



## Eligio Castañeda

January 27, 1950 - May 13, 2022

Eligio H. Castañeda, Jr., age 72, went to be with the Lord on Friday, May 13, 2022 here in Del Rio. He was born on January 27, 1950 in Del Rio.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Eligio (YoYo) and Amalia (Molly) Castañeda; stepfather, John Vara; and brother, Rogelio (Roy) Castañeda.

Family members left to cherish his memory include his beloved wife of 50 years, Santa Castañeda of Del Rio; sons: Jec Castañeda and wife Gloria, Bubba Castañeda and wife Kristina, and Jon Castañeda; sisters: Gloria Zuniga and husband Joe David of Del Rio, and Belinda Longo of San Antonio; grandchildren: Jecette Castañeda, Taylor Gomez, Emmie Liess Castañeda, Jecleen Castañeda, Briana Fuentes Castañeda, Jack Johnson, Brielle Elise Castañeda, and Judah Elic Castañeda.

He was a three-sport star athlete for the San Felipe Mustangs. He was an All-District performer in football as well as in basketball. In the spring, he competed in the 880-yard dash, being a regional track meet qualifier twice.

He was the first person in his family to graduate from high school. He furthered his education by attending Angelo State University, earning a B.S in Biology. Setting the standard, all three of his sons would go on to receive their bachelor's degree.

He began his career teaching at Sacred Heart Catholic School in 1975. He then moved on to Crystal City ISD and taught Life Science and coached athletics. He would go on to retire from Eagle Pass Independent School District, where he spent 27 years educating high school students, in 2005. His love for teaching and molding young minds produced 10 more years of service for San Felipe Del Rio CISD.

Eligio never squandered his free time. He was an avid supporter of his three sons' athletic endeavors in football, baseball, and track. He had a 100% attendance record for all practices, games and meets.

His love for mentoring did not cease to exist outside the classroom or home. He spent close to three decades serving the community through various youth sports organizations by coaching and being president of each of the following leagues: Amistad Rookie Baseball League (7-9 year-olds), Del Rio Boys Club Rookie Baseball League (7–9-year-olds), Del Rio Babe Ruth League (13-18 year-olds). He also coached the Del Rio Boys & Girls Club AAU Junior Olympics cross country and track teams.

His baseball teams won several local championships and set a precedent for other teams to follow. His Junior Olympics cross country and track teams were annual qualifiers for regional meets with several runners qualifying for state and national meets.

In the 1980's, Eligio was the president of the Del Rio Boys & Girls Club and received the National Director of the Year Award for implementing one of the first non-profit Bingo halls. Because of this, the revenue generated rejuvenated an almost defunct club.

The final stretch of his life was spent with renewed faith. He became heavily

involved with various ministries at Sacred Heart Parish. Of note, he had the pleasure of serving as a team member for multiple ACTS retreats and was part of the ACTS Core Team. In equal proportion, he served the community as a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus; serving as Faithful Navigator for three consecutive years.

Gentlemen with the honor as serving as pallbearers and 4th Degree Honor Guard will be Sir Knights: Gilbert Ray Polanco, Armando Vasquez, Ben Rivera, Oscar Salinas, Martin Zamora, Joseph "Sonny" Cordova, Eugenio Tamez, Ruben Acosta and Anthony Van Goethem.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, May 17, 2022, from 5-9 PM at Trinity Mortuary. The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree will begin posting of the Honor Guard at 5 p.m. The Knights of Columbus will also lead a Holy Rosary at 7PM.

The Holy Mass of Christian Burial will be held Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 2 PM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Sunset Cemetery

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Cemetery

5144 E. Hwy 90  
Del Rio, TX 78840

# Previous Events

## 4th Degree Honor Guard Posting (Knights of Colombus)

MAY 17. 5:00 PM - 5:15 PM (CT)

Trinity Mortuary  
206 Kings Way  
Del Rio, TX 78840  
(830) 775-2230  
info@trinitymortuary.com  
<https://www.trinitymortuary.com>

## Visitation

MAY 17. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Mortuary  
206 Kings Way  
Del Rio, TX 78840  
(830) 775-2230  
info@trinitymortuary.com  
<https://www.trinitymortuary.com>

## **Holy Rosary (Knights of Columbus)**

MAY 17. 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM (CT)

Trinity Mortuary  
206 Kings Way  
Del Rio, TX 78840  
(830) 775-2230  
info@trinitymortuary.com  
<https://www.trinitymortuary.com>

## **Catholic Mass**

MAY 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Church  
307 E. Losoya  
Del Rio, TX 78840

# Tribute Wall

GS

“ My heartfelt condolences and prayers for Santa and all the family members. Eternal rest grant him Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. Grant him peace. AMEN  
Your SIC,  
Gloria Sotelo  
Kyle, TX



Gloria Sotelo - May 18, 2022 at 06:52 PM

RL

“ We Will Miss Elijio : We Only Got To Spend A Short Time Together : My Husband Tony Looked Foward To Every Conversation with Elijio and Moment Out On The Farm : We Were Always Eager To See Our Neighbors Elijio and Wife Santa Together We Shared Goat Stories and Planned To Soon Have An Evening BBQ Dinner . I Knew I Met an Angel 🙏 A Very Gentle Spirit as I Would Often Tell My Husband and He Felt The Same ‘ Telling Me Finally He Can Say A Teacher Liked Him Even Though He Was No Longer Teaching At This Age , My Husband Tony Said He Never Thought He’d Say I Have A Teacher Friend and I Love Him .Our Deepest Love To Santa and Family .

Rebecca Rodriguez Lot#3 - May 18, 2022 at 09:46 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eligio Castañeda.



May 18, 2022 at 09:23 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of *Eligio Castañeda*.



