Rafael Antonio Mena, age 49, of McKinney, Texas, passed away April 1, 2016. He was born in Juarez, Mexico to Ignacio and Francisca (Ornelas) Mena. Rafael had a passion for learning how things worked and decided to pursue a career in electrical engineering. He obtained a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso, MS degree in Electrical Engineering from Arizona State University and a PhD degree in Electrical Engineering from The Ohio State University.

Rafael A. Mena accepted a position with NASA in Cleveland, Ohio to do research in quantum well structure. After pursuing his PhD in Electrical Engineering, he moved back to the southwest and joined Texas Instruments (TI). He had a number of roles during his 20 year career with TI. He was a Systems Architect driving industrial efforts inside of the Micro Controllers (MCU) organization and drove CMOS development efforts. Dr. Rafael A. Mena was motivational force behind the Hispanic/Latinos Initiative (UNIDOS) in seeking ways to help and promote talent. He had a passion for career development and was enthusiastic about helping to lead the efforts in the UNIDOS mentoring program. He was a highly respected and experienced engineer.

Dr. Rafael A. Mena was a very active member of St. Jude Catholic Church in Allen, Texas. He was a member of Christ Renew His Parish (CRHP), catechist with the Junior Youth Ministry and part of the Outreach to Honduras Mission team.

Dr. Rafael A Mena enjoyed exercise and fitness. He ran several marathons and received a black belt in martial arts with his son. He was also an entrepreneur and together with his wife opened a Spanish immersion preschool in McKinney.

Dr. Rafael A. Mena is survived by his wife, Ann Salcido Mena and children Arianna and Diego Mena all of McKinney, Texas; parents, Ignacio and Francisca Mena of Maricopa, Arizona; siblings, Francisca Benavides and husband Pete of Phoenix, AZ, Ignacio Mena, Jr. and wife Dagmar of Foothills Ranch, California, Teresita Amaro and husband Isauro of Tempe, Arizona, Felipe Mena and wife Acela of El Paso, Texas, Jose Mena of Maricopa, Arizona, Lilly Franco Martinez and husband Mark of Anna, Texas; many nieces and nephews and other loving relatives and friends.
A funeral mass will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, April 8, 2016 at St. Jude Catholic Church, 1515 N. Greenville Avenue, Allen, Texas. The family will receive friends during a visitation, being held from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. with a rosary beginning at 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening at Turrentine-Jackson Morrow Funeral Home, 2525 Central Expwy N., Allen, Texas.

Rafael will be forever remembered as a devoted husband, loving and ever present father, caring son and brother, compassionate friend and advocate for those in need. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made under Dr. Rafael A. Mena’s name to the St. Jude Catholic Church Outreach to Honduras Mission.

Memorials

Dear Ann, Kyle and I are so very saddened by the news today of Rafael’s passing. We were blessed to know you both so young and dating. Just the other night, I told our son the story of how Rafael hired the mariachi player to sing outside your window on the night he proposed to you. He loves you so very much. The word that most comes to mind always when I think of Rafael is gentle. He has a beautiful, gentle, generous, kind, sweet spirit. He is a good friend. Con mucho cariño, Kyle and Simone

KYLE AND SIMONE ULRICH, AUGUST 2, 2016

I am at a loss of words with this devastating news I just found out about Rafael. My sincere and deeply heartfelt condolences to the Mena Ornelas family, Ann, Arianna and Diego. I was fortunate to grow up with my Aunt and Uncle and their wonderful children in El Paso, Texas. I was proud to be their adoptive brother. I only have fond memories of Rafael growing up. He was somebody I inspired to be like, Intelligent, Caring, Humble, and Successful. I remember attending Jefferson High School and being in Marching and Jazz band where Rafael would help me out with trumpet lessons at home. I wanted to be like him. Although we lost touch I never forgot Rafael. Thank you to the Mena Ornelas family for raising me and being part of your family. I am grateful I was able to be part of Rafael’s life. Rest in peace brother.

