



Lt. Mark Anthony Zapata

AUG 7, 1978 - AUG 10, 2025



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Lt. Mark Anthony Zapata

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Mark Anthony Zapata August 7, 1978 – August 10, 2025 The Houston and Pearland community is mourning the loss of Mark Anthony Zapata, a respected Houston Police Department officer, loving father, devoted husband, and loyal friend, who passed away on August 10, 2025. Mark’s dedication to service, his big personality, and his deep love for his family and colleagues left a lasting impact on all who knew him.

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, to Maximiliano and Bertha Zapata, Mark was the beloved younger brother of John David † and Max. When Mark was a baby, the Zapata family returned to Texas, where they built their home in Houston. From a young age, Mark was a natural athlete — playing baseball, football, soccer, and even bowling. His parents proudly coached him and his brother Max in sports. His love of teamwork and discipline on the field carried into the classroom and shaped the person he was becoming. He attended St. Augustine, Mount Carmel, and later Milby High School. Mark always dreamed of becoming a police officer. He pursued criminology at Laredo Community College, where he lived with his maternal grandmother, bringing joy and liveliness to her home. The following year, he was recruited by UT Brownsville, where he played baseball.

In December 2001 Mark joined the Houston Police Department, beginning a distinguished 23-year career. He graduated from the HPD Academy, Class 180, and proudly served in the Patrol Unit, Tactical Team, Auto Theft Division, Gang Division, and ultimately the Narcotics Division, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant. Mark’s career reflected his skill, leadership, and unwavering dedication. He was never content to simply sit behind a desk. Mark was always ready to roll up his sleeves, get out into the field, and lead by example. He spoke with pride about his “guys,” valuing them as more than colleagues - to Mark, they were family. Earlier this year, Mark achieved a career milestone when he graduated from the FBI National Academy, furthering his aspirations to continue rising in leadership.



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Without a doubt, Mark's greatest accomplishment and most cherished treasure was his son, Mark "Marky" Zapata, born in 2004. From teaching him to walk, ride a bike, throw a ball, hunt, master a firm handshake, and drive — Mark's devotion to his son was evident to all who knew him. Together, they traveled the world, sharing unforgettable experiences and creating lifelong memories. They bonded over their shared love for baseball, classic old-soul country music, and so much more. From the pitcher's mound, Marky's view will always be of his dad — his biggest fan, who will continue cheering him on from heaven.

In 2017, Mark met Sonia Garcia, and from the very first moment, it was clear their hearts had been waiting for each other. Their connection was instant - the kind where everything falls into place. What began as a spark quickly grew into a whirlwind of love, laughter, and shared dreams. Together, they blended their lives seamlessly, building a home filled with warmth and joy. Mark embraced Sonia's daughter, Bianca as his own, just as Sonia welcomed Marky into her heart. Their love was vibrant, full of energy, and unshakable. Whether they were hosting gatherings, traveling together, or simply sharing a cocktail, the two radiated an undeniable happiness.

Mark treasured every moment he shared with his immediate and extended family, believing that family was the foundation of everything. Friends fondly recall Mark's big smile, his larger-than-life personality, and his ability to make everyone feel at ease. He was fun, genuine, and full of life, bringing positive energy wherever he went. His impact on his family, friends, and fellow officers will never be forgotten. Mark's empowering presence has left a legacy that will live on not only within the halls of HPD but also in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Rest in peace, Lieutenant Mark Anthony Zapata. Your watch has ended, but your legacy will continue to inspire.



