



## Dr. Mario Ramirez

April 3, 1926 - May 22, 2017

Dr. Mario E. Ramirez was born in Roma, Texas in 1926 to Efren and Maria del Carmen Ramirez. He attended school in Roma and Rio Grande City, completed high school at the age of 16 and went on to attend the University of Texas at Austin. He was accepted to medical school at the University of Tennessee remarkably before completing his undergraduate degree. He then went on to complete his medical studies at the young age of 22, followed by residency in the general practice of medicine at Shreveport Charity Hospital. While doing his residency, he met the love of his life, Sarah Aycock, a young student nurse. They married in Roma where they began a medical practice together, which lasted more than 50 years. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Sarah, and together they are survived by their five children who they were extremely proud of: Judge Mario E. Ramirez (Noelia), Patricia A. Kittleman (Wes), Dr. Norman Ramirez (Liza), Dr. Jaime Ramirez (Hilary) and Roberto L. Ramirez (Irene). He is also survived by his two siblings, Roel and Carmensa, and preceded in death by younger brother Efren, Jr.

Dr. Ramirez and his wife practiced in Roma for five years delivering many children before enlisting in the United States Air Force. He served two years in Japan as a physician, leaving the service with the rank of Major. He returned to Roma where he established the Manuel Ramirez Memorial Hospital, which grew to a 21-bed hospital that provided all services, including major surgeries and obstetrics. Over 50 years of practice, he delivered thousands of children. A large percentage of his practice was charity-based and included daily house calls over a 50-mile radius. He often was paid with nothing more than the goodwill of his patients. During that time, he also served as Starr County Judge where one of his greatest accomplishments was the creation of the 50-bed Starr County Hospital.

Over the course of his career, he was a champion of medical education, mentoring numerous medical students, residents and other healthcare professionals. He was extremely proud of having founded the Med-Ed Program that encouraged many Rio Grande Valley high school students to go on to medical careers. Over his lifetime, he received numerous awards and was recognized by his medical peers on many occasions. These achievements included being elected the President of Texas Academy of Family Physicians and being the first Hispanic elected to be president of the Texas Medical Association. He received the Bicentennial Benjamin Rush Award for Citizenship and

Community Service by the American Medical Association as well as the Family Doctor of the Year Award sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians, presented by President Carter at the White House in May 1978. He was an extremely proud Texas Longhorn who was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Texas at Austin, and he was honored to have been appointed to the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System from 1988 to 1995. Much can be said about Dr. Ramirez's accomplishments and awards but not enough can be said about the lives he touched and the love and respect that countless people have for him. He was loved and will be greatly missed by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ramirez' excellent and loving caretakers, Rick Fernandez Care Assistance: Rick Fernandez, Toby Ojeda, Noe Hernandez, Heri Hinojosa, Ayhan Souter. Visitation will take place Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 620 N. Dunlap in Mission from 6pm to 9pm, with a Rosary at 7pm. Mass of Christian burial will be on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 1:30pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in McAllen. Contributions can be made in Dr. Ramirez's honor to Hope Family Medical Center, 2332 W. Jordan RD, McAllen, TX 78503 and Comfort House, 617 W. Dallas Ave., McAllen, TX 78501.

# Cemetery

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## Roselawn Cemetery

1201 S Main

McAllen, TX, 78501

# Events

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**MAY** **Rosary** 07:00PM - 07:30PM

**24**

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Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

620 N Dunlap Ave, Mission, TX, US, 78572

**MAY** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 09:00PM

**24**

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Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

620 N Dunlap Ave, Mission, TX, US, 78572

**MAY** **Funeral Mass** 01:30PM - 02:30PM

**25**

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Our Lady of Sorrow Catholic Church

1108 W Hackberry Ave, McAllen, TX, US, 78501

# Comments

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“ My sincere condolences to the Ramirez family. He brought me and my three siblings into this world and he was our doctor while growing up. This wonderful and caring man was a great inspiration to many of us and he will forever be in our hearts. Rest In Peace Dr. Mario Ramirez.

