



Felipe R. Martinez

December 12, 2019

On December 12, 2019, I lost the most important man of my life, my father. It is hard to honor someone in a few paragraphs, but I will do my best.

If you have ever met my father, even for a short time, you probably fell in love with him. It was hard not to. He had the best smile, and he smiled often. Most of the time, he did not even realize he was smiling. He was friendly and kind to everyone he met. He greeted you as if he had not seen you in years even if it was just the other day. His default was to love first and get to know you second.

As his daughter, I felt his love every day I was with him. I cannot remember a day I was around him that he was not happy to see me. I do not say this as a compliment to myself, but as a testament to what type of father he was. I was not an easy daughter to raise but, when I walked into a room, he looked at me as if I were perfect. I aspire to be that type of parent to my own children.

He was sensitive and caring and not afraid of showing it. My dad had not always been that way. This was a slow evolution that was beautiful to witness. He taught me that life is about evolving and hopefully becoming a better version of yourself as the years go by. He would forgive and let go. He never held grudges. He loved unconditionally.

He was so funny. He was mischievous. For some reason, he would always

have us laughing at funerals. He giggled a lot. He had a playful spirit. I think that is why he enjoyed being around children, and children were drawn to him.

Equal to his love of children, was his love for animals, especially dogs. There was no shortage of either in our big family. When his dog Kimby was alive, he would walk him for miles in Rocky Springs Park near his home, sometimes with one of the grandkids. I hope that they have been reunited and he is now walking him in the most beautiful park on the sunniest of days.

Our family will feel this loss forever. He leaves behind 9 stepchildren; Manny, Nancy, Frank, Elvin, Alberto, Norberto, Maribel, Joe and Edwin and too many grandchildren and great-grandchildren to list individually. He leaves behind the love of his life, Clotilde. We will try to comfort each other knowing that he had many healthy years while here. I am sure he is enjoying the view from above, able to watch over his loved ones that he worried so much about.

I once asked him why he wanted a daughter and not a son because he would often tell me he prayed to have a daughter. He never really gave me an answer, but I am grateful every day that I got to be his daughter and that he was my dad.

Areliz (Martinez) Cruz

A special gathering of friends and family will be held at The Groff Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 on Saturday, December 21, 2019, from 11:00 A.M. until time of departure for Riverview Burial Park where the interment will take place at 2:30 P.M.

Cemetery Details

Riverview Burial Park

South Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Previous Events

Remembrance Gathering

DEC 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Felipe R. Martinez*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - December 19, 2019 at 04:36 PM

MR

Beautiful video!..Praying for God to give all of you strength through this hard time. May Felipe R.I.P and his smile and glorious laughter will always be remembered. Sincerely Miguel “Gelo” Rivera

Miguel “ Gelo” Rivera - December 21, 2019 at 09:32 AM



“ *Felipe R. Martinez*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *1 file added to the album LifeTributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - December 20, 2019 at 01:15 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - December 19, 2019 at 04:37 PM



“ 72 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - December 18, 2019 at 04:41 PM

BM

“ I remember tio Felipe from the time's my mom and dad would take us to there house party .that titi had for New years and Christmas. Thous were the Good old days. We are going to miss his smile and jokes and kindness. We send our condolences. We will keep you in our prayers

Brenda mercado - December 16, 2019 at 10:28 AM

PE

“ Tio Felipe was one of a kind. Whenever I would visit he would always greet me with a hug,kiss and a beautiful smile. He would brighten anyone's day. He stayed with a smile I never seen him mad at all...All I ever saw was that smile and his giggles. Tio you will definitely be missed. Prayers to my family.
Love and bless you all always,
Peggy and family...Xoxo

Peggy - December 16, 2019 at 09:43 AM

RO

“ Your father was one of my dad's best friends, honestly more like a brother! I will cherish the memories of the moments our families spent together many years ago from house parties to work picnics and everything in between. Felipe was everything you described happy, funny and yes his giggles were contagious!! Praying that you and your family feel God's comfort as he is laid to Rest In Peace for eternity.

Ramonita (Jimenez) Omaille - December 15, 2019 at 08:40 PM

LI

“ I too did not know your father but was moved by the loving tribute you wrote for him. He surely must have been a blessing to you all. May he Rest In Peace as you bask in his memory.
Linda

linda - December 15, 2019 at 02:05 PM

GM

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your father. I worked with Felipe for a few years at Penn National and he was one of the sweetest souls I have ever had the honor to meet and work with. My prayers are with you and your family. God Bless and I'm so sorry for your loss. Ginger

Ginger MacLaren - December 15, 2019 at 01:18 PM

EL

“ I don't know Felipe or your family, but I read the obituary in the Lancaster newspaper and was so moved by the kind words describing Felipe and his daughter and their family. Although I don't know you, I am thankful your family has one another and I wish you all peace and blessings in our Lord. I, too, am blessed with wonderful people in my family, and I think I was so moved by your words because you put on paper how I would feel if I lost one of those people. Thank you for your beautiful tribute, and God bless Felipe and his daughter, and Clotilde and all of you. He looked and sounded like a wonderfully kind man and I pray for you all.

Ellie - December 15, 2019 at 09:42 AM

MS

“ *Melissa Santiago sent a virtual gift in memory of Felipe R. Martinez*



melissa santiago - December 14, 2019 at 08:21 PM

MS

“ *I love this man with all my heart. He was such a fun soul to be around. He gave me the best advice ever. "Live your life for you who cares what people think" He was there for me in my hardest time of life and I appreciate the time he took to help me view my life differently. My kids adored him and so did I. I will miss our Thursday talks. I promise to take care of myself as you always reminded me to. Watch over us all for we know you are no longer suffering. Love you always Melissa*

melissa santiago - December 14, 2019 at 08:18 PM