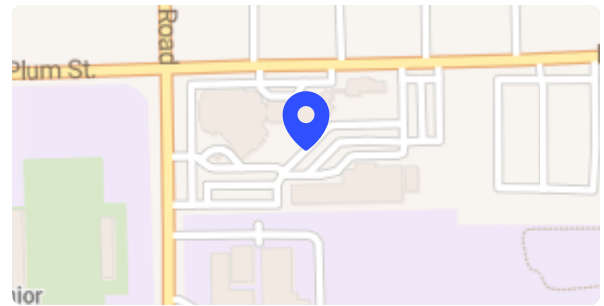
Events

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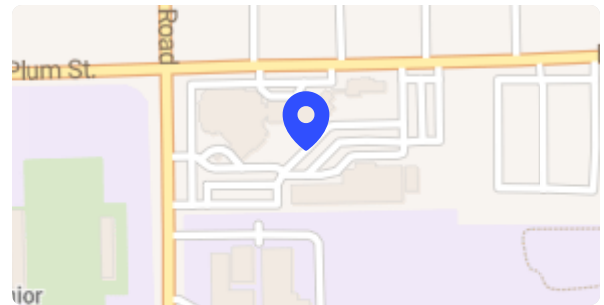
Visitation

- Wednesday**, August 20, 2025
- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT
- St. Helen Catholic Church**
2209 Old Alvin Rd, Pearland TX 77581



Rosary

- Wednesday**, August 20, 2025
- 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM CT
- St. Helen Catholic Church**
2209 Old Alvin Rd, Pearland TX 77581

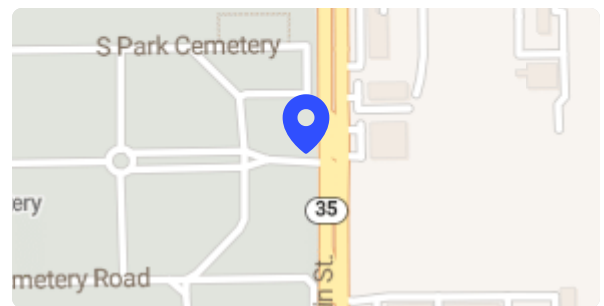


Mass of Christian Burial

- Thursday**, August 21, 2025
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
- St. Helens Catholic Church**
TX

Committal Service

- Thursday**, August 21, 2025
- 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM CT
- South Park Cemetery**
1310 North Main Street, Pearland TX 77581





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Cemetery Details

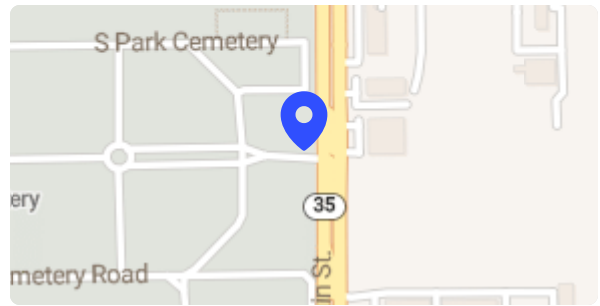


South Park Cemetery

1310 North Main Street, Pearland TX 77581



(281) 509-9228





Tribute Wall

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MM

Mark Miller posted:

Always made you feel like you mattered and he appreciated being your friend no matter how close you were. Happy to be a part of the FBINA 294 family with him.

August 20 at 10:40 PM

FC

Fam. Cavazos sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Zapata family.



August 20 at 4:14 PM

SL

Sylvia D De Lachica sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Zapata family.



August 20 at 9:36 AM

LF

Love You All, The Gillebaard Family sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Zapata family.



August 20 at 9:34 AM

LF

Love You All, The Gillebaard Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of LT. Mark.



August 20 at 9:34 AM

KM

Kim Moerman shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Condolences for the family. I hope you'll find some relief in knowing what a wonderful guy Mark was. I met Mark at the FBI National Academy. We are FBINA 294 graduates. I'll never forget his endless energy, big smile and his always present positive attitude. Mark had the gift to be liked by everybody and always gathered people around him with his smile and social talks. Mark was a truly great guy and will be truly missed! Kim Moerman Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar) The Netherlands



August 20 at 1:48 AM



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Dusty Littrell posted:

