



## Santiago T. Garcia

September 9, 1946 - April 5, 2021

Santiago T. Garcia, age 74, passed away peacefully on April 5, 2021 in San Antonio. He was born on September 9, 1946 In Ciudad Acuna, Mexico to parents Santiago and Ana Maria Garcia. He attended school in Mexico as well as in the United States. Santiago left school in his teens and headed to the United States for work. He worked hard picking crops throughout the western states and eventually settled in San Antonio working as a produce manager at Handy Andy grocery store. In 1966 Santiago met Ruth Garza and instantly fell in love. They were married on December 13, 1969.

Santiago led a life few others would dare to live. In 1967, he joined the Marine Corps as an Infantry Assault Man and was deployed to Vietnam. In his tour of duty from 1967-1969 he made the rank of Sergeant and became a squad leader. During his time in Vietnam, he earned several medals which include the Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense and Vietnam Service Medal, and a prestigious Purple Heart Medal for being shot in the back. After being shot, Santiago was airlifted by what became his favorite aircraft, the Chinook helicopter. He returned to the United States to finish his service with the Marines as a weapons and demolition instructor at Camp Pendleton. Upon discharge from the Marines, he came back to San Antonio to begin a family with his wife.

Santiago started with the San Antonio Fire Dept in 1972 as a firefighter then

later became a paramedic. He joined the Arson Investigation Unit after going through the San Antonio Police Academy where he spent the remainder of his career. It was there that he earned his nickname "Saint". While working in the Fire Dept and raising a young family, he obtained his bachelor's degree in education at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. In addition to completing his education, he took additional opportunities throughout his life to train others in his field in the US and Mexico. He retired from the Fire Dept in 2001 after he was called to active duty by the United States Air Force, which he had been serving as a reservist since 1975.

He started his Air Force reserve career as a firefighter then transferred to the esteemed Office of Special Investigations (OSI). As a special agent in the OSI, he was able to travel the world as part of this specialized unit. After 9/11, he was assigned to the middle east as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the counterterrorism division. He retired from the Air Force in 2004, totaling 30 years of service to our country with the rank of Master Sergeant. His commitment to service and doing for others led him to his final role working as a special investigator for Texas Child Protective services.

Santiago was always just a phone call away and had a positive impact on so many people's lives. He was never one to shy away from a challenge or problem. He lived life by his favorite quotes "where there's a will, there's a way" and "a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do". He was a great family man who always put family first.

Santiago is survived by his wife, Ruth, of more than 50 years and his children and grandchildren. Santiago Steven and spouse Ashley. Michael and spouse Patricia granddaughter Samantha. Adam his spouse Melissa grandsons Addison and Matthew granddaughter Amelia. His youngest sons Christopher and David with his girlfriend Anna. He is also survived by his siblings Rosie, Janie, Margarita, Leticia and Arturo and their families.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday May 4th at 6:00p PM with rosary to follow at 7:00 PM at St. Dominic's Catholic church.

Burial mass will be held on Wednesday May 5th at 12:30PM at St. Dominic's catholic church followed by a private burial at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at 2:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked donations be made in memory of Santiago Garcia to the Mays Cancer Center. <https://makelivesbetter.uthscsa.edu/cancercenterdonate>.

# Cemetery Details

## **Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery**

1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Previous Events

## **Public Visitation**

**MAY 4.** 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St Dominic Church  
5919 Ingram Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78228  
(210) 435-6211

## **Rosary**

**MAY 4.** 7:00 PM (CT)

St Dominic Church  
5919 Ingram Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78228  
(210) 435-6211

## **Mass of Resurrection**

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**MAY 5. 12:30 PM (CT)**

St Dominic Church  
5919 Ingram Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78228  
(210) 435-6211

## **Graveside Service**

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**MAY 5. 2:30 PM (CT)**

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery  
1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
(210) 820-3891

# Tribute Wall

WR

“ *Deepest condolences to the family. He was a fine man I first met in the Air Force after (us old veterans) we were called upon after 9/11. He showed me around San Antonio and seemed to know everyone. He also hosted my wife Beth and I in their home during a visit in 2004. Thanks for some cool memories. Eternal rest my friend. Bill and Beth Rouse*



William Rouse - September 22, 2021 at 09:32 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Santiago T. Garcia.*



May 04, 2021 at 10:59 AM

RM

“ *Rhonda and Terry Mitchell purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Santiago T. Garcia.*



Rhonda and Terry Mitchell - May 03, 2021 at 06:12 PM

AA

“ I got to know and work with Santiago when we were in EMS. I really enjoyed working with him. He was kind and funny. After EMS I was driving 6-0 and I would see him at some of the fires we made when he was in arson. It was good talking to him. He was a good man, and I am sorry for your loss.

Arthur Andreolli - April 26, 2021 at 03:00 PM

AC

I got to know this special gentleman (Santiago) through his Beautiful wife Ruth.

I can honestly say he was one of a kind. My deepest condolences to his wife (my dear friend) and his family

Now you can make sure Heaven is safe...RIP 🌸

Alice Carrillo - April 26, 2021 at 11:27 PM

FS

Santiago was really a special man. His family reflects that as they were always well behaved and Santiago and his wife reflected what a marriage should be. I first met Santiago when his son David and my son Nathan started Kindergarten at Carlos Coon Elementary and David and Nathan have remained the best of friends since that time. They shared their home with Nathan and shared their home with me several times. Always gracious to me when I was there. My deepest condolences to Ruth and all of the sons. RIP Santiago.

Fred Summers Sr - May 06, 2021 at 08:42 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Santiago T. Garcia.



April 08, 2021 at 03:54 PM