



Leonel "Leo" D Adame

APR 14, 1940 - APR 18, 2024



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5
Media	Page 9



Leonel "Leo" D Adame

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Leonel "Leo" D Adame passed away on April 18, 2024, at Knapp Medical Center. Born in Donna, Texas, on April 14, 1940, to Julian and Maria (De La Garza) Adame, Leo was a man of unwavering faith and integrity. Leo and his six siblings grew up in Donna. Leo was a great athlete and had a gift of speed. He started playing competitive football in junior high at 110 pounds. Leo was tiny but mighty; he went on to be a competitive running back for the Donna Redskins. Leo was also a choir member and had a fantastic voice during high school. It was also around this time, when Leo was sixteen, that the family endured their father Julian's untimely death. After graduating high school, Leo joined the U.S. National Guard and was called to active duty. He returned to Donna, his hometown, in 1960 and started a job at KRGV. Leo's decision to join KRGV couldn't have been more ideal. His career as a producer and director would span nearly five decades. Leo's countless contributions to the media industry and local community have been priceless. One of the most cherished events Leo produced and hosted was the annual Easter Seals Telethon. Leo looked forward to the event for nearly thirty years. At an Easter Seals Telethon in 1981, Leo met his loving companion, Frances Garcia. Another favorite for Leo was the live production of midnight mass at The Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Brownsville. J.J. fondly remembers Dad waking him up to tag along. They always had breakfast afterward, an annual tradition reinforcing their father-son bond. Throughout his life, Leo continued to support his alma mater as a lifelong member of the Quarterback Club. He was the volunteer photographer for the Donna Redskins. Leo followed all local sports, especially his late niece, Coach Irma Avila's basketball girls, The Donna Bravettes. Leo also continued singing in a choir. He and some lifelong friends had a group called "The Poor Boys." They would often serenade all night for Mother's Day and other events. Leo was also a member of the Donna Lion's Club for many years. Leo loved all sports, even though his alma mater was his



Obituary

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favorite. He watched football, and Notre Dame football and girls' basketball were the teams he followed. Leo was also a natural artist and was very creative. He had an exceptional talent for drawing and sketching. Leo was a jack of all trades around the house. He was an excellent carpenter and could fix just about anything. Leo was able to travel. He and Frances took an Alaskan Cruise and went to Lake Tahoe, Reno, and Mexico, to name a few. Although Leo's devotion to his children was the priority, he took Frances out dancing every New Year's Eve. Leo's proudest accomplishments revolved around his role as a single dad. He was dedicated to J.J. and Bethie. He skipped many social events or left early to be home for his kids. Leo led by example. He was a positive, selfless, loving, honest, and respectful role model. Many may have seen Leo's devotion to his children as a sacrifice, but Leo saw it as the best opportunity God had given him. Finally, Leo's life of dedication, service, and honor can be explained by his unwavering faith. Leo was a devout Catholic his entire life. He volunteered at his parish, St. Joseph Catholic Church, whenever there was a need. Leo's artistic talent was appreciated when he would paint billboards for the annual church bazaar. Leo is preceded in death by his parents, Julian and Maria Adame; his siblings, Alfredo Adame and Oscar Adame; his wife, Connie, Irene Avila; and her husband, Roy; and his sister-in-law, Hilda Adame. He is survived by his son J.J. Adame (Erin) of Weslaco, daughter, Bethie Anthony (Curtis) of Clovis, NM, loving companion Frances Garcia, siblings Julian Adame (Hilda), Elia Melendez (James), and Norma Arizpe (Victor), sister-in-law Eva Adame (widow of Alfredo), grandchildren, Bella, Brady, and J.J. Adame, and numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation will be on Thursday, April 25, from 1 to 9 p.m., with a Holy Rosary at 7 p.m. Mass will be celebrated on Friday, April 26, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Donna. Leo will be laid to rest at Donna City Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions to Easter Seals in honor and memory of Leonel "Leo" D Adame can be made at <https://www.easterseals.com/rgv/> or P.O. Box 489, McAllen, TX 78505-0489 | 956-631-9171. Serving as pallbearers will be Daryl Smith, Gabriel Handy, VJ Arizpe, Andrew Arizpe, Roman McCorkle, and George McCorkle.



Tribute Wall

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Wayne Leadbetter posted:

So sorry to hear about Leo's passing. I just found out. I worked with Leo at KRGV and he was a great co-worker. He was a good and honest man. RIP Leo.