I would like to share my favorite Mark memory/story. He and I went deer hunting one time near George West with another friend of his and his little boy. We were going to have to sleep outside so I borrowed a tent from a friend. What we did not know was the tent was not in the best of conditions and could not uphold to the storm that ensued the first night. The rain was blowing into the tent and we were completely soaked including all the clothes we had brought. The 2nd night with all of our clothes still wet we were so cold we put on every article of clothing we brought. We were literally wearing 4-5 layers to try and stay warm. At some point in the night Mark and I decided body warmth was necessary for survival. Being the macho guys we were, neither of us was willing to be the little spoon so we agreed on back to back. Lol. I don't know that it ever dawned on us to pack up and go get a motel room, we were just guys being guys and we were going to survive this thing on our own. I will always cherish the deer hunting trips, the drip river trip, the bbq lessons, the late night parties across the street, the Halloween parties, the Czhlispiel cookoff, so much more. I love you Mark, you are and will always be one of the good ones, you will be missed. RIP

August 19 at 10:18 PM



From Sergio Ochoa And Family sent a Lily and Rose Tribute Spray to the Zapata family.

August 19 at 9:51 PM



Beto Jr And Jeanette Valdez sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Zapata family.

August 19 at 8:15 PM



Antonio Gracia posted:

I had the honor of working alongside Mark at Eastside and later in the Narcotics Division. From the very beginning, Mark stood out as a true leader—driven, dedicated, and relentless in his commitment to the job. He never quit, no matter how tough the challenge. Mark loved being a police officer, but above all else, he cherished being a devoted husband, father, and family man. His strength, loyalty, and compassion will never be forgotten. May Mark rest in peace, and may God speed him on his journey. My deepest condolences go out to Mark's family and friends.

August 19 at 3:10 PM



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GV

Gene & Janette, & Kristin Vance sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Zapata family.

August 19 at 2:33 PM



AF

Artemiz F. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of LT. Mark.

August 19 at 2:17 PM



CF

Cummings, Hawthorne & Shorkey Families sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Zapata family.

August 19 at 1:55 PM



CF

Cummings, Hawthorne & Shorkey Families planted a Memorial Tree in honor of LT. Mark.

August 19 at 1:55 PM



OF

Oddie & Delilah Fields & Family sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Zapata family.

August 19 at 1:55 PM



TF

The Baggett Family sent an Arrive in Style to the Zapata family.

August 19 at 1:46 PM





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Cesar Villagran shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Mark, you have had a profound impact on my life. Im happy we shared so many good times together, like conjunto music sing alongs, cook offs, golf or eating some of your championship caliber bbq. Rest in peace my friend . -Cesar V



August 19 at 1:29 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Zapata family.



August 19 at 10:56 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of LT. Mark.



August 19 at 10:56 AM



Ricardo Cuevas And Family. sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Zapata family.



August 19 at 10:34 AM



Ricardo Cuevas And Family. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of LT. Mark.



August 19 at 10:34 AM



Jose Ramon Y Nancy... Te Queremos Mucho sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Zapata family.



August 18 at 9:31 PM



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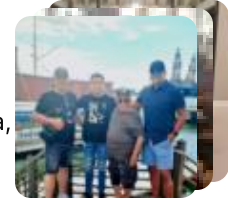
Jose Ramon Y Nancy... Te Queremos Mucho planted a Memorial Tree in honor of LT. Mark.



August 18 at 9:31 PM



Nancy T shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



No encuentro palabras suficientes para expresar lo mucho que lamento la partida de Mark. Su ausencia duele profundamente, porque era un hombre lleno de alegría, energía y vitalidad, que iluminaba cada momento con su forma de ser. Siempre lo recordaré con una sonrisa, porque su manera de vivir contagiaba optimismo y calidez. Ustedes dos juntos eran un ejemplo de amor y complicidad, y era imposible no notarlo, dondequiera que estaban, hacían brillar el lugar con su cariño y unión. Esa luz que compartían quedará siempre en mi memoria y en mi corazón. Siempre excelentes anfitriones, tengo presentes muy buenos momentos llenos de risas y pláticas amenas. Sé que no hay palabras que puedan aliviar un dolor tan grande, pero quiero que sepas Prima Sonia que estoy contigo, acompañándote con nuestras oraciones.

August 18 at 9:14 PM



Media

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Kim Moerman shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 20 at 1:48 AM





Media

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Cesar Villagran shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 19 at 1:29 PM





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Nancy T shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 18 at 9:14 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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