



Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala

January 3, 1936 - May 30, 2024

Rudy Machala was a kind man with the heart of a true servant. Whether as a naval corpsman, DPS Trooper, Sheriff, Constable, or friend, Rudy was there to serve.

Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala was born January 3, 1936 in Crosby Texas the third of eight children to Rudolph and Julia (Kubin) Machala. At a young age the family moved to Parker, Washington in the Yakima Valley where Rudy graduated from St. Joseph Marquette Catholic High School. Rudy enlisted in the Navy where he served as a corpsman stationed in San Diego and Hawaii. Upon discharge from the Navy in 1959, Rudy enrolled in the Texas Department of Public Safety Academy graduating in 1960. His first assignment as a rookie trooper was in El Campo. During this time, he met his wife Margie Balcar on a blind date. It was love at first sight for both of them. Rudy and Margie married on March 3, 1962. They lived in El Campo until 1964 when Rudy transferred to Schulenburg. Trooper Machala served in Schulenburg from 1964 to 1969. In 1970, Rudy was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and moved his family to Houston where he served the Humble area. In 1974, Rudy earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. In 1977, he transferred back to El Campo serving at the Pierce DPS station until his retirement after twenty years with the DPS. In 1980, Rudy was elected Sheriff of Wharton County serving with pride from 1980-1992. Rudy was employed as a Lieutenant for the Houston Community

College system from 1995-1998, and served as Wharton County Precinct 3 Constable from 1998 until his retirement from law enforcement in 2002.

Rudy is preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, Margie who died in 1997, his infant daughter Melanie Ann, his parents, Rudolph and Julia Machala, sisters Angie Burns and Cecilia Hollan, brothers Victor and Francis Machala.

Rudy is survived by his daughter Donna Raybon and her husband Gary of Wharton, grandson Ross Raybon of Fort Worth, sister Sister Adele Marie Machala of Victoria, brothers Joe Machala and his wife June of Kettle Falls WA, Gerry Machala and his wife Debbie of Gretna LA, Brother in Law Johnnie Balcar of Schulenburg, Sister in Law Mary Jane Pesek and husband Stanley of Schulenburg and a very large extended family including numerous nieces, nephews and many double first cousins.

Rudy's great joys in life were his family, fishing on Lake Roosevelt, and a good cigar. Rudy will be remembered for his service to others, his quick wit, and his love of family. He was an amazing father, grandfather, brother, uncle, mentor and friend. He was a hero to many, and a friend to all. Rudy touched the lives of everyone he met and left this world a better place – a life well lived.

Pall bearers will be Dennis Korenek, Cecil Taylor, David Marcaurele, Shannon Srubar, Bill Sulak, Bill Krause, Danny Holub, and Larry Hensley.

Visitation will begin at 5 p.m. at Triska Funeral Home on Thursday June 6, 2024 with a Rosary recited at 6:00 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in El Campo, Texas on Friday, June 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be Friday, June 7, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Cemetery in Schulenburg.

Memorial donations may be made to the Wharton County 100 Club, St. Philip

the Apostle Catholic Church, or the Wharton County Peace Officer Memorial.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Rosary

JUN 6. 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Mass

JUN 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Graveside Service

JUN 7. 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Rose of Lima Cemetery
598 Kallus St #500
Schulenburg, TX 78956

Tribute Wall

RM

“ I would like to start out by saying my deepest condolences to the family. I knew Rudy Machala from the mid 70's. I was a Texas State Trooper and wanted to come to Wharton County. At this time, I knew Rudy as Sergeant Rudy Machala, later on I would get to know him as Sheriff Machala. I remember going to Sgt Machala's home to talk to him about transferring to Wharton County. He at the time was in his back yard chopping fire wood. It was a short visit, I didn't want to take up his time. All he said was, put in for the request, I would like to have you here. (I did) As a Texas Highway Patrol Sergeant, Rudy Machala did a Fantastic Job. It was an Honor, and a great Privilege to have worked for an outstanding gentleman. Thank you Sir, you did a great job for Wharton County and the State of Texas.
Ray Mejorado

Ray Mejorado - June 06, 2024 at 11:18 AM

DE

“ Marianne and I valued our relationship with Rudy over the years. Having the opportunity to work with Rudy while with DPS, we had occasions to ride together. I can attest to his enjoyment of cigars; one time we had an incident where he had burnt a hole in his uniform. Rudy attended our 50th anniversary, spending the whole evening with us.



We truly will miss Rudy and his pleasant personality and manor.

David & Marianne England

Dr David England - June 05, 2024 at 09:31 PM

JB

“ JAMES & CAROLYN BALCAR lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala



JAMES & CAROLYN BALCAR - June 05, 2024 at 08:41 PM

VA

“ Please accept our sincere condolences. During this difficult time, may faith, family and friends bring you peace.

Visiting Angels - June 05, 2024 at 12:39 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala.



June 04, 2024 at 09:35 PM

GV

“ Gary Voelkel lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala



Gary Voelkel - June 04, 2024 at 12:39 PM

VQ

“ Vicky Quijas lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala



Vicky Quijas - June 04, 2024 at 12:20 PM

VQ

“ My thoughts & prayers are with you all that God will Comfort you in your loss! God bless your family & friends! 🙏🙏🙏 RIP Rudy 🇺🇸! He will be dearly missed by everyone who knew & loved him! Vicky Blair Ustynik Quijas



Vicky Quijas - June 04, 2024 at 12:20 PM

SP

“ Shirley Popp lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala



Shirley Popp - June 04, 2024 at 10:23 AM

CR

“ Cindy Riha lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala



Cindy Riha - June 03, 2024 at 08:08 PM

DM

“ 🙏❤️☐ *May he rest in peace & the angels guide him to paradise!* ❤️☐ 🙏



Daniel and Roxane Marek - June 03, 2024 at 05:55 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala.*



June 03, 2024 at 04:53 PM

HR

“ *Helen Linson, Karen & Robbie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala.*

Helen Linson, Karen & Robbie - June 03, 2024 at 04:53 PM

DS

“ *David & Charlene Linhart Smith lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala*



David & Charlene Linhart Smith - June 03, 2024 at 02:46 PM

DB

“ *Diane Busby lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala*



Diane Busby - June 03, 2024 at 02:25 PM

VH

“ *Vickie Holub lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala*



Vickie Holub - June 03, 2024 at 10:32 AM

KK

“ *Kathy Koudela lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Raymond (Rudy) Machala*



Kathy Koudela - June 03, 2024 at 09:24 AM