



## Jose V. Sánchez

November 19, 1932 - January 15, 2021

WESLACO - Jose V. Sánchez passed away peacefully in the comfort of his own home, on January 15, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on November 19, 1932, in Weslaco, Texas to Weslaco pioneers Jose Carmona Sánchez and Maria Vallejo Sánchez.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 63 years, Elida Reyna Sánchez and his beloved daughter, Ana Maria Sánchez Gandara, daughter-in-law Sandy Lowe Sánchez, and son-in-law, Daniel Olivarez. He was the proud father of 5 children, all college graduates, literacy advocates, and educators. He was also preceded in death by his sisters Esperanza S. Martinez, Inocencia Sánchez, and Anita S. Garza. He is survived by his son Jose Sánchez, and his partner Lucinda Wierenga, son Boye Obed Sánchez (Yazmin Gomez), daughters Sylvia Sánchez Garza (Richard A. Garza), and Enedina Sánchez- Olivarez, and son-in-law George Gandara. Grandchildren, Alicia and Ezra Sánchez, Adam (Teresa), Monica and Rebekah Gandara, Ricky (Jessica), Joseph (Jackie), Matthew, and Lucas Garza, Daniel, Angelica, and Marissa Olivarez, Zabrina, Karina, and Marina Sánchez, and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings Samuel (Victoria), Roberto (Bersey), Graciela, and Maria Belinda S. Blankenship, and brother-in-law Luciano (Hector) Garza.

His love of God, family, and community originated from his strong family ties and upbringing in a hard-working, migrant family. Jose served in the United States Army as a tank commander during the Korean War. He married the love of his life, Elida Reyna, in 1956. They built a life in Weslaco with their 5 children. While working at the local gas company, he attended college with the help of the GI Bill. He then worked as a teacher and administrator at Weslaco ISD. He continued with his graduate studies at Texas A & I University in Kingsville and then furthered his education at the University of Houston. His impact on education continued where he served as the director of the Hidalgo County Head Start Program. Jose directed and established the HEP Program at the University of Houston and Pan American University. He also started a local educational supplies business called the Learning Center. He served as Assistant Superintendent of Schools at Hidalgo ISD and Superintendent of Schools at Progreso ISD.

He served as mayor of his beloved city of Weslaco from 1975 until 1981 and again from 2001 to 2007. During his progressive tenure as mayor, Weslaco was honored as an All-America City. He helped bring South Texas College to Weslaco. He was honored as Weslaco Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year in 2009. He was inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame in 2005 during its inaugural year. Sánchez was an avid sports fan and athlete, playing professional baseball with the Harlingen Capitols. He was later inducted into the Leo Najo Baseball Hall of Fame. He was an avid Astros fan and enjoyed watching baseball games with his father and brothers. He was a historian and advocate for literacy, publishing 3 books, VIP's of the Barrio, Legacy of the Barrio, and Odyssey to El Wes, where he chronicled the stories of his migrant experiences and local history. He was a devoted Catholic where he served as a lector at San Martin de Porres Catholic Church. His Christian faith was a driving force in his life, where he strived to help anyone in need. His commitment to education left a lasting impression on the Weslaco Community and the Rio Grande Valley as a whole, and the Mayor Joe V. Sánchez Public Library of Weslaco, named in his honor, will carry a lasting legacy for years to come. He will be greatly missed by all of those who loved him.

Serving as pallbearers will be his grandsons, Adam Gandara, Daniel Olivarez, Ezra Sanchez, Ricky Garza, Joseph Garza, Matthew Garza, and Lucas Garza.

Visitation for Jose V. Sanchez will be held on Thursday, January 21st, at McCaleb Funeral Home from 2:00 -5:00 p.m. Masks will be required and numbers in the funeral home at any one time will be prorated to allow for social distancing. A rosary at 7:00pm will be held virtually on Thursday, January 21, 2021. The burial will also be held virtually on Friday, January 22, 2021, at 2:00pm. Both events will be live-streamed, and the link will be available on the McCaleb Funeral Home website.

A memorial service will be held later when it is safer for families and friends to gather and celebrate Jose's life. Details will be made public at a later date.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of McCaleb Funeral Home in Weslaco, Texas.

