for 8 years before her passing.

Together, Ruben and Leana found joy in life's simple and meaningful moments—tending to their garden, walking hand in hand along the beach, watching funny videos online, and traveling across North America, creating memories that would last a lifetime. Their home was filled with love, especially for the many cherished furbabies they rescued and cared for, each one treated as a beloved member of the family.

Ruben deeply treasured the life he built with Leana. Together, they created a warm and welcoming home—not only for each other, but for all who entered—where family and friends were embraced with love, guidance, and a true sense of belonging.

He expressed his love in the care he gave to the life they built together—planting flower gardens just for Leana, tending to their home with devotion, and thoughtfully decorating for every holiday. He took great pride in bringing

joy not only to his family, but also to neighbors who were uplifted by the color and cheer of his home.

With each passing season, Ruben filled the world around him with beauty, warmth, and meaning. He had a rare gift for making life feel special—not just for himself, but for everyone fortunate enough to share in it.

Ruben was lovingly known as the cook of his family, always preparing delicious meals for every gathering he hosted in his home. Anyone who had the pleasure of tasting his food left with more than just a full belly—they carried with them a sense of warmth and comfort. He found true happiness in trying new recipes, experimenting in the kitchen, and sharing the results with those he loved.

Holidays were never complete without a meal made by Ruben. Each season, he put his heart into selecting special ingredients and carefully preparing dishes that brought everyone together. His home would fill with the rich, inviting aromas of his cooking, drawing loved ones in. The meals he created were never just about food—they were moments where laughter was shared, stories were told, and cherished memories were made.

He touched the lives of his godchildren, nieces, and nephews with boundless love and joy. He delighted in sharing his love of movies, humor, and sports with each of them, creating memories filled with laughter and connection.

Whether at school events or special milestones, Ruben was always there—showing up time and time again with a warm smile, a proud heart, and a camera to capture the special moments. He celebrated their accomplishments as if they were his own, offering constant encouragement, unwavering support, and a love that will forever remain with them.

Ruben was a firefighter and paramedic for the San Antonio Fire Department for 33 years. He protected his city with honor, courage, and selflessness. He responded to countless emergencies, always placing the safety of others above his own. During his time as a firefighter, he received several accolades for his heroic actions. As a Lieutenant, he led with strength and humor, and was known for his steady presence on scene and his mentorship in the

firehouse. He was well respected and loved by his brothers and sisters in the fire service.

Ruben lived a life defined by generosity, creativity, laughter, and deep love. He took great pride in caring for his family, his home, and his community, offering comfort and a sense of safety to everyone around him—both in his work and in his personal life. To know Ruben was to know true warmth and kindness. His presence felt like a shelter in a storm, steady and reassuring, and he had a bright smile that brought joy to others. He was deeply loved by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He will be remembered for the love he gave so freely, the lives he touched so deeply, and the warmth he brought into the world. His legacy lives on in the countless acts of kindness he inspired and in the many hearts forever changed by his presence.

Ruben was preceded in death by his father, Alberto Sanchez; his mother, Aurora Sanchez; his mother-in-law, Peggy Thrash; and his sister-in-law, Sandra Paulson.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Leana Sanchez. He is survived by his twin brother, Roland Sanchez and his wife, Carmen; his brother, Richard Sanchez and his partner, Lea Anne; his sister, Irma Cevallos and her husband, George; his sister-in-law, Caprice Gonzalez and her husband, Roy; his brother-in-law, Darren Thrash and his partner, Gretta; and his brother-in-law, Kimble Thrash and his wife, Carmen. He also leaves behind many cherished nieces and nephews, as well as his seven godchildren: Camry, Matthew, Michael, Rafael, Gabriel, April, and Jacob.

He is also survived by his loyal and loving furbabies—Lola, Mayer, Luke, Leia, Rey, and Finn—who were a constant source of joy in his life.

Ruben's life was a gift to all who knew him. His memory will forever be a blessing and will live in our hearts always.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 6. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion  
20900 IH 10 W  
San Antonio, TX 78257  
(210) 698-5252  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Holy Rosary

APR 6. 6:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion  
20900 IH 10 W  
San Antonio, TX 78257  
(210) 698-5252  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Funeral Service

APR 7. 12:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion  
20900 IH 10 W  
San Antonio, TX 78257  
(210) 698-5252  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Cryptside Service

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APR 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Mission Burial Park North  
20900 IH 10 West  
San Antonio, TX 78257

# Tribute Wall

IF

“ *Ibarra Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ruben M. Sanchez.*



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**Ibarra Family** - April 06 at 12:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ruben M. Sanchez.*



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April 06 at 11:26 AM

SR

“ *Our neighbor, our friend, loving husband and family man, dedicated first responder, awesome gardener and family chef.*

*We will miss our chats across the shared fence line and your presence in the garden. May we always plant new blooms in your memory. We will keep memories of you forever in our hearts ❤️❤️*

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**Sylvie Rodgers** - April 05 at 03:31 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ruben M. Sanchez.*



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April 04 at 06:11 PM



“ *My deepest condolences and prayers to Ruben's family. As a firefighter, I knew him as a kind, faithful Christian man who was deeply compassionate in serving the community and gracious to everyone he encountered. He was widely respected among firefighters for his courage and genuine love for the job. I continue to pray for his family and take comfort in knowing he is with the Lord.*

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**Anthony Rogers** - April 04 at 12:18 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Irma Cevallos** - April 03 at 06:14 PM

IC

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Irma Cevallos - April 03 at 06:10 PM

YO

“ I am so, so very sorry to hear of Ruben's passing. It saddens me deeply. Being a long time family friend, I will always remember Ruben as a caring, respectful, and funny, big brother kind of guy. Many, many years ago, as a paramedic, he happened to answer a call for my brother. I will never forget Ruben's care and concern for my brother's emergency. He treated him with the utmost respect and was very professional. My sincere condolences to Leana and all of Ruben's loved ones. May he rest in peace.

Yvette Ortiz-Bokako - March 28 at 08:32 PM

LE

“ Leana lit a candle in memory of Ruben M. Sanchez



Leana - March 25 at 07:01 PM



LE

“ To my loving husband Ruben. Thank you for 47 wonderful years together. Thank you for all of the beautiful flowers you planted for us. The rose garden you and I planted last spring is blooming already! It is a reminder of our love for each other. I am so sorry you lost your battle with cancer. From the beginning you accepted the challenge courageously and fought it head on. You were so strong! You endured so much. You never gave up. You (we) never lost hope, we just ran out of time searching for that cure for pancreatic cancer. I will miss you dearly. I will love you always. You will be in my heart forever. Your loving wife, Leana



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**Leana** - March 25 at 06:58 PM

CA

“ Thank you so much for loving and caring for me like a daughter. The moments we spent together laughing and watching movies will always be treasured. You encouraged me to follow my dreams and study hard. I will carry you in my heart in everything I do. I love you so much. I miss you.



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**Camry** - March 25 at 06:35 PM