



## Gilda Garcia Garza

*April 18, 1950 - May 8, 2019*

Gilda Garcia Garza of McKinney, Texas passed away May 8, 2019 at the age of 69. She was born April 18, 1950 to Raymond Earl Garcia and Maria Del Carmel (Urbano) Garcia in McKinney, Texas. Gilda was a 1968 graduate of McKinney High School. She continued her education at National Training Institute of Technology and Business College in South Dallas studying Computer Automation and attended Collin College majoring in Business Management. Gilda worked in administration for twenty years for North Texas Job Corps, a Department of Labor training program before her retirement in 2016. As a native of McKinney, Gilda contributed and served her city in many capacities. She was a member and served as a local and national officer for the McKinney LULAC Chapter #608 for many years. In 2000, Gilda was elected to the McKinney City Council, as the first Hispanic female to be elected to city government, and was re-elected twice, the maximum terms allowed. She ran simply because her District needed representation. She served District 1, which she felt had been neglected specifically its infrastructure. She'll never forget when a council member drove her around her district, one street after another, and together, they prioritized which street needed the most work. She also recalled standing up for her district when council proposed a new community pool. Thanks to her, the children on the east side of McKinney got their pool. Gilda was a lifetime member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in McKinney.

She is survived by her daughter, Andrea Nichols and husband, David of McKinney, Texas; grandchildren, Cristiar Biddenstadt, Ysabel "Yzzy" Nichols and Piper Nichols all of McKinney, Texas; sister, Onesma Dominguez of McKinney, Texas sisters-in-law, Martha Garcia of Plano, Texas, Patsy Garcia of McKinney, Texas and Helen Sepulbeda of McKinney, Texas numerous nieces, nephews, and other loving family members and friends.

Gilda was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Carmel Garcia; siblings, Ysabel "Ace" Sepulbeda, Felix "Bull" Garcia; Raymond "Wildman" Garcia and wife, Doris, Alfonso "Ben" Garcia, Jesse "Terry" Garcia, Maria "Anita" Garcia; brother-in-law Rudy Dominguez; and nephews, Raymond Garcia and Tony Garcia.

A funeral mass will be held 11:00 a.m., Thursday, May 16, 2019 at St. Michaels the Archangel Catholic Church, 411 Paulk Road, McKinney, Texas with Father Juan Carlos Marin Cortes officiating. Interment is to follow at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, Texas. The family will receive friends during a visitation on Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at

## Memorials

*My dear friend, I miss you. The best person to completely get you out of a sad mood. No way to stay that way around Gilda. Her happy smile and friendly digs are hard to beat. Amazing character.*

**SHERRY GEER WILLIMAS, MAY 21, 2019**

*I am at a loss for words. Gilda always had something to say whether I liked it or not. I loved her dearly. Best attitude in the world. I will miss being uplifted from everything by her words and that amazing, friendly smile.*

**SHERRY GEER WILLIAMS, MAY 21, 2019**

*Andrea and family, I am so very sorry to see this. Gilda was a force of nature and a powerful advocate for her community. She will be missed, but Collin County is a better place because of the work she did and the kindness she shared with so many. My sincere sympathy for your loss.*

**DEBORAH ANGELL SMITH, MAY 16, 2019**

*Gilda was a faithful public servant. Her kind, gentle, loving spirit will always be remembered. Peace and Prayers to all of her family.*

**LAURA CEGELSKI, MAY 16, 2019**

*Gilda was everyone's favorite...that permanent smile and a little chuckle! She could brighten up a sad, hard day by just being herself with you. So glad I was at our 50th Reunion and could see her one last time. Until we meet again, Gilda, keep it a happy place for Class of '68!*

**SALLY WYSONG RUSCHAUP, MAY 16, 2019**

*Gilda made such an important contribution to McKinney. She is sorely missed.*

**DONALD SALISBURY, MAY 16, 2019**

*We had the fortune of meeting Gilda, and admired her deeply. We are grateful for her service to the community and she will be missed. May she rest in peace,*

**DON AND MARÍA CECILIA SALISBURY, MAY 16, 2019**

*Our Sympathy for your loss. Ken & Martha*

**KEN PILKENTON, MAY 15, 2019**

*My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I pray God will grant peace for you all.*

**ALICE EDELHAUSER, MAY 15, 2019**

*My heart goes out to you the family. Gilda was a very sweet and supportive lady. She loved her community. God bless you with great memories of her.*

**DEBORAH MCGOWEN, MAY 14, 2019**

*I felt Gilda cared about all of McKinney and was not afraid to ask the hard questions to improve conditions for everyone. She was a great supporter of Serenity and the mission to help students. She will be missed.*

**JULI FERRARO, MAY 14, 2019**

*I've had the pleasure of meeting Gilda through CRHP at St Michael's. I will remember her for her humor, strength and her heart for service. I will miss you sister.*

**ELLANIE, MAY 14, 2019**

*A good heart has stopped beating, a good soul ascended to heaven. I will never forget the conversation about duty and responsibility we had in my office when you tried to convince me to run for city council. I still carry your words with me about the obligation that we have to our community especially those of us that were born and raised in McKinney. You have touched so many lives. You will be missed.*

