



Jose Filiberto (Fil) Garcia Jr.

October 5, 1934 - March 20, 2019

José Filiberto (Fil) García, Jr. of Kingsville, TX, died on March 20, 2019, in Corpus Christi, surrounded by his family. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Born October 5, 1934, García was 84 years old.

The eldest of Filiberto and Delfina Garcia's 5 children, he worked in the meat market at G&G Grocery, a small grocery store built by his parents in 1938. Excelling in mathematics, physics, and politics, García graduated from Henrietta M. King High School in 1952. However, his greatest passion was baseball, and he dreamed of playing in the major leagues. García was scouted by the Chicago Cubs and invited to try out at Cubs training camp. It was a turning point in his life: he was sent packing by the Cubs' management with encouragement to try another "career."

García earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at Texas College of Arts and Industries in Kingsville, in 1957. After graduating he joined the US Air Force and was stationed at Scott AFB in St. Louis, Missouri. He later transferred to the Air Force Reserves and completed his service in 1963. His first job was at the Naval Propellant Plant in Indian Head, Maryland, not far from Washington, DC.

García married Theda York in 1959. His best friend and wife for 57 years, she predeceased him in July 2017.

García often said that he held four careers – and was happy in all of them. His service with the US government led to numerous jobs in the aerospace industry, including with Hercules, Inc. of Salt Lake City, Ling-Temco-Vought of

Dallas, and Rockwell International of Waco. A specialist in propellants and solid rocket fuels, García worked on various projects through much of the 1960s, including the Polaris missile and the Saturn rocket, which boosted the Apollo lunar modules into space.

His second career opportunity came when his aging father invited him to return to Kingsville and join the family business.

In the 1970s, García became increasingly involved in politics, which he considered his third career. During the Nixon Administration, he was appointed to serve in the Office of Economic Opportunity and later was selected as a delegate for President Jimmy Carter at the Democratic National Convention of 1976. García was appointed City Manager of Kingsville, a position he filled from 1974 to 1978.

García now embarked on his fourth and final career, guiding the family business, Garco. He steered the company until his last illness.

Among his other services to the community, García gave charitably to religious causes, poverty relief, the arts, and education. He was also a loyal and beloved supporter of Texas A&M Kingsville's Javelina baseball program. He also co-founded the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Kingsville.

José Filiberto García is survived by his five children, Katheryn G. Longoria; Caryl García; Juan Filiberto García; Dana Garcia; and Leila García. He is further survived by three sisters and one brother; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 3pm Saturday, March 30, 2019 at Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home, 230 E. Ella Ave., in Kingsville. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to Javelina Baseball, 700 University Blvd., MSC 200, Kingsville, TX 78363 or click on <https://www.javelinagiving.org/give-online/give-online-athletic-hometown-sponsor>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR **30**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home
230 East Ella Avenue
Kingsville, TX 78363
(361) 592-2413

Tribute Wall

DA

“ To the John Longoria family,sincere condolences,did not know your beloved deceased personally but my parents did David Chavez 's grandparents ,Mr.and Mrs.Didio Trevino.Mr.F.Garcia's name was mentioned alot in our household as we were growing up.Mighty man in Christ he was.Be blessed even in your sorrow.Nehemiah 8:10 The joy of the Lord is your strength ! In Him,Rev.DaliaTrevinio-Chavez

DaliaT.Chavez - April 02, 2019 at 09:59 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Jose Filiberto (Fil) Garcia Jr..



March 29, 2019 at 07:55 PM

AC

“ Condolences to the family of. Jose F.Garcia.
May he Rest in Peace.



Allie G. Cartef - March 28, 2019 at 01:53 PM

KD

“ *KLEERG COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Jose Filiberto (Fil) Garcia Jr..*



KLEERG COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT - March 28, 2019 at
10:35 AM