



## Rafael Franco

March 24, 1952 - August 9, 2024

Rafael Franco, 72, of Mesa, Arizona, passed away August 9, 2024. He was born on March 24, 1952 in Xalapa, Vera Cruz, Mexico to the late Felipe Franco Herrera and Carolina Mora Davy. Rafael came to El Campo, Texas from Mexico when he was 15 years old as an eager, hard-working individual who ended up making a beautiful life for himself and his family in both Texas and Arizona. He attended the University of Texas and was a life-long Longhorn fan. Entering the professional world of home manufacturing this began a lifetime career and a move to Arizona, most recently spent with RADCO company where he spent his last 17 years in commercial real estate quality control. Through his business he was lucky to travel the world which enriched his life further. In addition to his life's hard work, he was the most loving and caring father to 2 children, Jennifer, and Philip. Rafael was a huge sports fan who loved to share that excitement with his kids and as you would always see a Longhorn hand sign from him, you would also hear him cheering for the Phoenix Suns and the Arizona Diamondbacks. He loved to draw, he loved to hike, he loved the beauty of nature. In 2004 came his one and only grandchild, Emma, who was a joy in his life. Rafael was a generous man who was true to himself and taught everyone around him how to give, how to care and how to love. He was the pillar of strength to all his family and friends.

A quote from him: "Our life and the true accomplishments in life are our family and friends. Most important, is how we nurture them, care for them, and love

them regardless of their defects or shortcomings. Family and real friends are the most precious things we can have.”

Through his reflections, Rafael leaves behind a legacy of wisdom, encouraging us all to seek purpose, act with integrity, and value the true essence of life.

He is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Thelma Franco, spouse Ryan Christopher Duft; sisters, Carolyn Hoek, spouse Kedrick Hoek, Graciella Vitera and Martha Franco; granddaughter, Emma Lynn Bricker; nieces, Carol Vitera, Grace Shipp, Crystal Rehak and Jasmin Fouchard and nephews, Haydn Vitera, David Vitera and Rudy Bednar Jr.

Rafael was preceded in death by his parents and son, Stephen Philip Franco.

Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. Friday, August 16 at St. Robert's Catholic Church with a Rosary recited at 1:30 p.m. Funeral Mass will begin at 2 p.m. with burial following at Holy Cross Memorial Park Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Ryan Duft, Richard Duft, David Vitera, Lex Vitera, Haydn Vitera, Deven Shipp, Andres Pulido, and Rudy Bednar, Jr.

In lieu of flower contributions, the family encourages donations be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Rafael.

# Cemetery Details

## Holy Cross Memorial Park

1617 South Mechanic Street  
El Campo, TX 77437  
(979) 543-3770

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 16. 1:00 PM (CT)

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

## Rosary

AUG 16. 1:30 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Mass

AUG 16. 2:00 PM (CT)

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



# Tribute Wall

RK

“ Rose, K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rafael Franco.

Rose, K. - August 19, 2024 at 02:45 PM

KR

“ Rafael was my coworker for 5 years at RADCO. He was a sweet man who was funny and caring with his coworkers. He worked at RADCO for 17 years. I was very sad to hear of his diagnosis, knowing he waited until he was 70 to retire and he was just about to embark on a new journey. He worked so hard for us right up until the end. A knowledgeable, kind man of ethics and integrity with Old School work values. He is missed.

Kim Rose - August 19, 2024 at 02:37 PM

KK

“ Kelly Kelly purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Rafael Franco.



Kelly Kelly - August 15, 2024 at 10:04 PM

TA

“ Our deepest sympathies Jen to you and your family during this time of loss. Please know that we are here for you. Love, Brad and Tanya



Tanya - August 15, 2024 at 08:25 PM

TA

“ Tanya A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rafael Franco.

Tanya A. - August 15, 2024 at 08:19 PM

JO

“ Jasmin David and Olivia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rafael Franco.

Jasmin David and Olivia - August 15, 2024 at 05:25 AM

JO

“ Jasmin David and Olivia purchased the Cross Heart Locket for the family of Rafael Franco.



Jasmin David and Olivia - August 15, 2024 at 05:25 AM

LC

“ Lily and Carmela planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rafael Franco.

Lily and Carmela - August 14, 2024 at 12:52 PM

LC

“ Lily and Carmela purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rafael Franco.



