



Sylvia Jane San Miguel

March 23, 1950 - August 6, 2022

Sylvia Jane San Miguel, an avid gardener, grandmother, and lover of books, died Aug. 6 in San Antonio, TX. She was 72. She was born on March 23, 1950 in San Antonio to the union of Sylvia and Serapio Serenil.

In 1968, Sylvia graduated from Fox Tech High School and continued her education at Texas Careers Institute. On June 27, 1970, she married her best friend and love of her life, Robert “Bob” San Miguel. And from their union they had two children: Brandon and Amanda.

She worked for many years at USAA, Ray Ban and World Savings. Her last years of employment were spent at the Alamo Colleges District at San Antonio College. In 2008, Sylvia joined the Department of Creative Multimedia at San Antonio College (SAC) working with Dr. Barbara Knotts under the Title V Puentes U.S. Department of Education grant. She was a perfect fit for the job at hand. “She had that front-desk personality,” said Dr. Knotts, who was Sylvia’s supervisor throughout her eight-year career at SAC. “She was so personal and so professional when greeting people.” During the latter part of her time at SAC, Sylvia worked on a second Title V grant as a research specialist. It was a job that required someone with the certain kinds of skills to be able to navigate a variety of systems within the Alamo Colleges. “She knew how to speak to the right people to get the job done when there was a problem,” Dr. Knotts said. “She was very resourceful.” That rapport was

essential. “She was a delight to work with,” said Velma Willard, Alamo Colleges District p-card coordinator. The two women often had to collaborate when having to handle various purchases made by the grant.

But often their conversations would turn to the things they loved most – family. Anyone who talked with Sylvia long enough would be regaled with the latest stories involving her grandchildren: Brandon James, Desirae and Salara. Often when her children or grandchild would call, she would answer with, “Hey, baby.”

Whatever milestone they achieved whether it be a living room concert, performing at a community park, job promotion, running a 5K or a graduation, Sylvia beamed with pride and shared it with anyone whom she called “friend.” “She was as sweet as could be and a very caring person,” Velma recalled.

Sylvia’s dedication to her job did not go unnoticed. During her eight years at the college, she had the opportunity to touch many lives. “She was such a sweet woman. Thinking about her right now just makes me smile,” said Analisa Sengele, who was Staff Council president and the coordinator of SAC’s Mathematics Engineering and Science Achievement Center.

“Personally, without her and Dr. Knotts, I don’t know that I would have been able to succeed at what I was doing,” Analisa recalled. “She had a willingness to help others do their job. She would invest in me and take that time and it meant a lot.” She added that Sylvia was the kind of employee who would “go above and beyond.” And it was that work ethic that awarded her the Employee of the Month in 2015. It was the last employee recognition during Analisa’s reign as president. “She was so deserving,” said Analisa, who along with others secretly invited Sylvia’s family to the announcement with then college President Dr. Robert Vela. “It was the biggest celebration we did and we were happy to celebrate with her.” Sylvia retired from the college in 2016.

In retirement, Sylvia took up working out at the local YMCA and making new

friends in the various workout classes she attended. She also was a frequent visitor to local libraries. There was always a paperback novel tucked away in her purse. A former co-worker called her “the quintessential reader.” But one of the greatest gifts of retirement was simply spending time with her mom. They would spend time together shopping, sharing stories, dining out and celebrating “Los Spurs.”

She also enjoyed day trips to the beach or local rivers with her husband to simply spend time together. During COVID, they spent their 50th wedding anniversary in Port Aransas. She shared photos of she and Bob enjoying the sun with the gulf in the background. She described time at the beach with her husband as a “happy place.” Robert says, of his wife, “My precious wife, my partner, my friend, my buddy, my dancing partner, the woman I still love and will cherish forever. I miss you and love you very much. Until we meet again.”

Sylvia was preceded in death by her father Serapio Serenil. She leaves to cherish her memory her husband of 52 years, Robert “Bob” San Miguel; her beloved mother Sylvia Serenil, children Brandon San Miguel (Cynthia) and Amanda San Miguel (Jennifer Bricker); grandchildren, Brandon James San Miguel, Desirae San Miguel and Salara San Miguel; and brother, Albert Serenil (Laura). She will be remembered by a host of family, friends and former co-workers.

The San Miguel and Serenil family would like to thank Jim and Sabrina Bennett, Michael and Olga Hoffman Sr., Cecilia Ramirez and Dee Dixon.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, August 21, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a prayer service to be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South. Graveside Service will be held on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with a procession to

depart the funeral home at 10:45 a.m.

Cemetery Details

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 21. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Prayer Service

AUG 21. 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Graveside Service

AUG **22**. 11:30 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Tribute Video in memory of Sylvia Jane San Miguel*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - August 23, 2022 at 11:23 AM

BO

“ *41 files added to the album Sylvia Jane*



Bob - August 22, 2022 at 11:40 PM

GI

“ *My condolences to the San Miguel and Serenil Family. May God comfort you all and bring you peace, as you mourn this great loss. Fly high with the Angels Aunt Sylvia...*

Gina/Sissy - August 22, 2022 at 05:12 AM

GI

“ *Gina/Sissy lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Jane San Miguel*



Gina/Sissy - August 22, 2022 at 04:54 AM

LS

“ *Laura Serenil lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Jane San Miguel*



Laura Serenil - August 20, 2022 at 03:06 PM



“ *To Sylvia San Miguel's Family*

On behalf of the Department of Creative Multimedia Staff at San Antonio College, please accept our deepest sympathies. We had the pleasure of working with Sylvia for more than 7 years, and she was an invaluable asset to our organization. She completed every project with efficiency and preciseness. She was knowledgeable and efficient, and more importantly, she was a beloved friend to everyone in the office.

