



Roberto Gutierrez

December 28, 2019

McAllen – Roberto Gutierrez, 83, passed away on December 28, 2019, peacefully in his home. He was a loving husband to his wife, Cecilia prior to her death and remained committed to sustaining the beautiful union they had by caring their values forward. Roberto was a great father, grandfather, uncle, brother, and an accomplished leader. He will long be remembered for his strong work ethic and his commitment to the community. Roberto was a distinguished gentleman, easily recognizable by his silver hair. His strength and can-do attitude will remain in our hearts forever. He taught us that everything and anything is possible with hard work, dedication and passion. Roberto ended many of his learning moments with the phrase “Dale Gas”.

Roberto was born on June 11, 1936 and came from humble beginnings. He was a Sergeant in the United States Army – 49th Armored Division; in addition served ten years in the Texas National Guard. His focus and drive for success is evidenced in his educational accomplishments such as his Masters in Education. As a teacher, we will fondly remember him for his commitment to help students with his teachings to assist them in vocational careers. He later used those skills to become a successful businessman but never forgot his humble background by serving his community in various civic clubs. This commitment to helping others led him to pursue city and state-wide positions so he could make a difference for everyone everywhere.

Roberto served 14 years as State Representative of District 41. He was the embodiment of the saying, "Together, we do more." He concentrated his efforts to expanding education in the Rio Grande Valley, promote public safety for children and improve access to health services. State Representative Roberto Gutierrez authored and passed the House Bill that created South Texas Community College, his position on the State Appropriations Committee allowed him to increase the funding for the University of Texas – Pan American (now UTRGV). He pioneered the idea of a medical school in South Texas with the implementation of a Regional Academic Health Center and a UT Biomedical Research Facility. Additionally, Roberto championed an early diabetes detection program for Texas school-age children, passed a bill for bicycle safety, and created laws such as Joey's Law to protect our youth. His involvement and sponsorship helped create several bills and laws that remain in effect today.

He was an incredible role model and inspiration to all. The words of wisdom he gave everyone he met will run deep within the community, and especially with his family. Roberto's legacy will live on through his children and grandchildren. His son Roberto(Kelly) Gutierrez, Jr. and their children Roberto Daniel, A. Cecilia, Iris Isabelle; Roberto's daughter Gilda (Joel) Romero and their child Joel Roberto; and Roberto's daughter Sara (Mark) Gonzales and their children Sarita Cecilia, Gabriela Marie, Andrea Renee. He is also survived by his brother Henry Gutierrez.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. with a 7 p.m. rosary, today, Monday, December 30th at Kreidler Funeral Home, 314 N. 10th Street, McAllen. Funeral service will take place at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, 1108 West Hackberry Avenue, McAllen. Interment will follow at La Piedad Cemetery in McAllen.

The Gutierrez family offers sincere gratitude to the wonderful friends of

Roberto that have called and sent their condolences. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to La Piedad Cemetery where Roberto and Cecilia have provided their support over many years. La Piedad Cemetery Office Number is (956) 686-1281.

Funeral services are under the direction of Kreidler Funeral Home in McAllen.

Cemetery Details

La Piedad

1801 Wichita Ave
McAllen, TX 78503

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **30**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 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>

Tribute Wall



“ *Roberto Gutierrez*

October 08, 2023 at 09:43 PM



“ *Roberto Gutierrez*

November 29, 2022 at 06:40 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the Gutierrez family on the passing of this great man who I knew as Mr. Gutierrez my Weslaco High School DECA teacher. All the stories you may hear about character, dignity and honor are all true and he projected those to many a young student. Those piercing eyes, that commanding voice that arm around a shoulder guided many towards a better path a brighter horizon. Many of us blessed with that better life today look over our shoulder and see Mr. Gutierrez smiling and nodding his approval. Especially during these turbulent times of just what defines a true role model and leader, Mr. Gutierrez stands tall. Gracias Mr. Gutierrez.*

Carlos Salinas - January 07, 2020 at 09:41 AM

MR

“ My condolences to Mr Gutierrez's family, loved ones, & friends.
Texas & the RGV has lost an honorable man.
Mr Gutierrez was the epitome of what a true politician should be.
He worked tirelessly for Hidalgo county & his constituents.
Honorable Mr Gutierrez was authentic.
I hope the representatives & state senators of the Valley & beyond will follow his example and do right.
Thank You Mr Gutierrez for Your service to Texas, the RGV & Your constituents.
I for one, appreciate all the good You did on our behalf.
GOD Bless You. Rest on.



M P Ruiz - December 31, 2019 at 11:06 PM

“ I had the honor of working with Rep. Roberto Gutierrez, affably known as Mr. G, for 12 years. His many accomplishments and influences in the Texas Legislature are universally known, but equally important is how Mr. G was widely respected. From Republicans to Democrats, conservative to progressive to his counterparts in the Texas Senate, every senior member knew him, and every freshman legislator aspired to be like him. Mr. G was a compassionate leader who always looked out for his constituency in House District 41, and the residents of the Rio Grande Valley. Mr. G could relate to people from all walks of life. He was an empathetic man. He valued character over pedigree. He looked for the good in each person and always inspired them to be their best. Those of us close to Mr. G knew he wore his heart on his sleeve, never holding back emotional inspiration for others. He shared credit with his legislative victories, and in defeat Mr. G was like a boat in the middle of a storm, and when the tempest blew he simply adjusted his sails.

I have many fond memories of Mr. G, but the one that stands out the most is a personal one. During our last legislative session together in 2003, Mr. G loved to celebrate small victories at Carmelo's Ristorante in Austin. The owners knew him. The staff admired him. When we celebrated it was always just the three of us for dinner, Mr. G, myself, and fellow staffer Nelson Salinas. After seeing us so many times we were seated at a table without a reservation, but this one particular evening Mr. G walked in front us with his patented distinguished look followed by two of us, a pair of husky staff members. The accordion player immediately stopped playing *La festa di Piedigrotta* and began the theme song to *The Godfather*. Nelson and I immediately got the reference, and the crowd was in awe of Mr. G walking confidently followed by his two 'bodyguards.' To make matters interesting, they sat us alone in a corner on a perch overlooking the restaurant. People were looking our way, whispering in wonderment of who we were, either famous or infamous, but lifting a wine glass *alla salute* to us with respect. That night, Nelson and I affectionately referred to Mr. G as 'Don

Roberto.' He got a kick out it. Whether walking the halls of the State Capitol, the streets meeting voters, or simply entering a restaurant, Mr. G never commanded respect because he earned it.

Mr. G, I'm going remember you for exactly that and so much more. I'm going to miss your decency, sincerity, and kind soul. To the Gutierrez family: through your tears, let us see the blessings of knowing and loving a great and and noble man. And in your grief, let us smile knowing that Mr. G is hugging Ms. Cecilia and holding her hand again.

Rubén D. Longoria, Jr

Ruben Longoria - December 30, 2019 at 08:56 PM

RG

“*Condolences to the family. I did not have the pleasure to meet Mr. Gutierrez. But after reading about the legacy he left his children, grandchildren and future generations I was inspired to write a few words. This man was a true RGV / Texas Hero. A man who believed that raising the bar , hard work and education were the essentials needed for success. May God Bless you all.*

*Ron Gutierrez
Austin, Tx*

Ron Gutierrez - December 30, 2019 at 02:31 PM