



# Maria Penas Celestino

NOV 5, 1939 - MAR 2, 2026



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# **Maria Penas Celestino**

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**M**aria Peñas Celestino, 86, of Houston, Texas, passed away on March 2, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. Born on November 5, 1939, in the Philippines to Emilio and Lourdes Peñas, Maria lived a life defined by devotion—to her family, her faith, and her lifelong calling as an educator.

Maria married the love of her life, Juan Celestino, with whom she shared more than 50 years of partnership, laughter, and unwavering support. Together they built a family rooted in warmth, resilience, and deep affection. A dedicated teacher since 1968, Maria touched countless lives with her patience, compassion, and belief in the power of learning. Her students remembered her not only for her lessons, but for the kindness and encouragement she offered so freely.

Outside the classroom, Maria embraced life with joy. She loved dancing, singing, cruising, and traveling—always eager to explore new places and create memories with the people she cherished. Her spirit was vibrant, her smile contagious, and her presence a source of comfort and light.

Maria leaves behind her daughters Amalia Hakim & Jay Hakim, Rowena Amoori & Alan Amoori, and Aleth Cardenas & Miguel Cardenas; her sons Arnel Celestino & Brian Aveck, and Ralph Celestino & Lourdes Celestino. She is also survived by her sister, Gilda Gutierrez & Dandy Gutierrez; her brothers, Joe & Joy Peñas and Presco Peñas; and her beloved grandchildren Nadia & Nika Hakim, Miguel & Vincent Cardenas, and Rafael Guillermo Celestino. Each of them carries forward her legacy of love, generosity, and strength.

She is preceded in death by her devoted husband, Juan Celestino; her parents, Lourdes and Emilio Peñas; her brothers, Jesus and Arturo Peñas; and her grandson, Josua Aaron Celestino. Though she will be deeply missed, her memory will continue to guide and inspire all who knew her.



## Obituary

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In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to the American Cancer Society in Maria's honor.



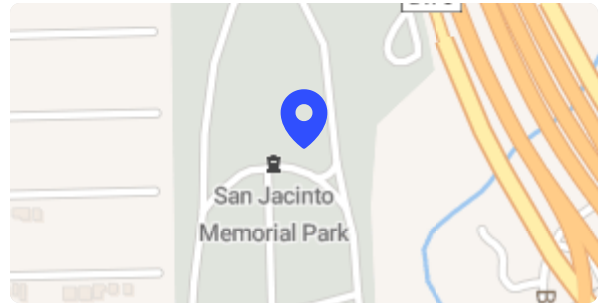
# Events

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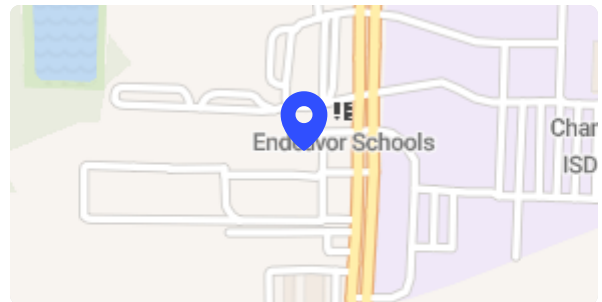
## Vigil Service

- Sunday**, March 8, 2026
- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT
- San Jacinto Funeral Home**  
14659 East Freeway, Houston TX 77015



## Funeral Mass

- Monday**, March 9, 2026
- 10:00 AM CT
- St. Andrew Catholic Church**  
827 Sheldon Rd,, Channelview, TX 77530



## Committal Service

- Monday**, March 9, 2026
- 11:30 AM CT
- San Jacinto Memorial Park**  
14659 East Freeway, Houston TX 77015





# Tribute Wall

**Maria Penas Celestino**

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**Layla Hdez** lit a candle in honor of Maria.

You have my deepest condolences for the loss of such a wonderful person!

March 8 at 1:33 PM



**Layla Hdez** lit a candle in honor of Maria.

March 8 at 12:37 PM



**Rosalinda Casanova** lit a candle in honor of Maria.

I had the honor to meet Mrs. Celestino a couple of times through a really good friend Arnel Celestino.. she was a very sweet and kind lady and we had a whole conversation in Spanish which I thought that was pretty cool. We talked as if we knew each other for years and I felt very comfortable with her. My heart goes out to The Celestino family 🌹🌹, till you meet again 🙏 sincerely, Rose Casanova

March 8 at 10:57 AM



**Lailah And Allan Severude** sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Celestino family.

March 6 at 11:24 PM



**Jose And Dinah Diaz** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Maria.

March 6 at 1:22 PM



**Jose And Dinah Diaz** sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Celestino family.

March 6 at 1:22 PM





# Tribute Wall

**Maria Penas Celestino**

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**Lourdes Celestino** posted:

I remember those days when she would call me so frequently and order Filipino dishes to bring to them so Papa and her can enjoy them. " Lordes, Bring me grilled pompano or make it pakshew' I though she is cursing at me :) and then i realized what she meant and she meant PAKSIW a filipino dish. I love you Mommy Inday .

March 6 at 12:42 PM



**Mendoza Family** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Celestino family.



March 6 at 10:01 AM



**Arnel Celestino** lit a candle in honor of Maria.

I remember when I was little my mom would be eating a filipino food/dessert she would say 'It does not taste good' . I would simply say 'Ok'.I still love my mom.



March 6 at 3:59 AM



**Ao Support Desk Family - United Airlines** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Celestino family.



March 5 at 4:25 PM



**Dolly, Kyle, Nanhi, Poonam, And Jacob** sent an Arrive in Style to the Celestino family.



March 5 at 1:40 AM



**Mayra Mendoza** March 5 at 1:06 PM

I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Celestino through my friend Arnel. I truly enjoyed the opportunity to talk with her and travel together to Lake Charles, LA several times. I will always remember her as a fun, energetic, and a pleasant lady. My deepest condolences go out to her entire family during this time ❤️



## Tribute Wall

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**Stephen Mccanless** posted:

Ms. Celestino, as I always called her, was like a second mom to me. I met my best friend, Arnel, in 6th grade at Alice Johnson Junior High and would often go over to his house to hang out or study. Ms. Celestino welcomed me, made the best REAL homemade eggrolls and took care of me like I was her son. She was extremely loving and friendly and never met a stranger. Her life as a teacher left great memories to her many students and her life as a wonderful, caring lady left great memories to all of us who knew and loved her. Love, Stephen Wesley McCanless

March 4 at 10:13 PM

DF

**Disphuggin Flip** posted:

I was visiting home from Las Vegas and was driving around in the very early morning, like 5-6am. I drove by their house and saw that their light was on. So I got out and knocked on their door. I could the panic coming from the inside so I started telling "Tita Inday, it's me Peter! Open up!!!" She finally opened up and we had a laugh. I spent the next hour there with her and Uncle Juaning reminiscing about Josh and us being kids. I should've done that more often.

March 4 at 8:27 PM



**Marvin Mendoza** March 5 at 12:47 PM

I am so deeply sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you and your family during this incredibly difficult time.



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Maria by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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