



Andres Claudio "Andy" Rivera

February 16, 1927 - July 14, 2024

Andres "Andy" Claudio Rivera, beloved father, husband, grandfather, and great-grandfather passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 14, 2024, at the age

of 97, in St. Augustine, Florida. Andy was born in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, on February 16, 1927, to Modesta Claudio and Andres Rivera.

Andy was a man of great integrity, kindness, and warmth, who touched the lives of everyone he met. He married twice, first to our beloved mother, Cristina Crespo, with whom he shared many beautiful years and had nine children: Andy Jr., Ronnie, Joanna, Ivan, Cindy, Amy, David, Linda, and Ricky. Later, Andy found love again and married Zaida Vazquez, a woman who brought immense joy and companionship into his life. Together, they built a loving home and extended their family, enriching the lives of everyone around them.

Andy was a devoted and loving father, always there with a kind word and a guiding hand. His battle with Alzheimer's in recent years never diminished his bright light and warmhearted personality. He faced every medical challenge with a smile and a nod. His caring heart left a beacon of hope for all who knew him.

A proud US Army veteran, Andy served during the Korean War. He had a passion for understanding how things worked, was always inventing and tinkering, was great with numbers, and spent countless hours finding inventive new solutions for both real—and perceived!—problems at home and

work. After retiring from the Army, Andy found a perfect match for a second career at the Panama Canal Commission, working the locks on the Panama Canal. He was also a singer, a dancer, and a consummate joke teller. His legacy of love, generosity, and dedication will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

Andy is survived by his nine children, their partners, offspring, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren - too numerous to count. He is also survived by his siblings Ruth, Roberto, Wanda, and Nurinalda. Andy will be deeply missed but always remembered with love and fondness.

Andy will be honored at a graveside ceremony at the Jacksonville National Cemetery at 4083 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218 on Friday, July 26, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Folds of Honor, a scholarship program for America's fallen or disabled soldiers and first responders.

Previous Events

Graveside Service with Military Honors

JUL **26**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Jacksonville National Cemetery
4083 Lannie Rd
Jacksonville, FL 32218-1247
(904) 766-5222

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Andres Claudio "Andy" Rivera*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - July 23, 2024 at 01:41 PM

GG

Beautiful!

Gerardo Gonzalez-Fuste - July 23, 2024 at 05:54 PM

PB

“ *During the fourth quarter of the first year of my electrical apprenticeship in early 1977, I was finally able to work in the field at Pedro Miguel Locks of the Panama Canal. Andy was a journeyman in the Electric Shop, and working with him was such a joy, as he was very kind and knowledgeable. He always had such a positive attitude and a smile on his face, which was contagious. In spite of working under pressure when problems arose, he always was upbeat and willing to get the job done. I am so happy I had the pleasure of working with such a wonderful man who treasured his family and friends. God really blessed the planet when he brought Andy into the world, and he's in good hands now. Rest in Peace, QEPD*



Penelope Earl Bittinger - July 23, 2024 at 11:01 PM

LB

“ Not only did I get to thoroughly enjoy Andy as a neighbor in the Fishbowl in Ancon, Panama Canal Zone, I got to enjoy him as a friend. Good times and good memories with all the neighborhood gatherings we had. ❤️. His work on earth is done. Rest in Peace now, Andy. Peace and condolences to the whole family.

Laura Burns-Redemann - July 23, 2024 at 05:19 PM



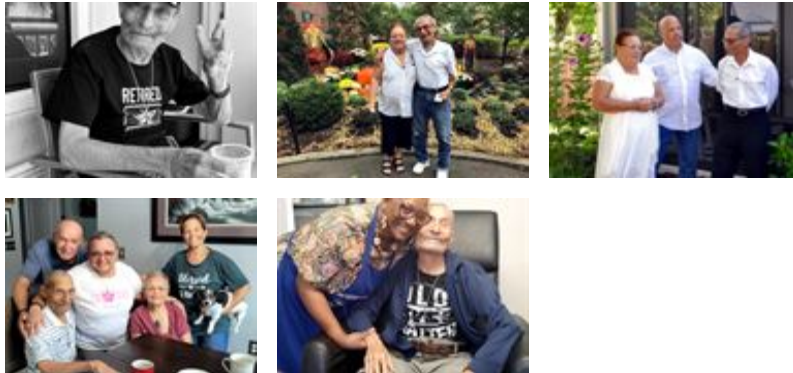
“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - July 23, 2024 at 09:37 AM



“ 49 files added to the album LifeTributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - July 22, 2024 at 04:53 PM

