



## Leonel Mireles Garza

October 12, 1939 - April 30, 2015

Leonel Mireles Garza, 75, of El Campo, passed away on April 30, 2015. He was born on October 12, 1939, in Benavides, Texas, to Julian and Maria Mireles Garza. Leonel graduated from Benavides (Texas) High School in 1959, and played on the Benavides Eagles Baseball Team. He attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, and graduated in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. In 1965 Leonel completed the required studies of the NDEA Institute for Secondary School Teachers of Spanish from the University of Southern California. He received his Master's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University in 1974.

He taught Spanish and Government at El Campo High School from 1963-1970. Leonel then became Assistant Principal at Southside Elementary and afterwards Assistant Principal at El Campo Middle School. Later he became an Assistant Principal at El Campo High School and was then promoted to high school principal. Leonel became Assistant Superintendent of Finance for ECISD and held that position until his retirement from the school district in 1995. After his retirement, he continued to work as an account executive for HHC Claims Administrative Services for 2 years. In May 2014, he retired from his employment as a teacher appraiser for the University of Houston in Victoria.

Leonel was a member of St. Philip Catholic Church and St. Robert's Catholic Church, Texas State Teachers' Association Life Member, St. Robert's Knights of Columbus, Ricebird Booster Club, The International Thespian Society Honorary Member, Wharton County Retired Teachers' Association, EC Little League Baseball coach, High School Basketball Officiating Organization and the El Campo Country Club Board. He received Texas Education Agency's Teacher Appraisal Certification, Elks' Exalted Ruler's Special Merit Award, Region III Instructional Leadership Merit Award and the Hispanic Education Project Life Achievement Award.

He is survived by wife Anna Perez Garza of El Campo; sons Lee Mark Garza and wife Karen of New York City and Len Matthew Garza and wife Heather of Princeton, New Jersey; granddaughters Kyra Madison Garza of New York City, Blair Daisy Garza and Blake Violet Garza of Princeton; sister Alicia Saenz; sisters-in-law Estefana Longoria, Virginia Perez, Herlinda Perez, Mary Lou Garza and brother-in-law Mauro Perez and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Reymundo and Israel Garza; brothers-in-law Nieves Hernandez, Celestino Longoria, Natanael Perez, and Sacramento Perez, Jr.

Visitation will be from 2-4 pm on Monday, May 4, 2015, at Triska Funeral Home. A Rosary will be recited at 5:30 pm on Monday, May 4, 2015, at St. Philip Catholic Church followed by a Memorial Mass at 6 pm.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Philip's School Endowment Fund or Hispanic Education Project Scholarship Fund.

Condolences may be shared with the family online at [www.triskafuneralhome.com](http://www.triskafuneralhome.com)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 4. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

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

## Rosary

MAY 4. 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church  
304 W. Church Street  
El Campo, TX 77437  
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

## Funeral Mass

MAY 4. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church  
304 W. Church Street  
El Campo, TX 77437  
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ Dearest Anna, I was so saddened to hear about the passing of Leonel(Froggie). I only learned today that he passed away on April 30. You may recall that we met for lunch in Victoria, Texas, several years ago and shared memories while exchanging telephone numbers.....never spoke again,,,,,,this I deeply regret. My sincerest condolences to you and your sons and may God's light shine upon you in your time of grief. Roger de los Santos, Austin, Texas rogdl@s@austin.rr.com

Roger de los Santos - July 21, 2015 at 04:18 PM

EG

“ My condolences to Senora Garza and the family. Mr. Garza was a very good hearted man. He was friendly and always smiling when he would come to the High School to observe his student teachers. He always had a tidbit of information to share with me and I will miss him dearly! May he forever rest in the Perpetual light of Christ!



Ellie Garcia - May 05, 2015 at 11:45 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leonel Mireles Garza.



May 04, 2015 at 09:26 AM

MP

“ Although Mr. Garza had already retired from the school district when I became superintendent, I did have the privilege of working with him on a number of projects, most notably the planning of the new middle school. He was a prince of a man. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family.

