



Estella Ayala

October 1, 1942 - February 17, 2026

With profound love and gratitude for a life beautifully lived, we celebrate the life of Estella Ayala, born October 1, 1942, in Bernal, Michigan to the late Antonio Valderas and Cesaria Cantu Valderas. She was a remarkable woman whose strength, faith, and unwavering devotion to her family defined everything she did.

Estella was, above all else, a mother. Raising nine children with resilience and unconditional love, she built her life around providing for them, protecting them, and teaching them how to stand strong in this world. She instilled in each of them the value of hard work, responsibility, and integrity. She did not believe in handouts—she believed in earning what you have, showing up no matter how hard life gets, and never letting anyone walk over you. “No te vas a dejar,” she would say. Stand up for yourself. Stand up for your family.

In 1978, she earned her GED, proving that determination has no expiration date. In the 1970s, she worked at LTV Vought on an all-male assembly line—an extraordinary and courageous accomplishment for a woman at that time. Fearless and bold, she stepped into spaces where few women stood and held her own with strength and humility.

Her life was rooted in sacrifice, perseverance, and faith. A deeply God-fearing woman, she prayed often and entrusted her children and grandchildren to the

Lord's care. Her faith carried her through every hardship; she worked tirelessly, never complaining and never giving up.

Her home was her masterpiece. No matter their age or circumstance, her children always knew they could come back home. If it were up to her, she would have had all her boys living with her forever—because family was her greatest joy. She bragged about her children every chance she got; their successes were her proudest accomplishments.

Estella is survived by her loving children: Armando Ayala; Vincent Ayala and wife Jackie Hasten; Daniel Ayala and wife Veronica; Zena Young and husband Greg; Steven Alonzo; Anthony Ayala and wife Maria; Chris Ayala and wife Ruth; and Phillip Ayala and Gracie Hernandez, daughter-in-law Teresa Ayala; her cherished grandchildren: Jacqueline, Armando Jr., Monica, Matthew, Jeremiah, Benjamin, Rebeka, Tony, Amanda, Alana, Sophia, Ethan, Joshua, Danniele, Cameron, Jessica, Alyssa, Elizabeth, Christian, Blake, and Aaron; along with 16 great-grandchildren who were an extension of her pride and joy and her sisters, Rosario Alonzo and Mary Ayala.

Estella was preceded in death by her parents Antonio Valderas, Cesaria Cantu Valderas, her son Benjamin Ayala and her brother Antonio Valderas.

Estella had the biggest heart—compassionate, generous, selfless, forgiving, and fiercely loving. She was fearless, outspoken, strong, yet humble and simple in the way she lived. A true fighter and a hustler, when her children needed something, she always found a way to make it happen. She worked tirelessly, often sacrificing her own comfort so her family would never go without.

She was sentimental to her core, cherishing every photo and card her family gave her. She loved sitting outdoors with her coffee, talking for hours with

family and friends. She could spend hours on the phone or watching her “old people videos” on TikTok, laughing to herself. She loved finding a good sale and negotiating a deal—no one could haggle like she could.

Her kitchen was the heart of her home. She loved cooking and teaching others to cook, feeding not only her children but anyone who walked through her door. One of the most cherished traditions she created was making tamales with her children and sisters during Christmas and New Year’s—a tradition filled with laughter, stories, and love. She especially enjoyed seafood and catfish from her favorite spot in Irving, always happy to share a good meal.

Her favorite sayings will echo in the hearts of her family forever: “Mark my mouth.” “Don’t talk around the food.” And with a playful smile, “I have a juicy chisme to tell you.”

What people will remember most is her fierce love for her family, her kindness and generosity, and the stories she told about growing up and raising her children. She was proud, independent, strong, and big-hearted—a woman with unshakable strength.

A time of visitation and quiet reflection will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., with a Memorial Service beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026, at First Baptist Church Grand Prairie, 950 Mayfield Road, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Her legacy lives on in her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all who were blessed to know her. She built a life from grit and grace—and everything she did, she did for love.

Previous Events

Time of Reflection

MAR 2. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
950 Mayfield Road
Grand Prairie, TX 75052

Memorial Service

MAR 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
950 Mayfield Road
Grand Prairie, TX 75052

Tribute Wall

GH

“ George H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Estella Ayala.

George H. - March 31 at 11:53 AM

AA

“ Mom , I love you with all my heart. I miss you so much already. I miss our phone calls every day telling you that I love you after each call . just the other day I caught myself listening to your old voicemails just to hear your voice again , I know you're in a better place now and watching down on us . But just sitting here I was acting very selfish and thinking that I wasn't done with you yet. I hate this day came so soon . (Me , Maria and Jessica) , love you so much.

