



Gilberto Javier Vela Sr

October 4, 1939 - February 23, 2023

Gilberto Javier Vela Sr. "Gramps", 83, of El Campo, passed away February 23, 2023. He was born on October 4, 1939 in Kingsville to the late Juan and Celerina Avila Vela. Gilberto received his Bachelor of Science from Texas A&I in Kingsville, Texas. He later received a Master of Education from Prairie View A&M. He spent 40 years in education with his last position being the head principal at Myatt Elementary. He and his wife Gloria's dedication to education lead them to be one of the founders of the Hispanic Education Project. Gilberto's personal philosophy when it came to education was "Every child should have every opportunity and access to a quality education regardless of socio-economic status, race, or creed, so as to develop their individual abilities to their fullest potential."

He is survived by his daughter, Cynthia Vela and Rebecca of Richmond; son, Gilberto Vela Jr. and wife Abby of El Campo; grandchildren, Esperanza Nichole and husband Benjie Davis, Javier Vela and wife Kassie, Mandy Paschall and husband Chris and Manny Gaona and wife A'lia and great-grandchildren, Madison Davis, Rex Vela, Zoe Vela, Shawn Paschall, Aidan Eide, Alianna Paschall, Dylan Gaona, A'lani Gaona and Dominique Gaona.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Gloria Garcia Vela; grandson, Mark Gaona; great-grandchild, Marquis Gaona; brothers, Frank and Juan Vela and sister, Evangelina Garcia.

Visitation will begin at 3:00 on Tuesday, February 28 at Triska Funeral Home with a Rosary recited at 6 p.m. Funeral Mass will begin at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 1 at St. Robert's Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Memorial Park.

Memorials may be given in memory of Gilberto to Hispanic Education Project.

Triska Funeral Home, El Campo, 979-543-3681

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 28. 3:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Rosary

FEB 28. 6:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Funeral Mass

MAR 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Robert's Catholic Church
512 Tegner St
El Campo, TX 77437

Tribute Wall

LK

“ *Linda Kram lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Linda Kram - March 01, 2023 at 06:52 PM

CC

“ *I remember having Mr. Vela as a Driver's Ed Teacher in high school back in the 70's. He was such a nice guy, and a good teacher. Some of the things he taught us have helped keep me safe, and things I still practice today. Rest In Peace Mr. Vela. Sincerely, Curtis D. Clapp*

Curtis D Clapp - March 01, 2023 at 09:11 AM

CW

“ *Mr. Vela was my drivers Ed teacher in 1965. He was very thorough and patient. He would even have us open the hood and he would go over the engine and parts of the engine to look over in case we broke down somewhere. It was always a pleasant visit when I saw him around town. I know he was well liked and effective as a teacher and person. Condolences to all his family on their loss.*

Chris Wendel - March 01, 2023 at 08:59 AM

H1

Great teacher and man. His family in our prayers.

Herman Mauch jr. class 1969. - March 04, 2023 at 11:02 AM

MV

“ I can imagine Mr. and Mrs. Vela dancing, laughing and forever together!

Maria N Vallejo - February 28, 2023 at 03:02 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr.



February 28, 2023 at 02:53 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr.



February 28, 2023 at 12:14 PM

TR

“ Tom and I worked with Mr. Vela during our time in the El Campo schools. He was a wonderful principal and shared his joy of work and life with everyone he touched. RIP to a great educator! Judy Rowland

Tom and Judy Rowland - February 28, 2023 at 12:03 PM

SS

“ *Cindy and the entire Vela Family - Wishing you peace, comfort and love. My heart goes out to you at this difficult time.*



Susan Stogner

Susan Stogner - February 28, 2023 at 09:53 AM

DZ

“ *My deepest condolences to the Vela family. Mr. Vela was definitely a pillar of the community, he was a mentor to all the children he looked after, and impacted many, myself included. He will be missed. Prayers to all the family.*

God Bless.