GILBERTO MENA ORNELAS, APRIL 11, 2016

Rest in Peace. Our deepest condolences to the Mena Family. Our thoughts and Prayers are with you and your family. Rafael Alcantar Jr. e Familia . . .

RAFAEL ALCANTAR, APRIL 10, 2016
We are so saddened to hear this news. We always enjoyed seeing and talking with him at the Fire & Ice basketball games our daughters played together. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Ann, Arianna, and Diego at this difficult time.

CATHY BROWNE & FAMILY, APRIL 10, 2016

Rafael was a great man. He loved his family. He excelled in all he did. He was a kind soul wanting to help his fellow man. His greatest pride were his children, Arianna and Diego. He enjoyed being a part of all their activities as a coach, tutor, mentor and/or father. Rafael was great son. He cared and looked out for the needs of his parents. It did not matter where he was Rafael made his weekly call to his parents. Rafael was a devout Catholic. He was a member of St. Jude Catholic Church. He taught religious education. He enjoyed teaching them and the kids enjoyed being in his class. Rafael was an entrepreneur. He and his wife opened a Spanish Emersion preschool. He wanted to give children the opportunity to learn the culture and the language. Rafael was a great brother. He took the time to be a part of my children's life. He was there for all memorable events in their life's. Rafael was a great brother to us all. He was a friend to all that met him. Rafael we will be together again. We love you and will miss you. Teresita Mena-Amaro

ISAURO AMARO & TERESITA MENA-AMARO, APRIL 9, 2016

It is with our deepest sympathy that we send our condolences and prayers to you, Jeanette and the children. Be strong in the Lord and above all, trust in Him.

PHILLIP & ROSE MADRID, APRIL 8, 2016

I am stunned at the news of your passing. Although it is a sad feeling I have, mourning your loss, I and many others, hold fast to the Truth and promise of life everlasting. We are a people of resurrection, and in time we too will be with our Creator, all the angels and saints and with you, Ralph. Jesus, I trust in you!

JAVIER LUNA, APRIL 8, 2016

Rafael was a great friend full of optimism. I've known him for at least a decade.
This sudden loss is a big shock for me. Rest in peace my friend. Murugavel
MURUGAVEL RAJU, APRIL 8, 2016
To the entire Mena family, his wife and kids, on behalf of his friends from the
Thomas Jefferson High School Class of 1985 from El Paso, Texas, we’d like to
extend our sincere condolences on the passing of Rafael. On Monday, our
Facebook page lit up with the sad news of Rafael’s passing. For the past few
days, many of his classmates have been making comments about Ralph and
sharing special memories of Ralph. For all of us, he will be remembered as
“kind and respectful; a great man, a great friend.” Please know that our
thoughts and prayers are with all the family during this most difficult time.
Ralph, may you rest in Peace with the Angels above……
BELINDA GARCIA-RATTENBURY, APRIL 8, 2016
Ann, Our prayers are with you and your family, may God keep you strong
always and may your Rafael watch over you and your kids. God be with you.
Mario & Terry
MARIO ENRIQUEZ, APRIL 8, 2016
RAFAEL will NEVER be FORGOTTEN by the TI RFID Team.

STEFAN UND NORBERT, APRIL 8, 2016
Rafael, thanks for all those fond memories back in Cleveland during early 90’s.
I still have vivid recollection of many happy and funny moments. I hope we
meet each other again. Ann, my prayers to you and your beautiful family. Que
Dios los bendiga.
JAIME MALDONADO, APRIL 7, 2016
I am deeply saddened to find out that Rafael has left us. He was a colleague
and good friend when we were both at NASA in Cleveland. Even though we
lost touch with each other, he was truly one of those people you never forget.
His easy smile, willingness to help, never angry, proud of his roots, his love of
family, and his dedication to humanity. Many times over the years I wondered
how he was doing, and from reading his obituary I am not surprised at all he
accomplished, not for himself but for others. His heart was always in the right place and I am glad I could call him my amigo. To Ann and the rest of the family, I wish for strength at this difficult time, and I am sure you will find him in others who have been touched by his goodness. Descansa en paz, Rafael.

