



Rafaelita Cardenas

July 23, 1935 - February 15, 2026

Rafaelita Cardenas, 90, of Bishop, passed away peacefully on February 15, 2026, in Kingsville. She was born on July 23, 1935, in Bishop, Texas, to Lazaro “Peewee” and Elida Garcia. A lifelong resident of Bishop, Rafaelita was deeply rooted in the community she loved.

Rafaelita dedicated over 40 years of service as a banker with First State Bank of Bishop, where she was known for her kindness, professionalism, and warm smile. She was a devoted and faithful member of St. James Catholic Church, where her faith guided her throughout her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lazaro “Peewee” and Elida Garcia, and her sister, Esther Gonzalez.

Rafaelita leaves behind a loving family who will cherish her memory: her devoted husband of 51 years, Santiago “Jimmy” Cardenas Sr.; her three sons, Rolando (Delma †) Garcia, Santiago (Rita) Cardenas Jr., and Jaime F. (Christina) Cardenas; her cherished grandchildren, Corrina Garcia, Rolando Fidel Garcia, Cody James Lerma, Laura (Manuel) Santibañez, Ruby (Brandon) Limas, Sydney Garcia, Eric Garcia, Royal Garcia, Abygail Marie (Raziel) Soliz, Santiago Cardenas III, Jaime Cardenas Jr., Jennifer Marie Cardenas, and Javier Cardenas; her beloved great-grandchildren, Rachel, Hector, Audriana, Eden, Hayden, Jazlynn Rae, Raziel Ezekiel, Zaira Marie, Azalee Mae, Blake Anthony, and Adrianna Elizabeth.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home, with the Holy Rosary to be recited at 10:00 a.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church, with Father Sebastian officiating. Burial will follow at St. James Catholic Cemetery.

Rafaelita's legacy of love, faith, and dedication to her family will live on through them and all who were blessed to know her.

Cemetery Details

St. James Catholic Cemetery

Bishop, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 19. 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

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

Rosary

FEB 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Funeral Mass

FEB 19. 12:00 PM (CT)

St James Catholic Church
603 W 3rd St
Bishop, TX 78343
(361) 584-3250

Tribute Wall



“ *Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rafaelita Cardenas*



Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home - February 18 at 06:06 PM

KB

“ *She was a very good friend to us. We loved her.*

Keith and Diane Bellamy - February 21 at 10:03 AM

DT

“ *My condolences on the loss of Tía Bebé, Tía was a beautiful soul. Will always remember the fond memories shared many years ago., love you Tía. May you Rest In Heavenly Peace. Dianna González Tovar*

Dianna G. Tovar - February 19 at 12:57 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Rafaelita Cardenas.*



February 19 at 09:46 AM

RH

“ Robert DeLeon, Jr and Dorothy Holland purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Rafaelita Cardenas.



Robert DeLeon, Jr and Dorothy Holland - February 18 at 04:58 PM

BD

“ Bobby DeLeon purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Rafaelita Cardenas.



Bobby DeLeon - February 18 at 02:13 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rafaelita Cardenas.



February 18 at 11:31 AM

NG

“ Norma Bernal Gonzalez purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rafaelita Cardenas.



Norma Bernal Gonzalez - February 17 at 08:44 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rafaelita Cardenas.*



February 17 at 04:22 PM



“ *Limas & Garcia Santibanez Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Rafaelita Cardenas.*



Limas & Garcia Santibanez Family - February 17 at 02:46 PM



“ *Laura, Ruby, Sydney, Hayden, Audriana purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Rafaelita Cardenas.*



Laura, Ruby, Sydney, Hayden, Audriana - February 17 at 01:20 PM