Diana Zabodyn



Diana Zabodyn - February 28, 2023 at 01:56 AM

MK

“ *Dear Vela Family, we enjoyed Gilberto's friendship & loved working in education with him. Please accept our prayers & heartfelt sympathy. Love,*
Hubert & Mary Jane Kaiser

Mary Jane Kaiser - February 27, 2023 at 09:47 PM

SF

“ *Rest in peace Mr.Vela.*



Shannon Falcon - February 27, 2023 at 05:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr.*



February 27, 2023 at 04:59 PM

KA

“ *Oh my Uncle Gibby. Every memory I have of you from childhood to adulthood is filled with so much kindness, compassion, humor, joy, and love. The way you loved Tia Gloria was an extraordinary example of a husband. That example is only unmatched by who you were as a father, grandfather, brother, and all around family man. I will forever miss your smile, your infectious laugh, your brisket, and my earliest childhood memories filled with so much good hearted humor, dancing, laughter, and love. See you in heaven, Tio. Say hi to my daddy, grandparents, Tia, and Uncle Frank. Will be missing and remembering you here with so much love. Thank you for the love you gave!*

Kattina - February 27, 2023 at 04:25 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr.*



February 27, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Debbie Prihoda lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Debbie Prihoda - February 27, 2023 at 03:30 PM



“ *What a sweet man. Good teacher. He was also my driver's ed teacher and I still remember the things he taught me and can even hear what he told me. May he Rest In Peace.*

Elaine Phelps - February 27, 2023 at 03:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr.*



February 27, 2023 at 02:50 PM

AB

“ We are so sorry to hear of our beloved Mr. Gilbert Vela’s journey coming to an end. The first time we met him was when our daughter started kindergarten, Myatt had just opened and he was greeting students, his big smile was so appreciated and his boisterous laugh made our daughter smile. Thank you Mr. Vela for your kindness. Another side of Mr. Vela was his love for his wife, he truly lived the gospel, he cared for her so gently and so lovingly in her illness. To his family, we are praying for you. Your dad made a difference to our community and will be a huge loss for everyone he touched with his joy & kindness. The yellow candle to me describes Mr. Vela full of sunshine, full of light & full of joy! I can only imagine seeing Gloria calling to him, I am here my love! Augie & Terri Beltran



AUGIE & TERRI BELTRAN - February 27, 2023 at 10:19 AM

KK

“ Kathryn Krpec lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr



kathryn krpec - February 27, 2023 at 08:57 AM

AT

“ My deepest condolences to the Vela Family, Gilbert's extended family and his friends. Gilbert's mother-in-law, Tia Mague, was my mother's first cousin. I met him when he started dating my cousin, Gloria. They married and moved away. I never forgot them and always loved them. Gilbert was a good man. Not in name only, but in all of his actions. He was a man of faith and love. So much love to give. He will be missed by so many whose lives he touched throughout the years. I have no doubt Gilbert is now with the love of his life smiling on all and watching over them. I will never forget his smile and the smiling eyes that added so much happiness to so many. May Gilbert rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him.



Annie Serna, Laredo, Texas - February 26, 2023 at 12:58 PM

PM

“ Mr. Vela was such a kind and caring man. Sending my prayers to all of his family. Patti Montello

Patti Montello - February 26, 2023 at 10:11 AM

SR

“ Susan Ray lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr



Susan Ray - February 25, 2023 at 08:52 PM

MS

“ *Martin Strarup sent a virtual gift in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Martin Strarup - February 25, 2023 at 05:58 PM

DC

“ *Donald & Cindy lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Donald & Cindy - February 25, 2023 at 04:01 PM

RT

“ *Roxanna & Jessie Torres lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Roxanna & Jessie Torres - February 25, 2023 at 03:39 PM

WH

“ *I did my student teaching at Myatt Elementary in the Fall of 1992. I returned in the Spring of 1993 to be a long-term substitute for a teacher who was on maternity leave. One Friday during lunch, I began choking on some corn. Mr. Vela saved my life when he successfully performed the Heimlich Maneuver on me. God Bless You, Mr. Vela. Rest in peace.*