MIGUEL, APRIL 7, 2016

Our sincere sympathy Ann and family. May the Lord give you all the strength you need.

GIL & LUPE (PEREA) DUNCAN, APRIL 7, 2016

I had the pleasure of interacting with Rafael over the last few months. His positive attitude always shone through brightly, always engaging you with a smile. He was very expressive and passionate about what he wanted to do. My sincere and deep condolences to his wife, children and parents.

SRINIVAS LINGAM, APRIL 7, 2016

Rest in peace dear friend. May God bless you always. My condolences to his wife and kids. A la familia Mena, los acompaño en este momento tan difícil.

PATRICIA ROJAS, APRIL 7, 2016

You were one of the first persons that made me feel welcomed at TI. I remember my very first week at TI when I stepped for the very first time into your office. You were very welcoming and eager to help. You gave me a lot of good pointers and directions to navigate through my first year here. I remember you were so happy to see another Latino in the team and how we used to talk about our heritage, background, upbringing and the challenges we went through during our childhood and student years. We started to speak Spanish and I asked you for recommendations on where to best and authentic taco shack nearby, you replied with a smile... el rancho! and proceed to invite over there. To your surprise, I did not love it because in my opinion it was very tex-mex. For the next 6 years I continue to make some jokes about "el rancho" restaurant, over the time we discovered more authentic Mexican restaurants. Cuquitas being one of them. It was our thing... always joking about food, sharing experiences about our families, talking about vacation plans or venting out about a crazy and frustrating day at work. The thing I am going to miss the
most is the way you used to say hi in the mornings every day.....when I used to say "Buenos Dias Rafa, como estas?" while opening my office and hand-waving you. You always replied with a long “Que paaasssssooooo Daniel” with a “Ranchero” accent. You always cracked me up and somehow put a smile on my face just by doing it. I am going to miss you a lot my friend, I know you are in a better place now. Hasta pronto querido amigo, que dios te tenga en su Gloria.

DANIEL TORRES, APRIL 7, 2016

Dear Mena Family Words cannot express our sorrow for your loss. Rafael was a good man and we will miss him! God has strange plans for us. The Niedzielski Family

DANIEL AND TERRY NIEDZIELSKI, APRIL 7, 2016

We are deeply saddened by the news of your loss. We pray that God will grant you the strength needed to get though this difficult time in your life. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and your sweet family. Matt, Debbie, Caden and Lilli Johnson

THE JOHNSON FAMILY, APRIL 7, 2016

I had the pleasure to meet Rafael when he worked at NASA in Cleveland Ohio. He was a very good friend of mine! And of many! Great man! I am so saddened and I pray for Ann. Kids and family! He will always be remembered by all the lifes he touched along the way!! May God bless the family and give the strength in such difficult times! Hugs. Abrazos!!! ADA

ADABELLE, APRIL 7, 2016

Ann, Arianna and Diego, I am so sorry. I have so many fond memories of our years as soccer parents cheering for our kids at games over the years and reminiscing about El Paso/Las Cruces. We always enjoyed our time and fellowship with your family. Rafael made it a point to talk to everyone and make everyone feel welcome. He was a wonderful person and friend. I can’t imagine what you are going through now but just know that you have many friends that love you all and are praying for you.

CLARISSA HUANG, APRIL 7, 2016
Very shocked and saddened by the news. Rest in Peace my friend. I met Rafael in 1990 as we transitioned together from our College years to our professional lives at the NASA Lewis Research Center. I always remember his pride and passion on his Latino/Mexican Heritage and his kind soul. Our prayers are with his family in this moment of great sadness.

RUBEN AND DIANA DEL ROSARIO, APRIL 7, 2016

It was a blessing to get to know and work with Rafael, even for a short while. Rafael was truly selfless with a clear drive to help others and to go above and beyond to better the team. I’m truly saddened by his passing and will be praying that God will pour out all possible graces, peace, and blessings upon Rafael and his family.

