



Antonio "Tony" Cruz

March 18, 1947 - July 3, 2016

Antonio Cruz Jr., known to most as Tony, passed on July 3, 2016. He is preceded in death by his mother, Gregoria Soto and his father, Antonio Cruz Sr. He is survived by his brothers, Ruben and Raymond; his wife, Mildred Cruz, their three daughters Zynnette, Sophia and Felicia; and their three grandsons A'mire, Jayden and Elijah. Antonio was born March 18, 1947 in The Bronx, New York. He attended high school in Queens, New York, where shortly after he was drafted into the army. He served from 1966-1968 to serve in Germany where he drove tanks to protect our country in Europe during the Vietnam War. He worked throughout his career to transport medical supplies in New York, where he eventually met his future wife, Mildred, and they went on to marry in 1981. Tony moved his wife and three daughters to Orlando, Florida in 1999 where he continued to work; including assisting with providing food and supplies with FEMA and becoming a bus driver in Disney World. Tony had a passion for music and was known for making everyone dance with his congas and marimbas (xylophone). He often referred to himself as "Tony Marimba" and took pride in his praise with his performances. He was sure to have everyone dancing and laughing and his family and friends will continue to do so in his honor. He will be greatly missed by everyone who has interacted with him.

Any donations in lieu of flowers can be made by accessing the following link: <https://www.gofundme.com/2ddsp6tw>

Thank you for everyone's prayers and well wishes.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 16. 1:00 PM (ET)

A Community Funeral Home & Sunset Cremations
910 W. Michigan Street
Orlando, FL 32805
(407) 841-4424
<https://www.acommunityfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

SF

“ *Sincerely, Nelly, Jennifer, Mary, Tina, & Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Antonio "Tony" Cruz.*



Sincerely, Nelly, Jennifer, Mary, Tina, & Family - July 07, 2016
at 09:13 AM



Cynthia
Cuevas

“ *I have a lot of great childhood memories of my uncle playing his instruments and everybody around laughing and dancing. I also remember every time I spent the night, he would make us these delicious yummy pancakes!!!! RIP Tony*



Cynthia Cuevas - July 06, 2016 at 07:51 PM

YD

“ To me he was better known as Padrino! To know him was to love him, his smile would light up any room, growing up he lived with the family right under neath us and also played the father role because my dad was absent, giving love and hugs when needed. I have so many memories to share all, but one of my favorite is when he was the first to have a VHS recorder and he recorded Thriller and would play it over and over again and perfected the dance to it and had me and Zynette dance to it lol he never got tired of MJ and was amazed at his talent. He was very talented himself and every birthday party turned into a party with him and my other uncles playing live instruments and partying to the wee hours! I can't believe your gone I always looked at you as invincible because you were that special! May you be at peace in your glory playing for your mom and the rest of our family who I know welcomed you with open arms. My Padrino was a special man and I look forward to seeing you again.

Yesenia his God Daughter - July 06, 2016 at 05:18 PM

AP

“ I remember going Sophia's house and dad will tell us you girls are so beautiful and don't let anybody tell you different .All the good party in the house he used to pull out his bungalows and play beautiful music and tell us to dance . He always had a smile on his face he was awesome and amazing man that I got to know. I will miss him very much .

Angelica Paneto - July 05, 2016 at 09:38 PM



“ I absolutely love Tony he was the BEST party starter with the bongos and his personal dancers. He always kept a smile on his face no matter what and loved everyone he came in contact with even if he met you for the first time. His love is electric, he exudes happiness, family unity and positivity. I'm praying for the Cruz family and this hard time in their lives. I love you all and I'm here for you.

Kiefanie Nibbs-Sands - July 05, 2016 at 05:29 PM

EB

“ Have known your dad for years. He was talented funny and loving. He had a nak for making you life and feel welcome. Most important quality he adored his family . Especially his wife and kids. My cousin mildred. You were blessed with 45 years of love and happiness. More than many of us even hope to get in a lifetime. He is up there playing his music making the Angels dance to rhythm. They gained an angel.

Ebourdony - July 05, 2016 at 03:04 PM



“ My daddy is a loving and caring man. He loved his family and his music. He had the most amazing stories and there was never a dull moment with him. I still cannot believe he is no longer here but I know he is at peace and I know I will see him again. If you knew him you knew he was funny, sarcastic, honest, talented, and smart. I love you and miss you so much. I will live through you and I promise to always make you proud and tell amazing stories about you to your grandchildren. See you when it's my time.

Sophia Cruz - July 05, 2016 at 01:48 PM



Claudia
Coss

So sorry for your loss, Sophia. The only time I met him was at your baby shower and I remember him with the Bongos. He seemed like a happy man. Continue to bring joy to his legacy and much strength and faith to you and your family. 🙏🙏🙏

Claudia Coss - July 06, 2016 at 06:25 PM



AL

Tony, as we called him Junior de Goyi, when we were growing up, was like a brother. He was always sweet, loving and full of life. I remember when he first brought Millie over, I thought that she was so beautiful not only outside but inside too. I told him, she is a keeper and he listened. What a beautiful, loving couple they made. He was not my cousin, but my brother. I will always remember him surrounded by his music and his instruments, which he played masterfully.

Tony, you are gone from us physically, but you will live in our hearts forever. Rest in peace mi primito lindo. I love you. Annie

Anita Laruy - July 06, 2016 at 07:09 PM



YO

To Zynette, a dear friend of mind. I am so sorry for your loss. Someone mentioned Bongos. :-) Girl, do I remember the Cruz family especially daddy Cruz during football season. He kept the Panthers in good spirit - win or lose. It was certainly a great pleasure meeting him. My condolences goes out to your Mom and the Family. Remember Z, Daddy Cruz is in a place much better than we are now. Keep your head high and your heart close to him forever. God loves him best. Love Yolanda

Yolanda - July 13, 2016 at 12:26 PM