Anthony (Tony) Ayala - March 01 at 08:39 PM

BM

“ My Grandma was a significant woman. She held her own and always stayed 10 toes down for me, my siblings, my cousins, my aunts and especially my dad DD and my uncles. No matter what stick together. She always said that along with a Mucho cuidado! Grandma I love you. Your forever in my heart by many ways. Till I see you in heaven. ~Benji



Benjamin Machado - March 01 at 07:22 AM

MV

“ *Michael, Jackie, Alayna, & Aliyah Valderas purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Estella Ayala.*



Michael, Jackie, Alayna, & Aliyah Valderas - February 28 at 11:08 PM

TA

“ *Mom I love you with all my heart and my heart is broken right now. The only comfort I have is that your not suffering or lonely anymore. I thank you for taking me in when you already had enough on your plate. You made me the woman I am today. You taught me to clean, cook, and be a strong mom like you. Thank you for loving me like a daughter. I thank God everyday that I had a beautiful relationship with you. It was a blessing to care for you because I felt like I was caring for my real mother. Forever I will be grateful for you being there for DD me and the kids. We love you and forever miss you. Until we meet again my best friend. I love you sooo much.*

Teresa Ayala - February 28 at 08:57 PM

RM

“ *Rebecca M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Estella Ayala.*

Rebecca M. - February 28 at 08:50 PM

TT

“ Teresa, Benji, Becky & Tony!! purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Estella Ayala.



Teresa, Benji, Becky & Tony!! - February 28 at 07:56 PM

TT

“ Teresa, Benji, Becky & Tony!! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Estella Ayala.

Teresa, Benji, Becky & Tony!! - February 28 at 07:56 PM

MB

“ Michelle & Blake purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Estella Ayala.



Michelle & Blake - February 28 at 12:24 PM

AA

“ Anthony And Maria Ayala lit a candle in memory of Estella Ayala



Anthony and Maria Ayala - February 27 at 08:10 PM

JA

“ Jessica Ayala purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Estella Ayala.



Jessica Ayala - February 27 at 08:08 PM

CL

“ Chad, David And Lance purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Estella Ayala.



Chad, David And Lance - February 27 at 11:43 AM

CL

“ Chad, David And Lance planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Estella Ayala.

Chad, David And Lance - February 27 at 11:43 AM

DF

“ Daniel Ayala & family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Estella Ayala.



Daniel Ayala & family - February 25 at 11:14 PM

FF

“ From Amanda Vanhorn and family purchased the *Beautiful Dreams* for the family of Estella Ayala.



From Amanda Vanhorn and family - February 25 at 05:22 PM

FF

“ From Amanda Vanhorn and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Estella Ayala.

From Amanda Vanhorn and family - February 25 at 05:22 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket* was purchased for the family of Estella Ayala.



February 25 at 03:29 PM

RJ

“ *Ramon Delacruz jr*



Ramon Delacruz jr - February 25 at 02:26 PM

RJ

“ *Ramon Jr / Manuelita Delacruz*

*She was a great person just knowing her and family. My
Condolences to family.*

Ramon Delacruz jr - February 25 at 02:21 PM

DG

“ *DFW Mechanical Group purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Estella Ayala.*



DFW Mechanical Group - February 25 at 10:08 AM

DF

“ *DeLaRosa Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Estella Ayala.*



DeLaRosa Family - February 24 at 11:04 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Estella Ayala.*

February 24 at 08:52 PM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Estella Ayala.*



February 24 at 08:52 PM



“ *From the Perry family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Estella Ayala.*



From the Perry family - February 24 at 08:26 PM



“ *Grandma, I will always cherish the time we shared being chismosas, telling stories. laughing together with you was my favorite thing in the world. Aye Grandma, the things you would say!! I will hold close the lessons you taught me and the love you gave us all. Tell my Dad I love him.*



I love you always my grandma. I will always remember Que somos iguales

Rebecca M - February 24 at 08:01 PM

TA

Stella my beloved mother. I will forever be grateful to you for taking me in when you already had enough on your plate. I always thanked God for putting you in my life. It was a blessing. You were the mother I didn't have. You showed me how to be the woman I am today. I thank God we had that special bond and beautiful memories that no one can ever take away. The only peace I have right now is that your not suffering or lonely anymore. Can't wait to see you again. Tell DD hello for. Forever my best friend!

Teresa Ayala - February 28 at 08:07 PM

FA

“ *God Bless the Ayala family, my condolences to family.*

Fernando Ayala - February 24 at 07:44 PM



“ *Mom/Grandma—*

Your love is the legacy that binds our family together. You will forever live in our hearts.

*With all our love,
Armando Ayala and family*

Armando Ayala Sr. - February 24 at 07:44 PM

TV

“ *My aunt Stella was one of a kind. She was a woman I looked up to as far as family first when it came to her children. Always a welcoming, loving individual and I have so many wonderful and funny memories that I will cherish of her for the rest of my life. I wish things were different as I got older and would have spent more time with her, but I will always hold her close to my heart. You will definitely be missed auntie and tell my daddy I love and miss him dearly...my you rest peacefully, love you always Toinette*

Toinette Valderas-Tapia - February 24 at 07:07 PM

VA

“ *Vince and Jackie Ayala purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Estella Ayala.*



Vince and Jackie Ayala - February 24 at 06:59 PM

GH

“ *Gracie Hernandez lit a candle in memory of Estella Ayala*



Gracie Hernandez - February 24 at 06:34 PM

GH

“ *Mom you will always be in my heart for eternity. You always made me laugh, "defend myself", and how to be tough as nails. I love you forever hermosa. La mama.*

Gracie Hernandez - February 24 at 06:32 PM