BRIAN MCCARTHY, APRIL 7, 2016

Anna Men's & Family just want say from my Family to yours God be with you as you go through this trying time also so sorry for the loss of a very solid part of your Family! I ask that God make this Transition as easy as possible for you and your Babies. God bless and keep you always Amen

SHANETHA YOUNG & FAMILY, APRIL 7, 2016

My condolences and prayers go out to the family of Dr. Mena. I met he and his wife as they were establishing their school. Dr. Mena was very enthusiastic and dedicated to the growth of Latin culture and heritage. I will always remember his dedication and particularly his love of his family.

MIKE DALEY, APRIL 7, 2016

I’m deeply saddened by the news of Rafael passing away. Over the past five years I used to worked with Rafael and one thing I will not forget is every time I saw him, he had a smile on his face. I extend my most sincere condolences to Rafael’s family and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

ANDRE FRANTZKE, APRIL 7, 2016

Our lord blessed us with your company for such a short time my friend. I meet you at UTEP many years ago and I had the opportunity see you grow from smart and driven young man into such an extraordinary individual who was bless with a great family, who worked so hard all his life and who was
generous with his time and shared it with colleges, family and friends. I have been recalling the days when Martin and me would try to get our homework done in at the school library only to go and have you explained what we had been doing wrong for the last two hours. Or the day when you were awarded your master’s scholarship, for your from NASA no less, and we celebrated between classes with cheap beer only to go back to school too drunk to make sense of that evening’s lecture. I remember when your studies and career took you to Ohio, far from family and friends, where you built a community with other Latinos from work and school. When money was so tight you got a 2nd job at the mall to have money for Christmas gifts for the familia. The manager in the store said he did no know what to ask you in that job interview, since he never had a scientist apply for part time work before. Humbly you told him to ask you the same questions he asked everyone else. And when you finish your studies, and your mom and dad were so proud of their son "El Doctor", little did they know the effort it took to complete the dissertation and your degree. You made your friends and family proud that day, and many days after. And I remember when you meet her, Ann, your soul mate and wife. Someone who could keep up with you, challenge you and help you to be the best that you could be. I had seen you in love before, but the joy you expressed the 1st time we talked as you described her over the phone, I knew then you two would marry, and sure enough, years later I had the privileged to be present when you did. That joy was expressed many times after, when you would recount what your kids had done at home or school or the pancakes you all enjoyed together on the weekends Our careers took us in separate directions, but no matter the months or years that past, we so could always talk on the phone, have a quick drink at an airport between flights or meet with our families when circumstances allowed. You grew professional and you become a great father to those wonderful kids. You dealt with difficulties and hardship like all the rest of us, and yet though it all, you never lost your spirit, you humility or your drive. God has now recalled one of his angels back to his side. I know we are all hurting because is too soon for us to not have that calming presence, among
us. That solid friend who could always take "cinco minutos" to hear me out. and most of all, that loving husband and father to Ann, Arianna and Diego. We will miss my friend and we will always remember you.

ROSY AND MARIO DE LA MORA, APRIL 7, 2016

Rafael was a really good friend and colleague. He was an extremely supportive, positive and encouraging person and a pleasure to work with. I admired his ability to work hard yet find a good work-life balance. I will truly miss working with him. My heartfelt condolences to Rafael's family.

PRADHYUM RAMKUMAR, APRIL 6, 2016

Dear Ann I am so very sorry for your loss! My heart bleeds for you for I know your pain. My church Family and I are praying for you. May God be with during this difficult time. Joni Pearson SSH Parent

JONI PEARSON, APRIL 6, 2016

En este momento no encuentro las palabras para decir. Una oración por ustedes tres para que les traiga fortaleza y una oración hasta el cielo para que su alma descanse. Esta noche estarán en mis oraciones. Señorita Claudia

CLAUDIA ZEVALLOS, APRIL 6, 2016

Rafael was such a kind and humble human being and I know he made a large impact to those he had touched. May God surround the family with love and assurance. He will be greatly missed.