Again, please accept our sincerest sympathy for your loss.

From The Dept. of Creative Multimedia- San Antonio College

Barbara Knotts - August 19, 2022 at 05:47 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Sylvia Jane San Miguel.

August 19, 2022 at 05:42 PM



“ To the Family of Sylvia, my thoughts and prayers are with you. It was a joy to work with Sylvia. I will never forget the warmth her smile brought to the office every day. I pray for the love of those around you to help you through the days ahead.

*Dr. Barbara Knotts
Former Boss and Friend
Department of Creative Multimedia
San Antonio College*

Barbara Knotts - August 19, 2022 at 04:23 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Sylvia Jane San Miguel.



August 18, 2022 at 12:18 AM



“ From your family in Houston purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sylvia Jane San Miguel.



From your family in Houston - August 17, 2022 at 11:22 PM

AP

“ 1 file added to the album *Childhood Friends*



Aida Paredes - August 17, 2022 at 10:27 PM

AP

“ 1 file added to the album *Luncheon with the Tech Amigas group*



Aida Paredes - August 17, 2022 at 10:23 PM

AP

“ 1 file added to the album *Tech Amiga*



Aida Paredes - August 17, 2022 at 10:21 PM

AP

“ 3 files added to the album Sylvia Jane



Aida Paredes - August 17, 2022 at 10:17 PM

LC

“ Our deepest sympathy for my brother and his family and to the Serenil family. My earliest memory of Sylvia was when she was dating Robert. They both drove the cool mustangs of that era. The first visit to her home left a lasting impression on me because of all the shoes she had in her closet. Yes, I have lots of shoes...Although I wasn't in touch as much, I still have good memories and I can hear her infectious laughter in the kitchen making tamales with my Mom at our home on Sunglo.

She took her last turn around the sun but she's reflecting light even now.

God Bless

Linda SM Cook and family

Linda C - August 15, 2022 at 11:49 PM

LC

“ Linda C lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Jane San Miguel



Linda C - August 15, 2022 at 11:37 PM

MS

“ *My beautiful daughter Jane I love you so much. I will miss you forever, only the people that didn't know you didn't love you. I find comfort in knowing our memories we share are forever. Thank you mija for all the love you share with me. Your loving Mom Sylvia*

Mrs Sylvia Serenil - August 15, 2022 at 08:53 PM

CR

“ *Cecilia Ramirez lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Jane San Miguel*



Cecilia Ramirez - August 15, 2022 at 08:36 PM

VV

“ *My deepest sympathy to my brother and his family. Great memories with Sylvia. I can remember all the books we use to read together. I can remember going to the movies to watch Somewhere in Time for over 20 times, leaving the kids with my mom to babysit. She was awesome! All my love. ❤️*

Virginia Vasquez - August 15, 2022 at 07:24 PM

VV

“ *Virginia Vasquez lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Jane San Miguel*



Virginia Vasquez - August 15, 2022 at 07:17 PM

AM

“ We will miss her bubbly personality. She was a beautiful person.
Love you Jane
Tia Alice

Alice Mares - August 15, 2022 at 04:58 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Sylvia Jane San Miguel.



August 15, 2022 at 01:47 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Sylvia Jane San Miguel.



August 15, 2022 at 01:02 PM

CA

“ Corina Aguilar lit a candle in memory of Sylvia Jane San Miguel



Corina Aguilar - August 15, 2022 at 12:16 PM

JA

“ My condolences to the San Miguel family. My Aunt Sylvia was such a great aunt to me and I will miss her dearly. Rest In Peace Aunt Sylvia. †



Joseph (Joey) Aguilar - August 14, 2022 at 02:28 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Sylvia Jane San Miguel.



August 13, 2022 at 11:20 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Brandon SM - August 13, 2022 at 01:17 AM

JR

“ My condolences go out to the entire San Miguel family and my Tia Sylvia for the loss of such a beautiful person. I didn't get to see my cousin much but whenever I did she was always one of the sweetest people around. She had a beautiful radiance to her that will be missed by us all. Rest In Peace sweet cousin.

Janel Ramirez - August 12, 2022 at 12:02 PM

ML

My condolences to the family . My cousin was such a nice & funie person. When ever I would see her we would have a good laugh ! I will miss her dearly . RIP 🙏🕊️

Marge Lopez - August 12, 2022 at 04:26 PM

CG

*My condolences to the San Miguel Family and my Tia Sylvia.
Your loss is God's gain.
Sylvia Jane was such a beautiful loving soul and will be greatly missed.
Rest In Peace my sweet lovely cousin ❤️😭❤️*

Celia Garcia - August 12, 2022 at 04:47 PM

RM

Sylvia my beautiful wonderful wife , mother of our children and grandchildren , I miss you so much, I'll miss all the wonderful times we had together at parties, weddings, dances, camping, at the beach, with family, with friends,,you were always the highlight. you shined with your charm and your beauty,, your compassion for people, your quick wit and your heart. I will always love you, I miss you and I will be with you again some day. I love you sweetheart.....your loving husband Robert (Rob) as you always called me

ROBERT SAN MIGUEL - August 15, 2022 at 11:38 PM

MH

Sylvia, Mike and I will miss you, your laughter, your sweetness and your kindness. Good times bbqing with our friends at our home or at your home with your wonderful family. Going to a New Year's dance. All and all you will be missed tremendously. Our deepest condolences to Robert and you family.

Mike & Olga

Michael Hoffman - August 16, 2022 at 06:06 PM

AP

We went from childhood to high school, marriage, school reunions, and in between long phone calls to catch up with what was going on in our life. It is never easy to find the right words to express my feelings when there are no words that can fully describe the loss of a great friend. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Aida Paredes

Aida Paredes - August 17, 2022 at 10:14 PM