# Cemetery

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## **Weslaco City Cemetery**

1001 S Illinois Av

Weslaco, TX, 78596

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**McCaleb Funeral Home & Sacred Park Cemetery** - January 21 at 04:58 PM

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“ Mayor Sanchez was an honorable man, who gave a gift I could never repay. When I returned home for the first time after deploying to Iraq Mayor Sanchez was there to honor me with a proclamation of Kristoffer Villarreal Day. It is one of my most cherished memories and was very heart felt. The look of pride in my parents faces I will always remember. It was a honor knowing him and I want to offer my deepest condolences to the Sanchez family.

**Kristoffer Villarreal** - January 21 at 06:13 PM

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“ Mari Maldonado, Yasmine Calimee & 4th grade team purchased the Peaceful Wishes for the family of Jose V. Sánchez.



**Mari Maldonado, Yasmine Calimee & 4th grade team** - January 21 at 10:36 AM

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“ I needed a job and Mr Sanchez offered me one. I spent the next 20 years in Progreso. Mr Sanchez was a class act as was his wife. I will remember him and all he had to say. His is a special family

**Esteban Salinas** - January 20 at 01:09 PM

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“ It is with a deep and profound feeling of sadness of hearing the passing of my Primo Joe. What a wonderful man he was. Strong , intelligent, and full of passion for life and history. Especially for the city of Weslaco and its history. My father ,Pablo and my mother, Nieves were proud of his accomplishments. They would invite him and tia Elida to our house for dinner on occasions. I am very proud of my Sanchez heritage. Including all of my primos, primas. Not to mention Tio Jose, tio Felipe, en my tio Shodre, my tia Maria. As a child I loved going to visit her because of her little store she had. Gave and goodies. So much memories of have. In my later years, had a wonderful time with the political scene that surrounded the Sanchez family. panchangas and all. I could go on and on, but I save it for a later time and day. Again, my condolences to all the Sanchez family members. My God bring peace and comfort with his presence.

Joel Sanchez



Joel G. Sanchez - January 19 at 04:10 PM

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“ Chris Martinez lit a candle in memory of Jose V. Sánchez



Chris Martinez - January 19 at 09:55 AM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the Sanchez family! May Mayor Sanchez rest in peace, until he rises again in glory! That's our hope! Jesus We Trust In You -|-

Chris Martinez - January 19 at 09:57 AM

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“ From your Museum family purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Jose V. Sanchez.



**From your Museum family** - January 18 at 11:29 AM

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“ Our hearts goes out to the family of a very honorable man. Mayor Joe Sanchez was always willing to help eothers. When our son Kristoffer returned from active duty in Iraq, He honored him with a proclamation declaring the day of his return Kristoffer Villarreal Day. May he rest in peace. Respectfully, Jesse and Gladys Villarreal, Weslaco, Texas

**JESSE VILLARREAL** - January 17 at 07:48 PM

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“ My Favorite Uncle, Mayor Joe V. Sánchez, Tío Joe, Boyé, was an icon in my eyes way before he was elected Weslaco Mayor in 1975. He always shared a Vallejo or Sánchez family history lesson or funny story only he could share in his own special way. Like the birth of My Mama, coz he personally witnessed it as a 5-year-old-boy helping his Father in the cotton fields, driving his truck at an early age. We all loved hearing his stories, & I absorbed every detail. Some are shared in his literary treasures, his 3 books.

My Tío Joe supported all his 5 children in their school and extracurricular activities; but, he also supported his Sánchez nieces & nephews, too! I received the best advice from him when applying to colleges, filing for Democratic Party Precinct Chair & when I was finally elected National Delegate, he was the 1st to Congratulate me, after My Mama & Tía Élide!

He loved to see his loved ones excel, like when his daughter Dr. Sylvia Sánchez-Garza defended her Ph.d doctoral dissertation he was unable to finish. He beamed from his front row seat, listening to her academic achievement.

He was the best Son, Big Brother & oldest Vallejo grandson, so a great Primo to so many Vallejo & Sánchez primos!

I already miss our talks, visits when My Mama & I sat down with him for hours. I find comfort in knowing he is in peace, Rejoicing in God's Kingdom, reunited with the love of his life, my Aunt Élide, his beloved daughter Ana María, his parents, grandparents, & sisters.

May they all Rest in Eternal Peace forever.  
Amen.

Luciano Sanchez Garza, III, Nephew. - January 17 at 08:47 AM

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“ Thoughts and prayers to the family of Jose Sanchez. He was a leader with integrity when he served the citizens of Weslaco.

Roman Nieto - January 16 at 07:18 PM

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“ Hector S Garza lit a candle in memory of Jose V. Sánchez



Hector S Garza - January 15 at 10:19 PM