CRAIG GREENBERG, APRIL 6, 2016

Whenever I visited Dallas and passed by his office, Rafael called me in with a smile and talked with passion about a new idea we can bring to customers. His positive, innovative and entrepreneurial mindset will be missed a lot. My sincere condolences to his family.

TOBIAS LEISGANG, APRIL 6, 2016

I am deeply saddened by the loss of my cousin, Rafael Mena. Although I hadn't seen or spoken to him in a long while, I always considered him a sweet, caring, and respectful cousin. The years that I lived with him at my uncle's house, he always treated me and everyone else with respect and genuine kindness. He was one of my favorite primos and that's why it was no surprise
that as soon as I turned XV I asked him to be my "chambelan" an honor that lives with me till this day. Life continued its course and unfortunately our paths went in separate directions. I only wish I would have kept more in contact with him over the years. Unfortunately, we think that somebody so young, in good health, and very active will live until a very old age. We think that we will have time in the future to reconnect again in life with someone we truly care about. We never stop to think that is important to let your family, friends, and people that hold a special place in your heart know that you love and care for them because tomorrow might be too late. To his wife, children, my dear tios & primos, please accept my heartfelt condolences. I can feel your pain as you need to live your life without the source of happiness and peace that he gave you. Even though I am at a loss for words, in my heart, I pray that God will bless you with all the strength and courage that one needs to make it through this difficult time. I will miss him and he will forever hold a special place in my heart.

MICHELLE FRANCO-MAR, APRIL 6, 2016

What an incredible man and such pier in his community, His loss will be felt in so many areas. Some thing in this world just don't make any sense, allowing us just with one thought, its in the hands of the good lord who are we to doubt his disessions. My the family be blessed with fond memories he leaves behind. My extreme condolences to the entire Family. Edward Benavides brother to Pete Benavides

EDWARD BENAVIDES, APRIL 6, 2016

I had the pleasure and privilege of knowing and working with Rafael for about 10 years at Texas Instruments. He was always positive, encouraging and motivating to work with and talk to. I will miss him. My deepest condolences to his family.

VC KUMAR, APRIL 6, 2016

Rafael's joyful conversations and friendly smile will definitely be missed! His
encouraging words and presence at all our Soccer games were always enjoyed. That is something I appreciated most about Rafael, his constant presence, energy and guidance. The Dillon’s thoughts and prayers are with you Ann, Arianna and Diego. You will always be part of our life and family. Please let us know what we can do! Bryan and Family

BRYAN DILLON, APRIL 6, 2016

The Dugas family is shocked and saddened to hear about the passing of Rafael. Our daughters have grown up together, attending the same schools and playing sports. He was kind and gracious to everyone he met. Our sincerest and deepest condolences go out to the family. Please know that our thoughts and prayers will be with you during this difficult time. God is merciful and His love endures forever.

DARRELL DUGAS, APRIL 6, 2016

Our deepest condolences & prayers for your entire family! Sorry for your loss! Sincerely from Las Cruces, NM, The Scouten/Johnson Family

ESTELLA T. SCOUTEN, APRIL 5, 2016

We all walk a path in this life and, in doing so, get the opportunity to cross paths with others on their own journey. Some of us may be fortunate enough to cross paths with someone that embodies everything that we wish we could be, a special soul that just makes you feel better because of the person they are. Rafael Mena was such a soul. I thank God that my family and I were fortunate enough to be close friends and neighbors for so many years. If there is a benchmark on being a great father, caring husband, loyal friend or just a good hearted person, Rafael set the mark. It is my sincere hope that I can one day be half the man he was. Ann, Ari and Diego, we are heartbroken for you and love you very much. We are all going to hear Rafael referred to by several titles over the next few days; father, brother, son, doctor, professional, educator, friend, etc. But, one title that I will remember him by is artist and I think we all should. Rafael, the artist, never recorded a song to be sold or painted anything to hang in a gallery. His art was much more precious as his canvas was our minds and his beautiful works of art were the memories he
painted there. It is our obligation, in Rafael’s honor, to hold tightly onto these memories until that time when we are all together again. Rest easy, brother; I will see you on the other side. I love you.

