



Rafael Armando Espinal

July 2, 1927 - January 10, 2016

Almost 89 years ago, Rafael Armando Espinal was born in the small town of San Jose de las Matas, Dominican Rep. At the age of 25, he married Ana and they went on to have seven lovely children. In 1968 he courageously immigrated his family to New York City and for the rest of his long life he worked tirelessly to provide for his wife and children. His unbelievable work ethic, his vision and his faith became the foundation upon which his seven children and all of their children and all of their children built their lives.

From the most humble of beginnings, came a man without whom none of us would be here, together, now. Rafael is our champion. His mark on our lives and on this world is permanent and profound. We are forever indebted.

Rafael passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 10, 2016 in Orlando, Florida. He is survived by his wife Ana, his seven children, Magdalena, Mercedes, Maria, Raymond, Nego, Daniel and Chelo, seventeen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Please join us in celebrating his joyous life on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Burial service to immediately follow at Greenwood Cemetery.

•• In honor of Rafael please wear his favorite color, BLUE ••

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

1603 Greenwood Street
Orlando, FL 32801

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
5902 Oleander Drive
Orlando, FL 32807

Tribute Wall



“ With Sympathy Tazo Tea Basket was purchased for the family of Rafael Armando Espinal.



January 18, 2016 at 10:20 AM



“ " Rest in Peace" pops , The best father ever, very hard worker, love all his children and grand children. A real fighter for his family, his children never were hungry always had warm coats & boots in the cold nyc winters. for his kids.
"May he rest in the house of the lord" forever
"nego"/ fefa/ Nicole-Espinal/ Kimberly=Espinal.



Maria Dematteo - January 16, 2016 at 07:31 AM



“ Descanse en paz Tío Fellito

Ana Lopez - January 15, 2016 at 11:17 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rafael Armando Espinal.



January 15, 2016 at 10:48 PM

AL

“ *Ana Lopez lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal*



Ana Lopez - January 15, 2016 at 02:27 PM

AL

“ *Ana Lopez lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal*



Ana Lopez - January 15, 2016 at 02:26 PM

LU

“ *Luisa sent a virtual gift in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal*



Luisa - January 15, 2016 at 01:24 PM

JF

“ *Julie and family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Rafael Armando Espinal.*



Julie and family - January 15, 2016 at 12:06 PM

LD

“ Lydia Diaz lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal



Lydia Diaz - January 15, 2016 at 11:16 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Rafael Armando Espinal.



January 15, 2016 at 09:50 AM



“ John Concepcion lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal



John Concepcion - January 14, 2016 at 01:21 PM

ME

“ That time that I returned to Florida from Abu Dhabi, and I started telling gramps about all the exciting places I had recently traveled to... Dubai, Spain, Paris, India... And finally gramps stops me, and says... " y tu tiene novio?" 😳 Gramps - funny guy -I didn't at the time.. But fortunately for me - the following summer I got to bring Eoin Bolger (my new boyfriend) to meet gramps... Abuelo was smiling ear to ear and said "hombre muy fuerte!" ...I think he approved - I wish you were around to see us walk down the aisle - but I know you will be there in spirit on our wedding day - I love you Abuelo and Thankyou for all that you've done for our family's future -Love, Melody



Melody - January 14, 2016 at 04:09 AM

MA

Awe nice !!!

Magdalena - January 15, 2016 at 04:12 AM

AL

Siempre recuerdo a mi tío Fellito por enseñarnos a mi y a mis hermanos lo que es un Tío de verdad .Siempre tuvo tiempo para nosotros.Cuando llegue a NY por primera vez,falto al trabajo para llevarme a conocer NY .El tren ,La Estatua de la Libeetad ,Las Torres Gemelas ,Me llevo a la tienda etc etc .Nunca lo olvidaré .Oh y como más enseñaba de NY cuando nos llevaba las"vistas " o pequeños discos con fotos de N Y

Ana Lopez - January 15, 2016 at 02:41 PM

CH

“ Chelo: Papa who is the strongest. Smartest. Fastest man in the word.?
Papa: You. You. You
Chelo: Papa quien es el nidal (chosen one).?
Papa; You. You. You
Chelo: No Papa it has always been you.
Thank you for being there for me when I took my first steps , for buying my first tricycle, and always being there through the thick and thin. Most of all Papa thank you for making me the man that i am today. We are all so grateful that you were our dad. .
Bendicion..Papa
Love Chelo

