



Maria Elena Lara

August 17, 1955 - June 7, 2026

Maria Elena Lara, 70, of Odessa, Texas, passed away peacefully on June 7, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on August 18, 1955, in Pecos, Texas, Maria lived a life centered on faith, family, and love. She was known for her kind heart, generous spirit, and unwavering devotion to those she loved. Maria's warmth, strength, and compassion touched the lives of countless family members and friends, and her memory will forever be cherished by all who knew her.

Maria had a special gift for crafting and sewing. She loved creating handmade clothing, blankets, stuffed animals, and beloved characters for her children, grandchildren, and extended family. Her talent was truly a gift, and every piece she made was created with love and care. These treasured keepsakes will continue to bring comfort and joy to her family for generations to come and serve as lasting reminders of her creativity, generosity, and love.

Maria was preceded in death by her mother, Juanita Lara; her son, Jaime Lara; her nephew, Zachary Foster; her sister, Rosa Huertas; and her brothers, Joe Cortez, Mike Cortez, Fred Lara, Gilbert Lara, and Ricky Lara.

She is survived by her son, Ismael Arenivas and his wife, Maribel, and their family; her daughter, Jessica Lopez and her husband, Ernest, and their family;

her brother, Tony Lara and his wife, Judy, and their family; and her sister, Mary Lou Ramirez and her husband, Jaime, and their family.

Maria was a proud and loving grandmother to AJ, Hope, Taeler, Elijah, Isaac, Daren, and Brianna; a devoted great-grandmother to Zayliene and Braxton; and a cherished aunt to 16 nieces and nephews. She found her greatest joy in spending time with her family, sharing laughter, creating memories, and expressing her love through the beautiful handmade gifts she lovingly crafted.

Though her passing leaves a deep void in the hearts of her loved ones, Maria's legacy of love, kindness, creativity, and strength will live on through the many lives she touched. Her family finds comfort in knowing that her spirit will remain with them always.

Maria Elena Lara will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever held in the hearts of her family and friends.

May she rest in eternal peace.

A viewing will be held on Wednesday, June 10 2026 from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with rosary at 7:00 PM.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, June 11, 2026, 10 AM, St. Stephens Catholic Church.

Upcoming Events

Viewing

JUN 10. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

American Heritage Funeral Home
4100 North FM 1788
Midland, TX 79707

Rosary

JUN 10. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

American Heritage Funeral Home
4100 North FM 1788
Midland, TX 79707

Funeral Mass

JUN 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

St Stephen's Catholic Church
4601 Neely Ave
Midland, TX 79707