



Honorable Mario E. Ramirez, Jr.

December 24, 2025

Judge Mario E. Ramirez, Jr. passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on December 24, 2025. He leaves behind a legacy of service done with passion, fairness, and humor, and a loving family he cared for deeply.

Judge Ramirez was born on September 5, 1950 in Laredo, Texas. He was raised in Roma and graduated from Rio Grande City High School in 1968. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Notre Dame in 1972. He was an avid Notre Dame football fan, traveling regularly with his wife Noelia and friends to see the Fighting Irish play in South Bend and around the country.

After graduating from Notre Dame, Judge Ramirez decided to pursue a legal career and attended St. Mary's University School of Law, where he earned his J.D. in 1974. In 2019, St. Mary's honored Judge Ramirez as a Distinguished Alumnus.

Judge Ramirez devoted his professional life to public service. He started his legal career working for the Department of Public Welfare in Laredo. In 1976, Judge Ramirez and his family moved to McAllen, and he began his nearly 50 years of service to our community as a judge. He first served as an Assistant Municipal Court Judge for the City of McAllen. In 1980, he was appointed as Judge of County Court at Law No. 2 of Hidalgo County. In 1981, he was appointed to serve as Judge of the 93rd District Court of Hidalgo County. In

1983, he began serving as Judge of the newly created 332nd District Court of Hidalgo County, where he presided for 41 years until his retirement in December 2024. In his years of service, Judge Ramirez was blessed to work with a devoted court staff. He cherished his dear friend Tootsie Barrera and all his staff, and the family thanks them for their service and friendship.

Judge Ramirez once said that “serving as your judge of the 332nd District Court was the honor of a lifetime.” It truly was. The Texas Senate recognized his service as being done with “unparalleled integrity, fairness, and courage and with widespread admiration for his fairness and high standards of judicial conduct.”

In his years of service, Judge Ramirez served in leadership roles as President of the Hidalgo County Bar Association, Hidalgo County’s Administrative Presiding Judge, Overseer of the Hidalgo County Juvenile Probation Department, a Director of the Texas Center for Judiciary Board of Directors, and on the Committee for Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters, among numerous rolls. Judge Ramirez was passionate about juvenile justice issues, in particular. In recognition of his influence on our juvenile justice system, in 2008, Hidalgo County named its new Juvenile Justice facility the Judge Mario E. Ramirez, Jr. Juvenile Justice Center.

Judge Ramirez is survived by his wife of 53 years Noelia, his children Melissa Ramirez (Chris Sileo), Rebecca Ramirez Gearhart (Troy), and Mario Eduardo Ramirez (Jessica), nine beloved grandchildren, Lucie and Audrey; Addyson, William, Derrick and Parker; and Noelia, Esme, and Hazel, and his brothers Norman, Jaime, Roberto and their families. He was preceded in death by his father Doctor Mario E. Ramirez, Sr., his mother Sarah Ramirez, and his sister Patricia Kittleman.

Friends are cordially invited to join the family for a visitation beginning at five

o'clock in the afternoon with a Recitation of the Holy Rosary at seven o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, the 30th of December at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in McAllen. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at ten o'clock in the morning on Wednesday, the 31st of December, where Fr. Gregory T. Labus is to officiate. The Interment will immediately follow in Roselawn Cemetery in McAllen.

The family wishes to thank all Judge Ramirez's friends and family who called and visited him, all his caregivers including Dr. Salil Mangi, the caring staff at Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance and Windsor Arbor View Rehabilitation Center, Dr. Noe Oliveira and the staff at the Wound Care Center, and the doctors and staff at MD Anderson in Houston.

The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a donation to M.D. Anderson in memory of Judge Mario Ramirez, Jr.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

1201 S Main
McAllen, TX 78501

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **30**. 5:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady of Sorrows
1108 W. Hackberry Ave.
McAllen, TX 78501

Rosary

DEC **30**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady of Sorrows
1108 W. Hackberry Ave.
McAllen, TX 78501

Funeral Mass

DEC **31**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Sorrows
1108 W. Hackberry Ave.
McAllen, TX 78501

Interment

DEC **31**. 11:15 AM (CT)

Roselawn Cemetery
1201 S Main
McAllen, TX 78501

Tribute Wall

PW

“ I want to extend my condolences to the Ramirez family. God bless all of you and give you His peace.

Patsy Weiser - December 31, 2025 at 11:24 AM

LW

“ We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Ramirez family during this difficult time. Our thoughts, prayers, and hugs are with you all.
— Tyler and Lauren Werner Family

Lauren Werner - December 31, 2025 at 08:15 AM

PE

“ Our Deepest Condolences to the Ramirez Family. You are in our thoughts & prayers during this difficult time.
From Phil & Marty Ethridge



Phil & Marty Ethridge - December 30, 2025 at 07:31 PM

RM

“ Our family extends our deepest condolences to the entire Ramirez family. Reba Cardenas McNair

Reba Cardenas McNair - December 29, 2025 at 04:25 PM

BG

“ Judge Mario and his wife, Noelia have been part of our lives since Childhood, growing up in Rio Grande City. Wonderful hosts in their home and community. Our children grew up together
We will miss his presence...Rest in peace ❤️

BB Garza - December 28, 2025 at 05:21 PM

NB

“ Judge Ramirez married my first husband and I at the courthouse on Feb. 6, 1980 . Judge Ramirez was such a nice man. Condolences to the family.

NB - December 27, 2025 at 11:23 AM

BD

Our Heartfelt Condolence's to Noelia, their Children, Norman, Jaime, all their Family and loved ones. He was a beacon of hope and kindness who touched countless lives through his selfless service to the community. His legacy will forever inspire us. May his soul shine brightly in heaven with all his loved ones. Our heart, thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Sincerely Ramona and Belinda Billie Diaz.

Belinda Billie Diaz - December 27, 2025 at 11:12 PM

BS

Noelia, we were so saddened to hear of the passing of Judge Mario. Our deepest condolences to you and your family during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones. We shared many wonderful memories with our families that will never be forgotten. It was also a privilege working with Judge Ramirez as the Juvenile Department Overseer during my 40-year tenure as the Juvenile Probation Department Director. Many Blessings to the Ramirez family

Sincerely, Buddy and Elida Silva

Buddy Silva - December 30, 2025 at 12:00 PM

RC

I would like to offer my condolences to Noelia and the family. I was very sorry to hear about Mario. I will keep you all in my prayers

Refugio Carreon

Refugio Carreon - December 31, 2025 at 03:08 PM