



## Stella Pedraza Arias

December 15, 1928 - December 16, 2024

Stella Pedraza Arias passed on December 16, 2024. She was born on December 15, 1928 to Jose and Zapopan Pedraza. She is welcomed home by her parents, 3 sisters, her husband, Richard Arias and her son Ray Arias. Stella attended Bowie grade school and could not speak English. With a lot of work and sacrifice, she continued her education at Irving Middle School and Fox Tech High School. She was very studious. In her senior year, she was able to take shorthand dictation at over 200 words per minute and became her teacher's secretary during her Office Practice class. Being a top student in her Office Practice class, she was selected to work at Joske's of Texas. After graduation she met her one and only boyfriend. Richard and Stella married and later had 3 sons and 1 daughter. They were married for 65 years until Richard passed in 2014. Her youngest son, Ray, also passed in 2011. After graduation, Stella continued working at Joske's until her first son, Robert, was born. Later, she started working at Kelly AFB and climbed the ladder to become the secretary to many Colonels. During her almost 35 years of service, she had 27 bosses and 2 deputies. Due to her exceptional work ethic, Stella served as secretary to the Commander of the Base. During her tenure of work, she received many awards for her excellent work. In fact, the first year that Kelly AFB implemented an award for "Outstanding Secretary", she was the recipient. As she recalled this moment, hearing her name announced, she remained seated until the Colonel and Deputy told her "that's you kiddo." They had to help her up and walk her to the podium. With an emotional thank

you, she accepted the award. That was quite an honor because there were close to 40,000 employees at that time.

Stella and Richard were members of St. Matthew Catholic Church since the parish was founded in the late 1960's. Stella always said that the church played an important role in her and her family's life. Stella, along with her friend Lucy, founded the Confraternity of Our Lady of Guadalupe, known as the Guadalupanas. She served on pastoral council, was a greeter, a Eucharistic minister, and member of the choir. She served on the Bereavement ministry and both Stella and Richard served the post-hospital visitation ministry. She also participated in perpetual adoration and the Little Rock scripture study. Stella was also instrumental in the start of the ACTS ministry at St. Matthew. She was an ACTS director and served on Core. She felt it really strengthened her relationship with God. In one of the articles written about Stella she stated, "Christ has always been the center of my life, yet my life changed in many ways after my first ACTS retreat. I became much more aware of God's unconditional love for me. His divine mercy and His compassion."

Stella is survived by her son Robert and his wife Nancy, Roger and his wife Di-Anna and daughter Cindy. She is also survived by 7 grandsons, 2 granddaughters and 5 great granddaughters. She is also survived by one sister, Marie and countless nieces and nephews. After her sisters passed, she became the Matriarch of all of their children.

# Cemetery Details

## San Fernando Cemetery #2

746 Castroville Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78237

# Previous Events

## Holy Rosary

JAN 5. 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church  
10703 Wurzbach Road  
San Antonio, TX 78230

## Funeral Mass

JAN 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church  
10703 Wurzbach Road  
San Antonio, TX 78230

# Tribute Wall

LL

“*Lupe Lizcano and I want to offer our prayerful condolences to the family of Stella. We became especially close to Stella in the sharing we did at the widow|widower support group of St. Matthew, where in a short time we would share with each other deeply personal thoughts and feelings as we supported one another in our journey of grieving. Stella was always very thoughtful in sending us cards with kind words to remember our birthdays, holidays, and special occasions. We always looked forward to seeing her smiling face and hearing her kind and thoughtful words wherever we met her, such as the support group potluck dinners. Sincerely, Bruce A. Orey*

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**Lupe Lizcano** - January 12, 2025 at 01:47 PM

ED

“*On behalf of Evelyn (Ramirez) Dean, we send our prayers and condolences. She held a special place in my mother's heart (Aurora Ramirez). My family and I always looked forward to her lovely Christmas cards, one which delivered today. We are so sorry for the loss of your beloved Mother!*



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
Amen*

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**Evelyn (Ramirez) Dean** - January 06, 2025 at 01:35 PM

MM

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Stella Arias. I met her back in 1963 working in the same area at Kelly AFB Supply and Transportation Directorate. I was a clerk stenographer then and she was a Division Secretary. A beautiful lady whom I always admired. May she Rest In Peace.

*Gloria Anzualda Mora*

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**Mary Gloria Mora** - January 03, 2025 at 02:38 PM

CA

*Thank you Ms. Mora for your beautiful words.*

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**Cindy Arias** - January 04, 2025 at 07:23 PM

ES

*My dearest Stella was a kind, beautiful, loving woman of faith who clearly loved her family. I had known her since we were young children. Stella and I considered ourselves cousins because we shared the same cousins. As we got older, she and I communicated through email and phone. I always looked forward to receiving birthday and Christmas cards from Stella; she was so thoughtful. May our dear Stella rest in the arms of our Heavenly Father.*

*Cousin Abbie  
(Elva Ybarra Smith)*

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**Elva Smith** - January 05, 2025 at 03:43 AM

PR

*MY BEAUTIFUL MRS. ARIAS.. I HAVE KNOWN MRS. ARIAS FOR MANY YEARS SHE WAS THE MOST KINDEST NICEST, BEAUTIFUL LADY I HAVE EVER COME ACROSS .. SHE WILL BE TRULY MISSED BY ALOT OF PEOPLE AND I WILL SURELY MISS HER B-DAY CARDS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS.. KNOW WE LOVE YOU AND MAY YOU REST IN PARADISE BEAUTIFUL ANGEL .. LOVE PATTY LUNA RAMOS*

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**PATTY LUNA RAMOS** - January 07, 2025 at 01:35 PM