



Rita Cheney

February 4, 1953 - June 24, 2025

It is with heavy hearts and deep love that we announce the passing of Rita Cheney, a beloved wife, devoted mother, cherished grandmother, loving sister and radiant light in the lives of all who knew her. Rita was born on February 4, 1953 to Romulo and Lupe Garza in Sanger, California. She passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by the family she adored, on June 24, 2025, at the age of 72.

Rita graduated from Sanger High School in 1971 and married Daniel Cheney in August 1977. Born with a boundless spirit and a heart full of joy, Rita had a special gift for making every room she entered brighter. She was the life of the party—her laughter contagious, her stories unforgettable, and her warmth unmatched. Whether she was enjoying beach trips to Avila Beach or Cayucos, or organizing family gatherings that turned into legendary celebrations, Rita's zest for life was undeniable.

Family was the heart of Rita's world. As a wife, she was loving and steadfast. As a mother, she was nurturing, strong, and full of wisdom. As a grandmother, she was pure magic—showering her grandchildren with love and patience. Her legacy lives on in the countless memories she created and the deep bonds she forged with each member of her family.

Rita faced her illness with the same strength, humor, and grace that defined

her life. She fought bravely, without complaint, and continued to live life on her terms—always with courage, dignity, and love.

Rita is lovingly remembered by her husband, Daniel Cheney. Sons, Gregory Cheney (Jordanne) of Fresno and Matthew Cheney (Kayla) of Kingsburg. Her Grandchildren, Hannah Renae, Dylan Daniel, Blakely Elizabeth, Clayton Jordan and Brylee Mae. She was the beloved sister to her siblings Maryann Barker (Jerry) of Bakersfield, Linda Torres (Alex) of West Covina, Romulo Garza (Janet) of Covina and Laura Guitierrez (Richard) of Sanger. Rita is preceded in death by her parents, Romulo and Lupe Garza and her Sister, Elizabeth “Liz” Garza.

Rita's presence will be missed beyond measure, but her spirit will forever live on in the stories we share, the laughter we echo, and the love we carry forward.

Recitation of the Holy will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sanger on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Friday, July 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Sanger District Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Sanger Cemetery

568 S. Rainbow Road
Sanger, CA 93657

Previous Events

Recitation of the Holy Rosary

JUL 10. 7:30 PM (PT)

St. Mary Catholic Church
2590 E North Ave
Sanger, CA 93657
(559) 875-2025

Funeral Mass

JUL 11. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary Catholic Church
2590 E North Ave
Sanger, CA 93657
(559) 875-2025

Tribute Wall



“ Chapel Of The Light created a Tribute Video in memory of Rita Cheney



Chapel Of The Light Funeral Home and Mausoleum - July 10, 2025 at 09:06 PM



“ 266 files added to the album LifeTributes



Chapel Of The Light Funeral Home and Mausoleum - July 10, 2025 at 08:29 PM

DR

Cool. Rita was such a a blessing. Countless peoples lives were touched in a special way by her encouragement and caring. She made a beautiful difference and help make the world a better place. She's returned to take her place among the blessed. Thank you Rita for being a BLESSING to all!

Del Rey - July 31, 2025 at 08:40 PM

RR

“ So sorry for your loss. Unfortunately can't attend the services tomorrow. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Rosemary Rusca

Rosemary Rusca - July 10, 2025 at 07:35 PM

MM

“ Beautiful friend I met in 1973. Full of spirit, love and kindness. Always thinking of others. Great wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. I will miss you my dear friend!

Marina Magdaleno - July 09, 2025 at 01:18 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rita Cheney.



July 08, 2025 at 03:57 PM

AL

“ Al & Patti Lopez purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Rita Cheney.



Al & Patti Lopez - July 08, 2025 at 03:26 PM

EM

“ Eric Mireles purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Rita Cheney.



Eric Mireles - July 07, 2025 at 05:57 PM

EM

“ Eric Mireles planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Cheney.

Eric Mireles - July 07, 2025 at 05:57 PM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Rita Cheney.



July 07, 2025 at 04:29 PM

VA

“ Vahe A. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rita Cheney.



Vahe A. - July 07, 2025 at 12:12 AM

VA

“ Vahe A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Cheney.

Vahe A. - July 07, 2025 at 12:12 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rita Cheney.*



July 06, 2025 at 08:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita Cheney.

July 06, 2025 at 08:53 PM



“ *Our hearts are sad that Rita has left us. She was an amazing woman with a big heart. She and Daniel were a team as they hosted family and friends at Avila, car shows and the Cheney home. It was always a fun time for all. We will cherish memories of Rita in the kitchen, cooking, dancing and making sure everyone was having a good time. We are grateful for having her and Daniel in our lives. Rest in peace Rita and God bless the Cheney family.*

Kevin and Debbie Neely

Kevin & Debbie Neely - July 05, 2025 at 11:41 PM



“ *Derek & Sandra Seldeen purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Rita Cheney.*



Derek & Sandra Seldeen - July 03, 2025 at 11:11 PM

DS

“ Derek & Sandra Seldeen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita Cheney.

Derek & Sandra Seldeen - July 03, 2025 at 11:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rita Cheney.



July 03, 2025 at 06:56 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rita Cheney.



July 03, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rita Cheney.



July 03, 2025 at 03:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rita Cheney.

July 03, 2025 at 03:33 PM

MZ

“ Rita was a sister in law that was always known for her energy in every aspect... whether taking care of her precious grandchildren, cooking ... and she was an amazing chef, entertaining, being a very supportive person of family and friends... her legacy lives on with anyone that knew her.
She will be missed. ❤️

Mary Cheney Zamora - July 03, 2025 at 01:11 PM