*Mark Pool*

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**Mark Pool** - May 04, 2015 at 09:14 AM

TB

“ Dear Mrs. Garza, my prayers are for you and your children. I will miss Mr. Garza, he was so kind and so very eloquent, a true man of faith and wisdom. He was always so encouraging and great at giving advise. I admired him and was proud to call him my friend. You and your children will be in our prayers. Augie & Terri Beltran



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**Terri Beltran** - May 04, 2015 at 08:28 AM

PP

“ He will always be one of my fondest memories of High School. He was my Spanish teacher 1963 and 1964. I was in his classroom the day they announced over the PA system that JFK had been killed. He kept us all calm. Ran into him years later and let him know his Spanish teaching helped me when I ended up in Spain. Bless him. Patti Roy Pratsides

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**Patti Roy Pratsides** - May 03, 2015 at 07:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leonel Mireles Garza.*



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May 02, 2015 at 01:49 PM



“ *Elizabeth Kacal Vaughn lit a candle in memory of Leonel Mireles Garza*



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**elizabeth Kacal Vaughn** - May 02, 2015 at 09:50 AM



*Anna, Len and Lee Mark,  
I was really sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Garza. He was a fantastic man. From the time he hired me until he retired I felt he was the best principal I had the privilege of working with. God has called a great man home and I hope that each of you can look back and enjoy the time and life you had with him.  
Ron Johannes*

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**Ron Johannes** - May 04, 2015 at 02:43 PM



“ *You will greatly be missed by all who knew you. You were my Goverment teacher in 1963, RIP Mr. Garza*

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**elizabeth Kacal Vaughn** - May 02, 2015 at 09:49 AM

NB

“ *Andrea and I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to Anna, Lee Mark, Len and the rest of the Garza family. I am thankful for the wonderful friendship I had with Mr. Garza and most of all will cherish all of the wonderful conversations we shared over the years. Mr. Garza always had a smile on his face and almost every time we visited with each other he would always offer up some advice to me whether I was seeking it or not. I always considered him a dear dear friend of mine and I will truly miss him.*

*Abrazos!*

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**Noel Benavidez** - May 02, 2015 at 08:44 AM

AL

“ *I will always remember him with fondness. I am truly sorry for yours and our loss. Alberta Aguilar Falcon*

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**alberta** - May 02, 2015 at 05:59 AM

SS

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Garza. Mr. Garza was a gentle soul and I have many fond memories of him when I attended school in El Campo. I graduated High School in 1979. I never had to visit him in his office, but I do remember his wonderful smile as he made his way through the halls of the school. God Bless and may you find comfort in your faith during this difficult time.*

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**Simone Sanders** - May 02, 2015 at 04:45 AM

SR

*I remember him well roaming the sidewalks and halls in high school. Remember his stern but firm voice and leadership on campus, {Class of '83}. I also remember him smiling and greeting everyone. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers for Anna Garza and family. RIP Mr. Garza.*

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**Shana Rodriguez** - May 02, 2015 at 02:37 PM

JT

*Our heartfelt sympathy to Anna, Lee Mark and Len in the passing of Leonel. I considered him a true friend; loyal, honest, devoted to his family, Christian.*

*He overlooked my faults and taught he how to play golf! That is a brave man! We were co-owners of that old golf cart. We were a sight.....but when you are with a friend, not much else matters. I talked to him a month ago and he was as upbeat as always. He thought he had a chance to beat his illness.*

*Denise and I hold Leonel and his family dear in our memories of the 10 years we lived in El Campo.*

*His passing is a great loss to us, his dear family and El Campo.*

*May our Lord grant him rest from his earthly labors and give Grace unbounded to his family and friends.*

*Joe & Denise Thedford*

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**Joe Thedford** - May 03, 2015 at 04:39 PM

BD

“*Leonel Garza was good man and fellow co-worker in the El Campo school district. I also know that he was a Christian and devoted family man. What better legacy can there be? We will have many fond memories of Leonel. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ana and his boys.*

*Bill Dowden*

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**Bill Dowden** - May 01, 2015 at 09:44 PM

CD

“*Mrs. Garza, my thoughts and prayers are with you and Lenny. Mr. Garza was a mentor and my favorite baseball coach, such a nice man and always a smile on his face; nothing but fond memories. RIP Senor Garza*

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**Cliff Dowden** - May 01, 2015 at 05:54 PM

GD

“ Ana you know of our sadness and the love we have for Leonel and your entire family. Our love and our prayers are with the Garza family and we will see you on Monday.

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**Gloria Dowden** - May 01, 2015 at 05:16 PM

DG

“ My deepest condolences to Anna, Mark, Lenny and extended family. He now has angel wings and has made his journey to heaven. I will always, always remember my cousin as "The Perfect Gentleman". Much love and hugs to all the family.

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**Diana L. Garza** - May 01, 2015 at 04:39 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Leonel Mireles Garza.



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May 01, 2015 at 04:09 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Leonel Mireles Garza.



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May 01, 2015 at 03:35 PM

IR

“ Our deepest condolences to Anna, Lee Mark, Len, and their spouses as well as grandchildren and extended family. We have many fond memories of Leonel and will miss his smiling face. May God wrap his arms around each of you during this trying time. Victor and Irma Rocha

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**Irma Rocha** - May 01, 2015 at 01:40 PM