



Dr. Lawrence Richard Gelman

January 19, 2026

Dr. Lawrence Gelman, who made McAllen, TX his home for the last 39 years, passed away suddenly on January 19, 2026, surrounded by his family.

Dr. Gelman was born in Chicago, Illinois on October 22, 1951, to Sidney Gelman and Zina Adler, both Holocaust survivors.

A gifted anesthesiologist and critical care specialist, Dr. Gelman devoted his career to caring for patients and mentoring generations of medical professionals.

He was a visionary and trailblazer—strong-willed, passionate, and relentlessly ambitious—who unwaveringly pursued his dreams despite the many challenges and obstacles he faced. He worked tirelessly toward the causes that mattered most to him, including fighting for the undelivered infant, advocating against injustices faced by others in this country and around the world, preserving and celebrating art through his Gelman Stained Glass Museum, and pursuing numerous other ventures.

He will always be remembered for his love of God and family, his adoration of his wife of 46 years, his pride in his children, his generosity to friends and strangers alike, and his wit and brilliance.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Esperanza Gelman; his children, Alexander Gelman (Miriam Gelman), Zina Bash (John Bash), Sharon Gelman, and Rachel Gelman (Rudy Mireles); his grandchildren, Mabel, Diego, Miguel, Maria, and Benjamin; and his three younger brothers, Eddie, Howard (Sophie), and Steve (Arlene).

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m, at Kreidler Funeral Home in McAllen. Graveside Service will take place on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at Temple Emanuel Cemetery on South Ware Rd., in McAllen.

In lieu of floral tributes, the family kindly asks that memorial contributions be made to CHABAD RGV, 601 Dove Ave. W, in McAllen.

Cemetery Details

Temple Emanuel Cemetery

South Ware Road
McAllen, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
(956) 686-0234
kreidler@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/index.html>

Graveside Service

JAN 22. 9:30 AM (CT)

Temple Emanuel Cemetery
South Ware Road
McAllen, TX

Tribute Wall

SA

“ I was honored to work alongside Dr. Gelman for many years in the operating room. As an anesthesiologist, he served patients with quiet dedication, skill, and compassion, offering steadiness and care when it mattered most. His work was a true service to others. May his memory be a blessing

Sandra Aristizabal - January 21 at 06:56 PM

ZM

“ With profound sadness, we mourn the loss of an extraordinary leader. The memory of a good person is a blessing. Thank you, Dr. Gelman, for your selfless service and your lasting legacy. Our deepest condolences to Mrs. E. Gelman, Dr. Rachel Gelman, and the entire family.

Zoraly Nunez and Dr. Jose M Marina

Zoraly and Jose M Marina - January 21 at 04:39 PM

BR

“ Our condolences to the family of Dr. Gelmam.
A greater friend can not be found.
He was always there for us and gave his valuable time freely.
We will miss you!

Brian and Gina Regula - January 21 at 01:38 PM

KD

“ Sending healing prayers and comfort during this tough time.”

Kiran Desai - January 21 at 11:03 AM

SS

“ I am sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Lawrence Gelman. I would see him from time to time at Chabad RGV. He was both serious and friendly, brilliant yet humble. I visited with him once in his office to seek his advice about two poetry-art exhibits I have co-created, and he shared with me the challenges he had creating a legacy home for his stained-glass collection. The beautiful museum he created for his collection will be one of his enduring legacies, as well as his compassionate care for family, patients, and colleagues. He was also a great supporter of UTRGV, where I am a professor. My deepest condolences to his family. Steven Schneider, Ph.D.

Steven Schneider - January 21 at 07:54 AM

AB

“ Dear Esperanza, Today I learned of the passing of your beloved Lawrence. You, your children and grandchildren will be grieving; I wish I was there to hug you all. Geographically speaking, only distance, keeps us apart. I included Lawrence in my daily rosary tonight. Please convey my deepest sympathy to all of those whose hearts he has touched.
Anne Broillet

Anne Broillet - January 20 at 10:52 PM

LB

“ In 1992, shortly after the birth of my son Matthew, Dr Gelman hired me to research what we would now call DOGE, specifically the costs associated with immunizations, lawfare, and other topics. Dr Gelman encouraged me to finish my college degree, which opened other doors later. So it is with both sadness and gratitude that I post my thanks and farewell to Dr Gelman. I pray peace and comfort to all of the Gelman family.

Laura Ratley Billings - January 20 at 09:12 PM

MS

“ *Mihaela Shuaib lit a candle in memory of Dr. Lawrence Richard Gelman*



Mihaela Shuaib - January 20 at 08:37 PM

NR

“ *You all know me and how much I love your family. I am honored that Dr. Gelman and his family were a part of my life. Dr. Gelman was such a caring person that one of his staff was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and he sent all of us to get tested and it probably saved my life because I had it. The funny side of Dr. Gelman he called me a Space Cadet. We all laughed. He did have a sense of humor . I was so lucky to spend some time with Him and Esperanza at a Graduation party. He was the best Boss ever!!! Praying for you. Rest in Peace* ❤️❤️🙏🙏

Nancy Rogers - January 20 at 07:06 PM

RK

“ *We are so saddened by the news of the passing of dear Dr. Gelman. We were friends for over 33 years. When I was pregnant with my son and was very sick at home, because I could not hold food and water; I was severely dehydrated and he was so kind and generous to me and came to our home with his equipment and administered an IV to hydrate me. His kindness meant the world to me at my time of desperation and every time I saw him, I would tell him how grateful I was for his kindness and generosity. I will pray for the progress of his beloved soul all the days of my life, and offer my deepest condolences to dear Esperanza and his beloved children for this great loss.* 🙏

Roya Khademi - January 20 at 03:06 PM