



Hector F. Rivera

March 19, 2026

Hector F. Rivera, 85, of Lancaster, PA, recently residing in Savannah, GA, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 19, 2026, after battling vascular dementia. The son of the late Felipe Nery and Ramona Rivera, he was born in Lares, PR, on November 11, 1940.

Hector attended elementary school in Puerto Rico, leaving school at an early age to work in the sugar cane fields with his father. At eighteen years old, he moved to New York City, where he spent most of his time working at Mt. Sinai Hospital, earning a locksmith certification by correspondence course - a feat in itself, since he spoke limited English at the time. In The Bronx, he taught Sunday School at Iglesia Cristiana Juan 3:16, where he met Brigida "Santita" Miranda, who would become his wife on May 28, 1966.

The couple had three boys, and decided to raise them in Lancaster, PA, where they set up house in 1978. Hector worked many years at Grinnell Corporation in Columbia, PA, until he retired in 2006. He was a member of The First Spanish Assembly of God church, 626 South Duke Street, in Lancaster. Throughout his life, Hector focused on providing for his family and helping his neighbors. Whether it was building bikes for his boys, replacing engines or transmissions for his friends, or shoveling out his neighbors after a blizzard, there was always a smile on his face and love in his heart.

Hector joins his parents Felipe and Ramona, sisters Marina, Aurea, Ana, Magdalena, and Nilda as well as grandchildren Aydeliz, Elisabeth, and Gabriel in everlasting rest.

He is survived by his wife, Brigida; his sisters: Elba Portalatín and Agar Rodriguez and her husband, Salvador Gonzalez; his sons and their wives: Hector Rivera Jr. and Maribel Rivera, Ariel Rivera and Michelle Ayala-Rivera, and Michael Rivera and Wanny Gonzalez-Rivera; grandchildren: Adriana Marcelin and her husband, Daniel, Nathaniel Rivera, Karyna Sheaffer and her husband, Wayne, Samuel Rivera, Ezekiel Rivera, Matthias Rivera, Micaiah Rivera, and Elioenai Rivera; and his great-grandchildren: Anaiah, Noah, and Sofiah Marcelin, and Abraham Sheaffer.

Hector's family invites friends and family to join them in honoring him at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603, on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, with Visitation beginning at 2:00 p.m., and a Service at 3:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 31. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (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/>

Funeral Service

MAR 31. 3:00 PM (ET)

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528 W Orange St.
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Tribute Wall

SA

“ *Stephanie, Fatima & Ava purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Hector F. Rivera.*



Stephanie, Fatima & Ava - March 30 at 09:49 PM

MC

“ *Magdalena's children purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Hector F. Rivera.*



Magdalena's children - March 30 at 12:01 PM

MC

“ *Magdalena's children planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hector F. Rivera.*

Magdalena's children - March 30 at 12:01 PM

SM

“ *The Montgomery Family send our condolences and prayers during this time of sorrow to Mrs. Rivera, Hector, Ariel, Michael, and the entire family. We lived on the same block with the Rivera's for a long time and you all were always great neighbors. Although we have not seen you all in some time now, we always remember that Mr. Rivera was a great man of God who took care of Mrs. Rivera and his sons. He will never be forgotten. We pray God's comfort upon you all!!!!!!!!!!!!*

The Montgomery Family

Scheena Montgomery - March 26 at 09:42 AM

DR

“ *My condolences to my cousins, aunts and the rest of the family. Unfortunately I haven't been around my tio Felipe for years now. But, I always remember him with love. Tio was a hardworking, loving and wise man of God who always had a word to share. He was always smiling and like my grandparents (his mom n dad), my mom n the rest of the Rivera siblings he was also a funny man. My mom only had one brother and loved him (tio Felipe) so much. Though you'll be missed by many I know you just moved from Earth to Heaven with our family that went before you including mom (Nilda) that went only 2 weeks before you. Thank you for being a great uncle. I'll see u in Heaven tio. Te amo tio*

Diana Molina Rivera - March 25 at 11:29 PM

DJ

“ Thinking of you Ariel, and your family as you celebrate the beautiful life and memories of your father. May God fill your family with peace and strength during this difficult time.

"Death ends a life, not a relationship. All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there. You live on- in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here."
~ Mitch Albom

Damian & Yvette Rivera, Jr.

Damian Rivera, Jr. - March 25 at 01:08 PM

MV

“ Our sincere condolences to the Rivera family you are all in our thoughts and prayers Nilsa Pabon & Milta Vega

Milta Vega - March 24 at 08:39 PM

NB

“ Network Branch purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Hector F. Rivera.



Network Branch - March 24 at 07:50 PM

IA

“ hermano Héctor que descansen paz, le damos el pésame. A toda la familia a la hermana santita. A Héctor júnior. Ariel. Michael y a toda la familia hermano nos va a hacer mucha falta, pero nos veremos en el cielo. Fue una persona que conocí. lo conozco más de 50 años. El doy. Gracias a Dios por el privilegio. Le. Doy. Gracias a Dios por la familia Rivera

Ivan Acosta-Velez - March 23 at 07:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Hector F. Rivera.

March 23 at 06:23 PM

AR

“ How I will remember Tio Felipe. He was at my 5th grade graduation from P.S. 72 Elementary in the Bronx. He visited my teacher and gave her wise advice on how to get me to open up in class. He was at my wedding when Aileen and I were married in 1993.

As a kid growing up being raised by a single mother, his sister he always looked out for. I remember he and Tia picking me up so I can stay the weekend at their house and play with my cousins.

I would nickname him the book of Proverbs cause the man would drop some wisdom.

Whenever he was presence I felt safe, seen, encouraged, affirmed, and empowered.

This verse reminds me of Him.

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.”

Proverbs 18:10 NKJV

He was a safe and strong Lighthouse tower because Jesus lived in and through him.

I got a small taste of his impact when I worked at Grinnell's a very short time. Our coworkers revered him because of he shined the light and was a great testimony.

Thank you Tio for modeling Jesus for me. See you later in glory.

Andy Rodriguez - March 23 at 05:05 PM

AR

“ *My dad was always handy. Our first bikes were homemade from frames he got at second-hand shops. Taught me to ride, holding onto the seat till he was sure I was ok on my own.*

Although sad right now, I'm filled with hope, knowing that we will be reunited one day in glory.

I love you, Pop.

Ariel Rivera - March 23 at 01:26 PM

JN

My only uncle Felipe on my mom side of the family you are so loved by many and you will be tremendously missed a man of God who always had a beautiful smile on your face a man who would never have hurt a fly an awesome uncle with a big heart say hello to my Mom and dad for me tell them I miss them tremendously love you your niece tita R.I.P te amo tio Felipe

Juanita Blanco I am his niece - March 23 at 04:53 PM