May 8 at 11:42 AM



Adriana Perez Smith shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Adriana Perez Smith has purchased Eco-Friendly Memorial Trees for Leonel "Leo" Adame

May 8 at 11:42 AM



Norma Garza Garcia shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My deepest condolences to the Adame family from the Zacarias & Olivia Garza family! Norma, Marta, Luis, Jerry, Camila, Yoli, and Bernie. Leo was in the National Guard with my Dad and Garza uncles. I do not have enough words to express anll our memories, our feelings of loss, and the privilege it has been to know him all our lives!! Iâ€™m sure heâ€™ll be cheering for his teams in heaven! especially the Donna Redskins!! Rest in peace, Leo!!

April 25 at 9:35 PM



Marcy (Montelongo) Alamia posted:

Leo Adame, more like a big brother as he and my brother, Cesar Montelongo were dear friends since their early high school years. Both with beautiful voices and brother Cesar, a musician were instrumental in forming the group "The Poor Boys", along with other friends. They would practice at our house and oh how we enjoyed sitting there listening to the beautiful music of back then. They all saw us as their little sisters and we loved that. Our families would continue being close long after their high school era. Leo, you will be missed by all whose lifes you touched. Rest peacefully LeoðŸ™ðŸ~a

April 25 at 2:18 PM



Edward And Marie Vento shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Edward and Marie Vento has purchased Loving Embrace for Leonel "Leo" Adame

April 24 at 10:47 PM





Tribute Wall

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NR

Norma, Nydia And Robert shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Norma, Nydia and Robert has purchased Blossoming Heart for Leonel "Leo" Adame

April 24 at 5:19 PM



TF

The Victor Arizpe Family shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

The Victor Arizpe Family has purchased Love and Honor Wreath for Leonel "Leo" Adame

April 24 at 1:05 PM



RR

Romeo L Rodriguez shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Senor Adame: Few individuals possessed the unique qualities that were a part of your persona. You were a man who was devoted to his career as a producer and who's work exemplified perfection and an artistic talent that was second to none. However, I believe that your most outstanding attribute was that your were a person who one could call a friend. Always there to help someone in need. The Rodriguez family will miss you immensely. You'll be up there with Joe in heaven looking at game film.

April 24 at 9:50 AM



ER

Elia (Yañez) Rodriguez posted:

Our most sincere condolences. Many thanks for always caring for our aunt Imelda Yañez his longtime family neighbor. We will truly miss his kindness with our aunt. Our prayers to The Adame family at this very difficult time.

April 23 at 1:43 PM

LG

Letty Garza posted:

Like your brother Oscar, you were always so kind to me. I remember telling you I had just gotten the morning show spot and you were so excited for me. Thank you for all the years of support Leo. My condolences to your beautiful partner Frances and the Adame family. We'll all see you again!

April 23 at 7:32 AM



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BM

Beau Miller posted:

What an amazing gentleman Leo was. I had the pleasure to work at KRGV TV with Leo. He was respected by everyone who knew him. Rest in Peace, Leo

April 22 at 8:45 PM

BM

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April 22 at 8:34 PM

RC

Rudy Cardenas posted:

Sincerest condolences to the Adame family for the passing of Leo. Prayers for strength and comfort. A good man he was. May he RIP.

April 22 at 6:25 PM

JH

John Hinz shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

John Hinz has purchased Dearly Beloved for Leonel "Leo" Adame

April 22 at 2:11 PM



RE

Romeo & Lucila Escobar shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Romeo & Lucila Escobar has purchased Lavender Grace Spray for Leonel "Leo" Adame

April 22 at 8:51 AM



JB

Jerry Lee Berg shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Love you to the moon and back! Will miss you forever!! Loved having you as a coworker and friend!

April 21 at 3:56 PM





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RG

Ray Gaskin posted:

The Adame boys- Leo and Julian - were role models for how to make work a place that is both productive and fun at the same time. They came from a generation that placed a high premium on loyalty, and KRGV was a better place for it.

April 21 at 2:31 PM

QR

Quint Rogers posted:

I met Leo when I first started working at KRGV TV 5 as a news photographer and ENG editor. When I met Leo he was a graphic artist at the time. We hit it off because I too was an Artist. Compared artwork. A real nice talent man. He will be missed.

April 21 at 11:53 AM

TG

Theresa Wiggin Garcia posted:

Condolences to his family and May he rest in peace. Sending prayers.

April 21 at 11:22 AM

TG

Theresa Wiggin Garcia posted:

Condolences to his family and May he rest in peace. Sending prayers.

April 21 at 12:58 AM



Adriana Perez Smith shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 8 at 11:42 AM





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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Leonel "Leo" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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