**Sandra Chapa Renteria** - May 25, 2017 at 09:53 AM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Mario Ramirez.



May 24, 2017 at 09:43 PM

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“ We have a lot to be grateful for to him. When my grandfather had a severe stroke he went over to the house twice. When he had to hospitalize him, his hospital became our home. He was a doctor with a heart of gold. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to the family. Love, Carmen Garza Guerra

**Carmen Garza Guerra** - May 24, 2017 at 09:07 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Mario Ramirez.



May 24, 2017 at 02:39 PM

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“ From Kevin Johnson and all your friends at Medgronic purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Mario Ramirez.



From Kevin Johnson and all your friends at Medgronic - May 24, 2017 at 02:07 PM

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“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Mario Ramirez.



May 24, 2017 at 12:09 PM

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“ Dr. Barrera and Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Dr. Mario Ramirez.



Dr. Barrera and Family - May 24, 2017 at 12:06 PM

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“ When I arrived at the University of Texas in the early 1960s, I met at least a couple of dozen boys from Roma, Texas. There were only about 250 Mexican Americans at UT at that time and only three from my high school. How was it that this town I had never heard of had so many students at UT? At the Student Union dance at the end of that first week, a boy from Roma asked me to dance and I soon became friends with the whole gang. Noel Benavides, Jorge and Rudy Perez, Roel Ramirez and others never tired of talking about Starr County politics and their hero Dr. Mario. They talked of him with so much love, remembering every detail of a medical rescue or a political fight. I was an avid and enchanted listener. I developed an image of Dr. Mario in my mind's eye. He was a cross between Rock Hudson in the movie, "Magnificent Obsession" and the famous Dr. Urrutia of San Antonio who was well over 6.5 feet tall. I heard stories of tender, constant and intelligent mentoring that had resulted in this large percentage of our friends originating in Roma. But I also heard stories of

astute and fearless execution of political strategies that vanquished any person or obstacle that stood in his way of providing health services to his community. This was a warrior you didn't mess with.

I would not meet him until 2004, when I came to UTPA. The giant was about my height, although he looked taller standing next to his spicy Sarah. Rock Hudson could not have competed with that face so full of tenderness and intelligent love. He and Sarah wrapped me in the embrace of their generosity and i was family. I was introduced to the gardenia trees and the photo albums and the disciplined, organized brilliant mind was made manifest. When we talked about his work, he said, "I cannot stop, There is still so much to do".

Thank you Mario and Sarah for all you have done for so so many.

**Bambi Cardenas Flores** - May 24, 2017 at 09:41 AM

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“ Sunil Mahbubani & Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Dr. Mario Ramirez.



**Sapna Mahbubani** - May 23, 2017 at 10:46 PM

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“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Dr. Mario Ramirez.



May 23, 2017 at 09:51 PM

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“ Dr. Ramirez was a guiding light for my children Sunil and Jaishree. Thank you so much Dr. for your continuous support to them. Our heartfelt condolences to the family.. May God bless his soul and keep him under his wing. We are going to feel this loss always in our lives.

Ramesh & Sapna Mahbubani

**Sapna Mahbubani** - May 23, 2017 at 09:12 PM



“ Garden of Serenity Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Mario Ramirez.



May 23, 2017 at 09:01 PM

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“ I will always remember the wonderful care Dr. Ramirez provided for my Mother Maria Carrion. She passed away in 94 but he took wonderful, loving care of her and we could never have enough words to express our appreciation. Our prayers are with the family .

Refugio Carreon and family  
Pecos, Texas

**Refugio Carreon** - May 23, 2017 at 04:33 PM

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“ We liked sitting out in the patio in the early spring taking in the beauty and fragrance of the gardenias that Sarah planted. Shortly before he died the gardenia tree broke out in profuse blooms even though it was well past the blooming season. I would like to think it was Sarah bringing him home.

**Marcia Ingram** - May 23, 2017 at 02:54 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Mario Ramirez.



May 23, 2017 at 01:35 PM