Chelo - January 14, 2016 at 03:46 AM

MG

“ Melody Gutierrez lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal



Melody Gutierrez - January 14, 2016 at 03:34 AM

J(

“ Jose Espinal (Chelo) lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal



Jose Espinal (Chelo) - January 14, 2016 at 03:34 AM

DA

“ *WHEN i WAS IN KINDERGARTEN i CRIED EVERY DAY BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME i WENT TO SCHOOL AND MY DAD WOULD COME TO MY CLASS AND PUT PENNIES ON MY LITTLE SCHOOL DESK TO TRY TO GET ME TO STOP CRYING...HE WAS A HARDWORKING FATHER WHO PROVIDED FOR HIS CHILDREN....POPS YOU ARE UNFORGETTABLE...IM SO GLAD WE COULD HAVE SO MANY LAUGHS TOGETHER IN YOUR FINAL YEARS*

DANIEL - January 13, 2016 at 08:57 PM

CO

“ *Carmen O'Brien lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal*



Carmen O'Brien - January 13, 2016 at 08:33 PM

CO

“ *I remember meeting Fellito and Ana when we first arrived from the DR in May 1974. They invited Mom and Dad and all 7 kids to join them for dinner with their 7 kids at their apartment on Ridge Street (off Delancey and Pitt St. - LES now). We had a great meal, bonded with our cousins, but the apartment was kind of dark because Fellito kept only a couple of light bulbs on "to save energy". We did not understand his reasoning at that time, but we do now. My uncle was way ahead of his time. I'll always remember his good nature, smile, positive attitude and love of nature (El Conuco - in the DR). May he rest in peace and we are grateful to have been a part of his life.*

Carmen O'Brien - January 13, 2016 at 08:23 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rafael Armando Espinal.*



January 13, 2016 at 01:15 PM



“ *Heather Espinal lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal*



Heather Espinal - January 13, 2016 at 07:17 AM

MA

Thanks Heather! I'm glad you guys are coming 😊

Magdalena - January 13, 2016 at 07:35 AM

MA

“ *I remember my father taking us for a walk to the Williamsburg Bridge in the middle of one of the biggest snow storms in NYC so we could experience snow. As much as he loved NYC, he also loved Florida in his last years. He got to enjoy the sunshine, the car rides to the beach, and loved to be outdoors watering the plants. He lived a simple life but taught all of us good work ethics, and to be respectful of others. Overall he was a good human being. I will miss you. Thanks for being my father. Love Magdalena*

Magdalena - January 12, 2016 at 09:47 PM

RP

I have fond memories are of "Fillito" visiting my parents in the 70's..... always with his signature cap..... and being so kind to the youngest children in the household. Rest in peace and thank you. R. Peña

RP - January 12, 2016 at 11:04 PM

MA

“ *Magdalena lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal*



Magdalena - January 12, 2016 at 09:30 PM



“ *Mercedes Grullon lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal*



Mercedes Grullon - January 12, 2016 at 09:00 PM



“ *My father was a loving dad to all 7 of us.I remember when I was a little girl in Dominican rep.he would come & visit us @Christmas times (he lived in ny) he would hide the xmas gifts under the bed,and onetime I couldn't fnd mine and he would say keep looking until I found it.my life will never be the same..love u pops.*

Maria Dematteo - January 12, 2016 at 08:46 PM

J(

Chelo: Papa who is the strongest. Smartest. Fastest man in the word.?

Papa: You. You. You

Chelo: Papa quien es el nidal (chosen one).?

Papa; You. You. You

Chelo: No Papa it has always been you.

Thank you for being there for me when I took my first steps , for buying my first tricycle, and always being there through the thick and thin.

Most of all Papa thank you for making me the man that i am today. We are all so graceful that you were our dad. . Bendicion..Papa

Love Chelo

Jose Espinal (Chelo) - January 14, 2016 at 03:27 AM



“ *Maria Dematteo lit a candle in memory of Rafael Armando Espinal*



Maria Dematteo - January 12, 2016 at 08:25 PM



“ *I will miss him very much, I remember that he always ate vanilla ice cream and watched baseball. His favorite dish was the Dominican flag (rice, beans and chicken with sauce) his favorite herb was rosemary, his favorite color was blue, his favorite place to be was outside. He was catholic and always went to mass on Sundays. He was a good dresser, he was a very good father, he loved to tell stories about the campo (back home) times. Mercedes Grullon*

Mercedes Grullon - January 12, 2016 at 04:31 PM