**REBECCA SALDANA COLLINS, MAY 14, 2019**

*I am so sorry to hear this. Gilda represented her home town and District 1 very well, where I lived for awhile. She was always pleasant, kind, funny, and dedicated to McKinney. She will be missed.*

**BRANDI PRICE, MAY 14, 2019**

*Have many great memories of Gilda. She was admired by those who knew her. She was a tireless worker for the City of McKinney., and she always greeted you with that radiant smile. She will be missed. Our sincere sympathy to her family.*

**LENA AND EARL MILSTEAD, MAY 14, 2019**

*We are so sorry to hear of Gilda's passing. Gilda was such a special person and will always have a big place in our hearts. She served her community and District 1 on city council so well with such heart. She will be missed by many.*

**DONNA LOUGHMILLER, MAY 14, 2019**

*The city misses Gilda, a loyal, helpful, honest friend.*

**JAY CRUM, MAY 14, 2019**

*Gilda always lit up the room with her witty personality and way of doing things her way. She was extremely supportive and I appreciated her encouragement as I matriculated through a variety of City committee appointments. Dear Lord please comfort Ms. Garza's family with the peace of her being in your Loving arms for eternity.*

**MARTA GORE, MAY 14, 2019**

*I met and came to know Gilda as a servant leader for her community. She was always responsive to the needs of her constituents in District One. I pray we all will remember her many deeds and vision for the community. In doing so, may we act to fill the shoes and the void that will be missed in her dedication and spirit to advocate for the common good of all.*

**ADA T. SIMMONS, MAY 14, 2019**

*My sincerest condolences to family and friends of this dear sweet lady. I was very honored to have known Miss Gilda and call her friend. Sending prayers. Hasta Luego, Amiga.*

**TONI ANDRUKAITIS, MAY 14, 2019**

*It is an honor to have known Gilda and serve along side her. She was a passionate woman who loved her family and her community and worked tirelessly for both. Gilda also had a heart for her fellow man, she loved unconditionally and you never had to guess where she stood on any topic. She got me involved in LULAC. She was a role model and a friend. McKinney will miss Gilda, I will miss Gilda. But she lived her life to the fullest and left an indelible mark on the city and anyone she knew. God Bless you Gilda!*

**HARVEY OAXACA, MAY 14, 2019**

*My deepest condolences on Ms Garza's passing. As a staff member serving at the city when she was on City Council, I found Ms Garza a force for good and a continuing and powerful voice in my thoughts and heart. I'm saddened by her passing and honored to have worked under her guidance and leadership.*

**JOHN KESSEL , MAY 14, 2019**

*Gilda was an amazing woman with a passion for serving the community she loved so much. She was one of the first individuals I met when I moved into McKinney in 2007. She shared her family history and her time as a city councilwoman with me. Her leadership and vision helped shape our city into what it is today. I'll forever remember her smile and laughter. Love ya Gilda!*

**STELLA URIBE STEVENS, MAY 14, 2019**

*My sincere and deepest condolence for Gilda family and loved ones. My prayers and thoughts are with her family. I got to know her well while she served on the city counsel and considered her as a friend and I will miss her.*

*Merry Hickson Cofield*

**MERRY COFIELD, MAY 14, 2019**

*I never saw Gilda without a smile on her face. She was so fun to be around. She was an amazing woman in her community who earned the respect of those she worked with. She will be greatly missed.*

**LIZ PENNINGTON GANT, MAY 14, 2019**

*Deepest condolences on your loss. Gilda was always very kind and will be missed.*

**TERRI RAMEY - CITY OF MCKINNEY PLANNING DEPT., MAY 14, 2019**

*I am so sorry to hear this news. She was a amazing sweet woman. Always had that smile. My condolences to the family from the Duran Family.*

**YOLANDA DURAN, MAY 14, 2019**

*This is sad to hear. I enjoyed working with Gilda and especially appreciated her friendship. She always represented her district and the city professionally and honorably. She was a true public servant. God bless her family.*

**JOE JAYNES, MAY 14, 2019**

*I am blessed to have known Gilda and to have worked with her. I remember*

*she would ask the hard questions at Council meetings. I appreciated how she would ask what does that mean for the benefit of those in the audience who did not know the various anachronyms and technical jargon used in City dialog. Gilda loved her District and was always there for her constituents. I will always remember Gilda. I can only hope I am as good at helping the citizens of McKinney as she was. I will miss her but she will always be in my head and heart. Guy*

**GUY R. GIERSCH, MAY 14, 2019**

*So sorry to hear of Gilda's passing. She was a dedicated hard worker for East McKinney and will be missed.*

**MARTHA LEWIS HENDERSON, MAY 13, 2019**

*We are deeply saddened by the news of Gilda. We pray that God will grant the family and friends strength, comfort and peace. Our most sincere condolences. — Olivia and James Mongaras*

**OLIVIA AND JAMES MONGARAS , MAY 13, 2019**

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