



Samuel Garza Jr.

April 6, 1953 - March 16, 2025

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Samuel Garza Jr. passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 16, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Fresno, California, on April 6, 1953, at Fresno County Hospital, Samuel was the cherished son of Velia Villalpando Corrigan and Samuel Mata Garza. He was raised in a loving home alongside his siblings, Blanca Stella Matz, Mary Alice Garza, Velia Isabel Garza, Anna Marie Garza, Jose Villalpando Garza, and Julia Ann Jones. He was preceded in death by his father, Samuel, in 1977; his sister, Anna Marie, in 1983; and his stepfather, Richard A. Corrigan, in 2024.

A proud graduate of McLane High School, Class of 1971, Samuel went on to serve his country with honor in the United States Marine Corps. Upon returning home, he dedicated his career as a skilled machine welder in the Fresno area.

In 1976, Samuel married Ruth Garza, and together they welcomed two children: Samuel Garza III in 1978 and Magdalena Velia Garza in 1981. Above all, Samuel was a devoted father and later took on the beloved title of "Papa" to his three grandchildren: Adeline E. Valdez, Samantha Valdez, and

John H. Valdez Jr. He opened his heart to countless people, serving as a father figure to many and an honorary “Papa” to others. His family was his greatest joy, and he took immense pride in watching them grow.

Samuel will be remembered for his kind heart, sharp sense of humor, legendary BBQ skills, and, most of all, his infectious laugh. His warmth and laughter brought joy to all who knew him, and his presence will be deeply missed.

His legacy of love, family, and laughter will live on in the hearts of those he leaves behind.

Visitation will be held Friday April 4, 2025 at 11:00 am at Chapel of the Light Funeral Home with Funeral Service at 11:30 am with burial to follow at Belmont Memorial Park.

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In lieu of flowers please send donations to The Wounded Warrior Project in memory of Samuel Garza. Donations can be made at:
support.woundedwarriorproject.org

Cemetery Details

Belmont Memorial Park

Fresno, CA
later date

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 11:00 AM (PT)

Chapel of the Light
1620 W. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728
michael@chapelofthelight.com
<http://www.chapelofthelight.com>

Funeral Service

APR 4. 11:30 AM (PT)

Chapel of the Light
1620 W. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728
michael@chapelofthelight.com
<http://www.chapelofthelight.com>

Tribute Wall

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“ *My name is Sonja Heinrichs. I grew up with the Garza family. Blanca was my best friend through highschool. I'm so sorry to hear of Jr's passing. I would love to reconnect with Blanca.*

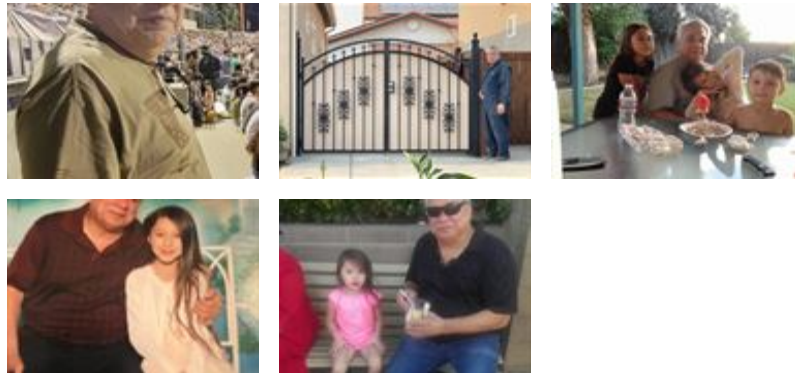
My email is 2heiridge@gmail.com if someone can help me get in touch.



Sonja Heinrichs - July 22, 2025 at 10:01 PM



“ *94 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Chapel Of The Light Funeral Home and Mausoleum - April 04, 2025 at 10:59 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Samuel Garza Jr..*



April 03, 2025 at 03:15 PM



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

April 03, 2025 at 03:15 PM



“ Efren, Angie and Garza Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Samuel Garza Jr..



Efren, Angie and Garza Family - March 31, 2025 at 01:23 PM