KEITH SMITH, APRIL 5, 2016

Ann, I'm so sorry for your loss. May the Lord bring you strength during this difficult time. He was a great man, and will be missed dearly. We will continue to keep you in our prayers. Always, Jamie, Pat, Jacob and Nathaniel

JAMIE SLAUGHTER, APRIL 5, 2016

Rafael made a positive impact on everybody who knew him. He had such a contagious, always positive attitude towards life; every time I talked to him he would make me smile. It was great having him as a co-worker and a friend at Texas Instruments. I am deeply saddened by his loss. My sincere condolences to his wife and family.

GABRIEL GOMEZ, APRIL 5, 2016

I fortunately had the opportunity to work closely with Rafael over the past year in MSP430 and developed a new friendship along the way. My family's thoughts and sympathies are with your family.

BRAD LANE, APRIL 5, 2016

I met Doctor Mena two years ago at TI. He passed by my desk many mornings and he used to greet me with a smile - “Buenos Dias Ilda”! Over time we had informal conversations in Spanish and talked about life, his family, his passion for his job, and the exiting projects he was working on. One day, I had the opportunity to go out for lunch with him and his team. I could see how everyone had a good time sharing stories and debating about the best idea about lunch places comparing food quality versus food nutritional value… Lunch at a Mexican place was a lot of fun we all ate “Tortas”. He was proud of sharing his heritage and culture. Last few months, he talked about his children Arianna and Diego – of the “Quinceanera” celebration, his trip to Santa Fe, his trip to Japan; plans for summer vacation to Mexico… His family was always present in most conversations. I admire and respect Doctor Mena and had the privilege of working for him, I feel sad to see him leaving us so early in life –
he contributed to leave this a better place, a better world - he touched our life in many ways. Short conversations allow me to learn about him. Today, I can say I knew Doctor Mena; he is a man of honor, brilliant as a person and as a professional. He had a big heart and huge desire to contribute and do his best in every role in his life. He is a role model to engineers following in his career and a real friend to many persons in his life. I will remember him as one of the best engineer from my country, a professional, a genius, a family man, and friend.

ILDA MARIN, APRIL 5, 2016

I'm very sad for the loss of such a wonderful and extraordinary person. We lost a kind human being and there are no adequate words to say to his family. I only talked to Rafael once and once was enough. During that conversation, he agreed to mentor a young man starting college. He did meet with this young man several times as he promised. He definitely wanted to help others achieve and was so generous with this time and talent. Such a tragedy that he is not longer here to share his wisdom with other young Hispanic engineers.

MARTHA GONZALES, APRIL 5, 2016

Rafael showed me what living a life of class and humility means. Thank you for making such a positive impact in this world. Well done my brother! Ann, my sincere condolences to you and your family. I know how strong you are...may the peace of Christ be with you. John 3:30 Peace Matt

MATT CONNELL, APRIL 5, 2016

I am deeply saddened learning of the loss of Rafael. I had the utmost respect for him and greatly enjoyed our time working together at Texas Instruments. My prayers are with his wife and children.

SHAWN ROGERS, APRIL 5, 2016

Like a Condor, flying high above a mountain top, You came and gained superior heights of human virtue; Your duty done; To God and Family; You have completed this earthly journey. Farewell, my Friend. Como un cóndor, volando en lo alto al cumbre de la Montana, Viniste, ganado alturas superiores de la virtud humana; Tu deber cumplido; A Dios y la familia; Ha completado tu
viaje terrestial. Adios amigo mío.

CRUZ Y AURELIA PEREZ, APRIL 5, 2016

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