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May 18, 2022 at 06:28 AM

RR

“ Dear Santa and Castaneda family. I'm very sorry to hear of Eligio's passing. My condolences to all of you.

*I met Eligio in the fall of 2012. He told me he was a retiree rehire for the district and that he was a retiree from the Eagle Pass School District. I thought to myself wow this is Neato torpedo! Eligio was a treasure trove of jokes and funny stories from his life and teaching career. He told me once that as a child he was at a San Felipe Mustang football game and was playing around with the other kids near the sideline. There was an exceptionally hard tackle near the sideline and the great Sydney Blanks was shoved violently out of bounds. Eligio stood motionless as Sid came right at him like a locomotive on fire. Sydney had the presence of mind and the athletic ability to cradle Eligio and they both rolled harmlessly to a stop. That was a close one!*

*On another occasion Eligio told me he was driving back to college at Angelo State during a rainstorm. Somehow Eligio lost control of the car and skidded into a lake. The car was sinking fast and somehow Eligio was able to escape the sinking car and swim safely to shore. Eligio never knew how he escape the sinking car but he was safe and the car was a total wreck. I told him it wasn't his turn to go yet!*

*Eligio had a bit of a mischievous side. Once, after the teachers at Del Rio High School were issued our new laptops, I left mine unattended in my room after school to run copies in the Teachers Lounge. When I came back the laptop was gone. I searched frantically for it to no avail. I went to Eligio's room and asked him if he had seen anyone go into my room. In a deadpan manner he said no, I've been here the whole time. As I was preparing to go report the theft to the police office, Eligio came out of his room carrying my laptop giggling and snickering and told me, this will learn you not to leave your laptop unattended. I was mad as a hornet, but he was right.*

*After a few weeks I noticed that after school Eligio was out of his room. I took the fish out of his classroom Aquarium and put them into mine. It took him until the next day at 8th period to notice that his fish were missing. He stormed into my room and ask me if I had*

*taken his fish.? In a deadpan manner I said no I've been here the whole time. The class vouched for me. He left the room like a volcano ready to erupt.*

*The next day I brought back his fish and told him, this will learn you not to leave your fish unattended! We both broke out laughing and could not stop! That was one of the classics!*

*Eligio was a very dedicated family man. He was very proud of his sons Jec, Bubba and JoJo. He told me many stories of their High School and athletic accomplishments. He was exceptionally proud that as adults they had found success in the petroleum industry. He wouldn't stop talking about them!*

*It was an honor to meet and serve with Eligio at SFDR CISD! I don't know if I could have finished my SFDR experience without him. It is just wonderful to have a supportive, collegial, jovial, colleague around you. It is amazing how the good Lord will provide what you need. My good friend Eligio.*

*Sincerely,*

*Rene Reyes Classroom Teacher  
DRHS Chemistry Department  
Juvenile Detention Center  
DRMS ISS, Retired*



**Rene Reyes** - May 17, 2022 at 07:30 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Eligio Castañeda.*



May 16, 2022 at 03:35 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Eligio Castañeda.*



May 16, 2022 at 11:10 AM



“ *Words cannot express our grief. Sincere condolences to Santa and entire family. May cousin Eligio rest in peace and to the family prayers for strength.*  
*Lou Edna and Robert Musquiz*



**Jose Roberto Musquiz Jr.** - May 15, 2022 at 11:22 PM



🙏 **QDEP ELIGIÓ**  
*Mis condolencias 🌸 para toda la familia en general. Familia ojeda Rodriguez*

**Maricela ojeda** - May 16, 2022 at 11:54 PM



“ *Another longtime schoolmate and friend has left us for a more beautiful place. No more suffering, may he RIP. Condolences to Santa and entire family.*



**Conrado/Alicia Soto** - May 15, 2022 at 10:13 AM

PD

“ *Eligio was a long time friend who always had a smile on his face and had unmeasurable love for his family. He loved sports and was a very good coach. I am going to miss you and your smile. My love to your wife and kids.*

*Semper Fi,  
Pat Dugan USMC ( Ret )*

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**Pat Dugan** - May 14, 2022 at 05:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eligio Castañeda.*



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May 14, 2022 at 04:18 PM

FZ

“ *My prayers and condolences for the family.* 🙏🙏🙏

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**Frank Zuniga** - May 14, 2022 at 03:25 PM

BL

“ *My brother you will be missed..you were a person that always lifted people up..always had beautiful comments ..a funny sense of humor..you listened when i spoke to you..you were the best bbq cook ever..*

*You brought me my first baseball glove..tennis rackets..and gave me the best advice on anything i struggled with..i remember all the happy memories..i love Santa and my nephews..im so sad you arent here..but you will be carried in my heart brother.*

*I love you..be at peace..* 💔😭

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**Belinda Longo** - May 14, 2022 at 01:32 PM

DE

*My condolences*

**Diana Elizondo** - May 14, 2022 at 09:21 PM

RR

*My condolences and prayers to the family 🙏*

**Rosario Rubio** - May 15, 2022 at 10:28 AM

BS

*Dearest Santa, so very sorry for your loss. We shared some good times, and baseball moments. God be with you and the boys during this difficult time. May Eligio Rest-in-Peace.*

**Barbara & Fred Sumpter** - May 16, 2022 at 08:52 AM

EF

*My condolences May he Rest In Peace*

**Eloy Flores** - May 16, 2022 at 02:52 PM

AC

*Santa, My wife and I want to extend our deepest condolences to you and your family. I considered Eligio like a brother. I will always cherish our memories of college and our good times together. Praying 🙏 for comfort and peace for you and your family. Gutin Castellano family*

**Augustine Castellano** - May 16, 2022 at 10:05 PM