DK

“ Mr Rivera, “Mr R” to our family was the sweetest and most precious person to us and all fortunate to know him. Our entire family learned to love him when he came to spend time with Connie and Andy. I would go over to visit and he would immediately pat the seat next to him saying sit here so we can talk. Of course we had great conversations. He would always tell me he loved my family. He would end up entertaining all of us. He was very proud of his Military service. One day to his surprise and amazement there was a Pinning Ceremony at Andy and Connie’s house with a representative from every branch of the US Military present. Each of them gave our Mr. R and citation and saluted him. The last to speak pinned him with the US Flag pin and they all saluted him in unison and thanked him for his service. He just kept saying “My Country, My Country” . Then he said “ I know I am old but if my Country called, I would go again!!”!!!! There was not a dry in the room. He meant every word of it. But he wasn’t finished He was equally as proud of his work with the Panama Canal. His greatest love was his family. I loved the few times I was able to cook our Southern vegetables for him. Mr. R we all love you and will relive our time with you in our hearts. We also love his family and consider all of you an extension of our family. May the Lord lift your pain and just know he is with Jesus singing and dancing on streets of gold looking down on all of you loving you all. God bless each of you as He did our Mr R,



Dorothy Kozen - July 20, 2024 at 09:52 PM

RB

“ *Mr. Rivera was one of the most gracious, polite person I have ever met. His smile was genuine and made one feel like family. He had such a positive attitude about those around him, an uplifting personality that I liken to be as our Savior would wish we all could emulate. He has left a wonderful legacy in his daughter, my friend Amy.*

Robin Baxter - July 20, 2024 at 06:17 PM

MR

“ *Rest in peace Tio, I would have loved to see you before the good Lord took you home. Hug Tio Mario and Papa when you see them and watch over all of us that remain here on this Earth. Love Margarita ❤️*

Margarita Rosado - July 19, 2024 at 01:07 PM

 Slade
Wentworth

“ *Our condolences to all. Be well.*

Slade Wentworth - July 19, 2024 at 11:54 AM



“ *Tio Cube, I will forever cherish the memories of your visits and time spent with you at my mother's house in Vega Baja, PR. I loved your stories, your soft spoken voice and even the way you walked. I will be forever grateful to Amy for taking the time to bring you to my house here in Florida, so that your sister(my mother) and you can enjoy what would be one last time together. You held her hand while you both enjoyed a plate of arroz con gandules at the dinner table. Descansa en paz Tio hasta la venida de nuestro Padre Celestial. My love to you and my condolences to my cousins. Your father was one of the greatest man I have ever known. Tata...*

Ruthie Sanchez - July 19, 2024 at 09:42 AM

DW

“ Good evening! To Andy Family & Friends I meet Mr Andy Last year. I was his Care Provider. Getting to know Andy was a Blessing for me, He Love his Family & he had some stories to tell, lol, Andy had a Heart of Gold, And he was a man of God, What I love about Mr Andy is tht even tho my Job was to take Care of him, he always thought about how I was doing & my family. We did outing together & Pray together, I have so many memories, that I can hold on too. I'm still in disbelief. But I know That You're ok. Because you was Definitely a Godly Man , and he love to sing. im Going to miss you soooo much Mr. Andy.

debra Wells - July 18, 2024 at 09:02 PM

LF

Thanks so much for sharing this, Debra. He cared about you so much, and we are forever grateful for your kindness. You were so good to Dad. He loved his Oscar stuffed animal and all the little gifts you shared with him, not to mention all the outings! Thank you again.

Linda Fussell - July 18, 2024 at 09:38 PM

VM

“ Tio Andy: We will remember you forever. We so enjoyed sharing our “Family Dinners”. Love you, Vilma & Edwin Millan



Vilma Millan - July 18, 2024 at 08:18 PM

MG

“ I really don't know where to start regarding Mr. Andy, which I call him Dad Andy... This beautiful soul came in my salon on November 19, 2022 with son Andy,Jr. Great relationship and smiles until The last time I did Daddy Andy services on Feb 24, 2024.. When I received the message of Daddy Andy getting ready to say farewell! My heart hurts with y'all who knew him... Oh, I am really, really going to miss him dearly... Many salons in Wilmington NC, but PMWLOVE and Sunshine shared his last days of service... Stay encouraged and hold on to your memories of Mr. Andy... Andy, Connie , Amy and Joanna, thank you again for allowing me to Pamper daddy hands and feet with love.. Love Sunshine!



Mary Sunshine Gunn-Hooper - July 18, 2024 at 06:43 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christina - July 18, 2024 at 06:05 PM

AR

Cristina, grandpa always had an extra spot in his heart for you.

Amy Rivera - July 29, 2024 at 04:59 PM