Lily and Carmela - August 14, 2024 at 12:52 PM

TL

“ *Thelma L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rafael Franco.*

Thelma L. - August 14, 2024 at 12:44 PM

AP

“ *Uncle Rafael (Tio Fallo) was one of the most loving, caring, supportive and present relatives I've ever had.*

*He truly cared to know how you felt and what you were going through. But most important of all, he made you feel his love and support.*

*He always had an encouraging word, a joke to share, and a big smile on his face.*

*Tio Fallo's most memorable moment for me, was when he showed up at my wedding.*

*I had no idea he was coming, but suddenly, he was at the venue and partook of the celebration.*

*Furthermore, he gave one of the nicest toasts for us.*

*Here's a toast now, given from the bottom of my heart, to one of the most genuine, loving, truly supportive, and incredibly kind uncles one can have.*

*Salud Tío. ❤️  
Tu sobrino, Toño.*



Andres Antonio Pulido - August 14, 2024 at 12:25 PM

DM

“ I first met Rafael in 1985 when we were both working for Palm Harbor. We remained friends all these years. He was one of the most caring men I was lucky enough to know, and one of the best dancers. Please accept my prayers and condolences for the family. Rafael will surely be missed.

Debbie Monical - August 14, 2024 at 10:29 AM

MG

“ Mike Goettl lit a candle in memory of Rafael Franco



Mike Goettl - August 14, 2024 at 09:53 AM

MS

“ Martin Strarup lit a candle in memory of Rafael Franco



Martin Strarup - August 14, 2024 at 08:33 AM

JB

“ Jeff and Jaclyn Babb purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rafael Franco.



Jeff and Jaclyn Babb - August 13, 2024 at 05:45 PM

CS

“ Chicago and St. Louis Tech Ops Supply purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rafael Franco.



Chicago and St. Louis Tech Ops Supply - August 13, 2024 at 01:48 PM

JE

“ 9 files added to the album Memories with Rafa



Jen - August 13, 2024 at 11:21 AM

MG

Rafael will be missed by many....I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. Will miss his charm and wit he expressed to all that knew Rafa. Thoughts and prayers for his family. 🙏

Mike Goettl - August 14, 2024 at 09:26 AM

JF

“ Jasmin David and Olivia Fouchard planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rafael Franco.

Jasmin David and Olivia Fouchard - August 13, 2024 at 09:29 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rafael Franco.



August 13, 2024 at 09:29 AM



“ Crystal, David, Tristan and Faith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rafael Franco.

Crystal, David, Tristan and Faith - August 12, 2024 at 09:56 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rafael Franco.



August 12, 2024 at 09:56 PM



“ Mark Wenglar purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Rafael Franco.



Mark Wenglar - August 12, 2024 at 09:30 PM

GF

“ Graciela Vitera and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rafael Franco.

Graciela Vitera and Family - August 12, 2024 at 12:11 PM

GF

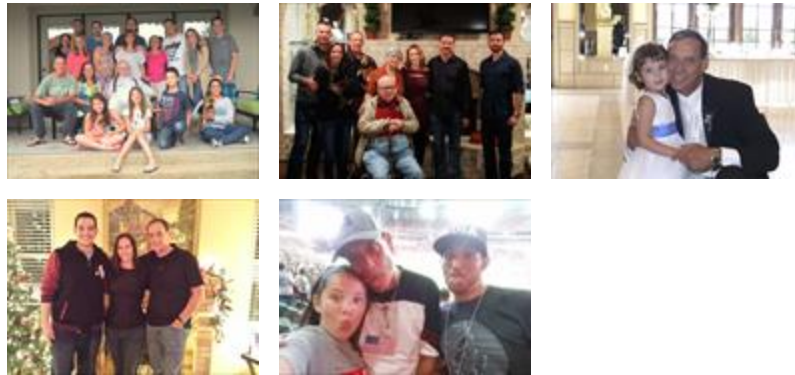
“ Graciela Vitera and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Rafael Franco.



Graciela Vitera and Family - August 12, 2024 at 12:11 PM

JE

“ 17 files added to the album Memories with Rafa



Jen - August 11, 2024 at 01:03 PM

JE

“ 10 files added to the album *Rafa*



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**Jen** - August 11, 2024 at 01:00 PM