



# Rui Mendes

DEC 26, 1947 - APR 8, 2026



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## Rui Mendes

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**R**ui Mendes, 78, of Grand Prairie, Texas, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2026, surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with multiple myeloma and other chronic health conditions.

Rui was born on December 26, 1947, in Ponta Grossa, Paraná, Brazil, to José Joaquim Mendes and Lúcia Reis Mendes. He grew up alongside his siblings Rau, Renato, Raquel, Regina, and Rose, forming lifelong bonds rooted in family and shared experiences.

From a young age, Rui was known for his strong work ethic, beginning work at just 13 years old. He completed his secondary education and went on to build a career in agricultural sales with Purina. With determination and a vision for a better future, he immigrated to the United States, where he began working in a machine shop. There, he had the rare joy of working alongside his childhood best friends. Through dedication and leadership, he rose to become Manager and later General Manager of JM Fabrication Corporation.

Rui proudly served in the Brazilian Army in Ponta Grossa with the 13th Infantry Regiment from 1966 to 1967, a time that reflected his sense of duty and discipline.

He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who lived his life centered around his family. Rui was known as a dependable and caring man who would drop everything to help someone in need. His love for his family was the driving force behind his journey to America, where he worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for his wife and children.

Rui found joy in life's simple and meaningful moments—cooking Brazilian meals, hosting churrascos, and gathering with family and friends over coffee and conversation. He loved watching Brazilian novelas, cheering on soccer and football teams, fishing, and traveling. Some of his most cherished memories were made during family trips to Brazil, Las Vegas, Colorado, Arizona, Florida, and the annual summer vacations in Galveston, Texas at The Victorian Condominium.



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He will be remembered for his kindness, humor, and ability to make others laugh. Rui had a gift for bringing people together and made everyone feel welcome. His loyalty, generosity, and unwavering support left a lasting impression on all who knew him. He truly lived for his wife, children, and grandchildren, and his legacy will continue through them.

Rui is survived by his beloved wife, Lidia; his daughters, Andrea, Elaine, and Danielle; his grandchildren, Ethan, Caitlyn, Miles, Madelyn, Chloe, Dylan, Jake, and Mia; his stepsons, Wellington and Welton; and his step-grandchildren, Anna Luisa and Harley. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Celebration of Life will be held on May 17, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Dallas Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1400 W. Grauwlyer Rd, Irving, Texas 75061.

“Life is eternal, and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.”

—Rossiter Worthington Raymond

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to support Lidia at:  
<https://gofund.me/d457d7df4>




# Events

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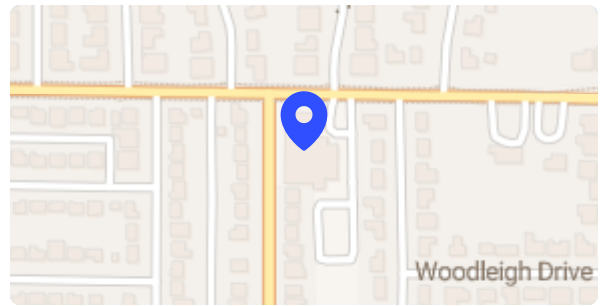
## Celebration of Life

 **Sunday**, May 17, 2026

 10:30 AM CT

 **Dallas Brazilian Seventh-Day Adventist Church**

1400 W. Grauwylar Rd., Irving TX 75061





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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