Wanda Helmcamp - February 25, 2023 at 12:08 PM

RO

“ *Ruben O'Canas lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Ruben O'Canas - February 25, 2023 at 11:38 AM

CF

“ *Mr. Vela taught me Driver's Ed in 1966 @ ECHS & I never forgot him. He was a fine person & I'm sure he will be missed by many people whose lives he touched. My deepest sympathy to all of you...Cynthia (Chovanec) Fontana*

Cynthia (Chovanec) Fontana - February 25, 2023 at 09:59 AM

NB

“ *Andrea and I would like to convey our heartfelt condolences to Cindy, Gilbert Jr. & the entire Vela family. Mr. Vela's passing is a huge loss for our community. We are truly blessed to have known him and call him our friend. He will be sorely missed. RIP Mr. Vela.*



Noel Benavidez - February 25, 2023 at 09:42 AM

CR

“ *Cheryl Roitsch lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Cheryl Roitsch - February 25, 2023 at 08:03 AM

CR

Mr. Vela was the first principal I had when I moved to EC. He was a great man and will be greatly missed. He was so caring and supportive when I lost my dad. Prayers of comfort to the Vela family.

Cheryl Roitsch - February 25, 2023 at 08:05 AM

LF

“ *Mr. Vela was an extraordinary person who will be missed.* ”



Louis Nunez & children and Anita & Fran - February 24, 2023 at 10:32 PM



“ *I remember him @ Myatt Elementary. Good nice guy. RIP Mr. Vela* ”

Justin Strack - February 24, 2023 at 09:09 PM

LS

“ *Liz Staff lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr* ”



Liz Staff - February 24, 2023 at 07:26 PM

JW

“ *Janice Winter lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr* ”



Janice Winter - February 24, 2023 at 06:44 PM

JW

Mr. Vela was such an extraordinary person. His love for children was immense. Our sympathy to the family. Rest in peaceMr. Vela.

Janice Winter - February 24, 2023 at 06:46 PM

BM

*A fine gentleman and a great principal.
Betty Mills*

Betty Mills - February 24, 2023 at 10:33 PM

AF

“ *Mr. Vela was an extremely kind and compassionate gentleman who touched many lives in a very positive way.*

Ann Buckert Fiala - February 24, 2023 at 06:23 PM

KF

“ *Karen Lopez And Family lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Karen Lopez and Family - February 24, 2023 at 06:21 PM

KL

Condolences from the Lopez Family Eulalio and Louisa (Vicky) Lopez

Karen Lopez - February 24, 2023 at 06:23 PM

GR

“ *Gerald and I send our sincere condolences to the Vela family. Mr. Vela was one of the finest men we were honored to know. Rest in peace, Mr. Vela. God bless the family at this time.* 🙏💜🙏



Gerald & Neta Ripple - February 24, 2023 at 05:50 PM



“ *Pat Hogan lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Pat Hogan - February 24, 2023 at 05:17 PM

SP

“ *Shirley Popp lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Shirley Popp - February 24, 2023 at 04:55 PM

IL

“ *Imelda Loos lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



Imelda Loos - February 24, 2023 at 04:41 PM

QM

“ *Mr. Vela touched thousands of lives. He was an exceptional man and role model for the children at Myatt Elementary. Our condolences to his family. Quala & Randy Matocha*



Quala Matocha - February 24, 2023 at 02:19 PM

DS

“ *David & Charlene Linhart Smith lit a candle in memory of Gilberto Javier Vela Sr*



David & Charlene Linhart Smith - February 24, 2023 at 01:38 PM

BR

Mr. Vela was a very compassionate educator. I was fortunate to have worked with him at ECISD. Prayers for the family at this time.
Brenda Rogers

Brenda Rogers - February 28, 2023 at 05:45 PM