



## Melissa Helen Zavala

February 25, 1973 - September 5, 2022

Melissa Helen Zavala-Cortez, 49 of Visalia, CA, passed away on September 5th, 2022 in Fresno, CA. Melissa was born to parents Mike Zavala and Helen Zamarripa on February 25th, 1973 in Visalia, CA.

She grew up in Visalia, CA, where she attended school and graduated from Sequoia High School in 1991. For several years after graduation, she spent time as a homemaker caring for her two oldest children, Allyssa McCarthy (Nee Gomez) and April Gomez. Years later, she went on to have two more kids, Ashley Cortez and Frank Cortez, with Russell Cortez, whom she married in June 2017. Melissa continued as a homemaker, but worked part-time as a caterer. In her free time, she enjoyed spending time with family and friends, listening to her music, going to concerts, spending time with her grandchildren, and traveling with her family. She also was a big supporter of the LGBTQ+ and 420 community.

Melissa will be joined in rest alongside her husband Russell Cortez and is survived by her parents, Mike Zavala and Helen Zamarripa; her brothers, Rene Zamarripa and his wife Yvette, Robert Zamarripa, Ralph Zavala and his wife Elsa, Frank Zavala and Katie Zavala; her children, Allyssa McCarthy (Nee Gomez), Ashley Cortez, Frank Cortez, and her bonus-daughter Danielle Cortez; her grandchildren, Julius, Olivia and Harper and many nieces and nephews.

Melissa touched the lives of many and will be truly missed by all.

Rosary will be held 10:30 AM Saturday, September 24th, 2022 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. A Memorial service will follow at 11:30 AM Saturday, September 24th, 2022 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com).

# Previous Events

## Rosary

SEP **24**. 10:30 AM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel  
127 E. Caldwell Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93277

## Memorial

SEP **24**. 11:30 AM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel  
127 E. Caldwell Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93277

# Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Melissa Helen Zavala*



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**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - September 22, 2022 at 06:04 PM

LV

“ *Laura Vasquez lit a candle in memory of Melissa Helen Zavala*



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**Laura Vasquez** - September 24, 2022 at 04:33 PM