



Rafael A. "Rafe" Mendez

OCT 31, 1950 - AUG 25, 2019



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FUNERAL & CREMATION CENTER

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Rafael A. "Rafe" Mendez

OCT 31, 1950 - AUG 25, 2019

Rafael A. "Rafe" Mendez, age 68, of Lorain, passed away suddenly of an apparent heart attack, on Sunday, August 25, 2019.

He was born on October 31, 1950 in Utuado, PR and moved to Lorain in 1953, where he resided for the rest of his life.

Rafe graduated from Admiral King High School in 1968. He served as a United States Army Medic in Korea during the Vietnam War. When he returned to Lorain after the war, he went to work for US Steel and the Lake Terminal Railroad before becoming a fireman for the City of Lorain. His career as a fireman lasted 33 years before retiring in 2008.

Rafe was an avid baseball, softball, and basketball player. He enjoyed reading, riding bikes, gazing at the stars and watching a beautiful sunset. He liked planting, caring for, and nurturing his plants and flowers that he took pride in, and he will always be known for having the capability of making everyone laugh. Traveling with his wife was always something he looked forward to, especially to Puerto Rico and Hilton Head Island, where he easily made so many friends over the years. They were fortunate to travel to many destinations together and see many places.

Rafe will be dearly missed by his beloved wife of 20 years, Sue (nee Burgett), who he met at the Lorain Fire Department. He is also survived by his daughter, Melissa Monique (Josh) Dotson, of Lorain, son, Ray (Melissa) Mendez, of Berlin Heights, his sisters; Olga (Mark Pettersen) Williams, of Bryant, Arkansas, Maria Evelyn (Steve) Mathess, of Columbia Station, Enith (Jim) Workman, of Vermilion, granddaughters; Makayla & Ava Dotson, and Leigha & Hannah Mendez, father-in-law, Robert "Bob" Burgett, of Lorain, brother-in-law, Bob (Barbara) Burgett, of Powell, OH, sister-in-law, Jan Walsh, of Elyria, and many uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and of course his grand-dog, Luke.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Francisco "Pancho" Mendez Montalvo and



Obituary

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Rosa America Mendez, and his mother-in-law, Millie Burgett.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 29, 2019 from 4:00 pm until the time of his memorial service at 7:15 pm, at the Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center, 1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst. Rev. Gilbert Silva, Pastor of the House of Praise International Church, Lorain, will officiate. A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, August 30, 2019 at Sacred Heart Chapel, 4301 Pearl Avenue, Lorain, at 9:00 am. The Rev. Fr. William Thaden, Pastor, will officiate.

Contributions, in Rafe's memory, are suggested to be made to The Lorain County Metro Parks, (specifically for Lakeview Beach and Lakeview Park), 12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, Ohio 44050, or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

To send an online condolence, please go to www.dovinreberjones.com.



Events

Rafael A. "Rafe" Mendez

OCT 31, 1950 - AUG 25, 2019

Visitation

Thursday, August 29, 2019

4:00 PM - 7:15 PM ET

Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center

1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst OH 44001



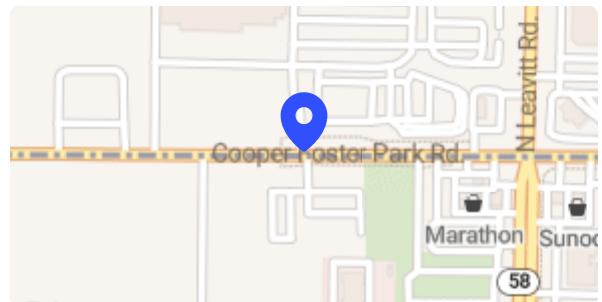
Prayer Service

Thursday, August 29, 2019

7:15 PM ET

Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center

1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst OH 44001



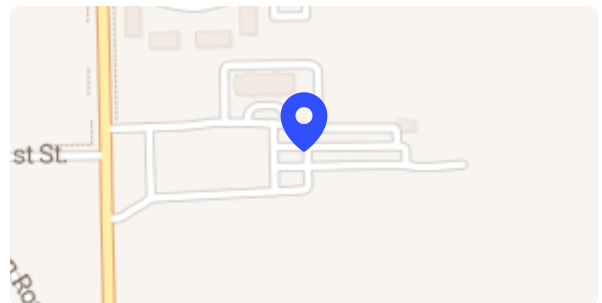
Mass of Christian Burial

Friday, August 30, 2019

9:00 AM ET

Sacred Heart Chapel

4301 Pearl Ave., Lorain OH 44055





Tribute Wall

Rafael A. "Rafe" Mendez

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Louie Morales lit a candle in honor of Rafael.
RIP my friend ..God is waiting to embrace you ..

August 31 at 3:00 AM



The Pullins Family Chuck, Carol, Josh & Kara sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Mendez family.

August 29 at 11:10 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Mendez family.

August 29 at 10:44 AM



Bob Burgett shared a photo to the **Rafe Over the Years** album.

August 29 at 6:02 AM



Bob Burgett shared 6 photos to the **Rafe Over the Years** album.

August 26 at 5:26 PM



Starr Orsen posted:

So sorry Sue. He will truly be missed by everyone down here. I will always remember laughing with you both. Hope to see you sometime in the future. Love, Starr Orsen

August 28 at 10:12 AM



Tribute Wall

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JM

Jackie Mate posted:

With deepest sympathy and condolences, to Sue and family. God Bless from Jackie Mate (Ron deceased))

August 28 at 5:46 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Mendez family.



August 28 at 5:41 AM

BW

Brandy Woodrum posted:

Cedar point and Haunted houses....so glad I knew my best friends cool fireman Dad and that I got to spend so many good times with them growing up! He was so funny and I just remember laughing with them.... Rest In Peace ❤️ Brandy

August 28 at 5:19 AM

JC

Jim And Claudia sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Mendez family.



August 28 at 2:59 AM

DF

David And Alondra Flores lit a candle in honor of Rafael.

It was a pleasure to know Rafael for over 60 years, But I will cherish the last four years, when he was rooting the girls on at our Softball games, Rest in peace Rafael we will miss you.



August 27 at 3:16 PM

NC

Nancy Cordero posted:

My deepest condolences to his wife & entire family. He was a neighbor from years ago & a friend, who was always very personable & kind. RIP Tato.

August 27 at 1:14 PM



Tribute Wall

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Sheila Mendez posted:

We are so sorry for your loss. We will be praying for you. Jose, Sheila and Emily Mendez

August 27 at 10:26 AM



Bob=Linda Stack posted:

Prayers sorry for your loss. RIP brother

August 27 at 1:26 AM



Robert Hendershot August 27 at 5:47 AM

Sorry for your loss Sue, Rafe was one of the best!



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Mendez family.

August 26 at 5:26 PM



FLORIST CHOICE BOUQUET



Media

Rafael A. "Rafe" Mendez

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Bob Burgett shared a photo to the **Rafe Over the Years** album.

August 29 at 6:02 AM



12/25/2012



Bob Burgett shared 6 photos to the **Rafe Over the Years** album.

August 28 at 2:33 PM



Bob Burgett August 29 at 5:51 AM
December 25, 2015



Media

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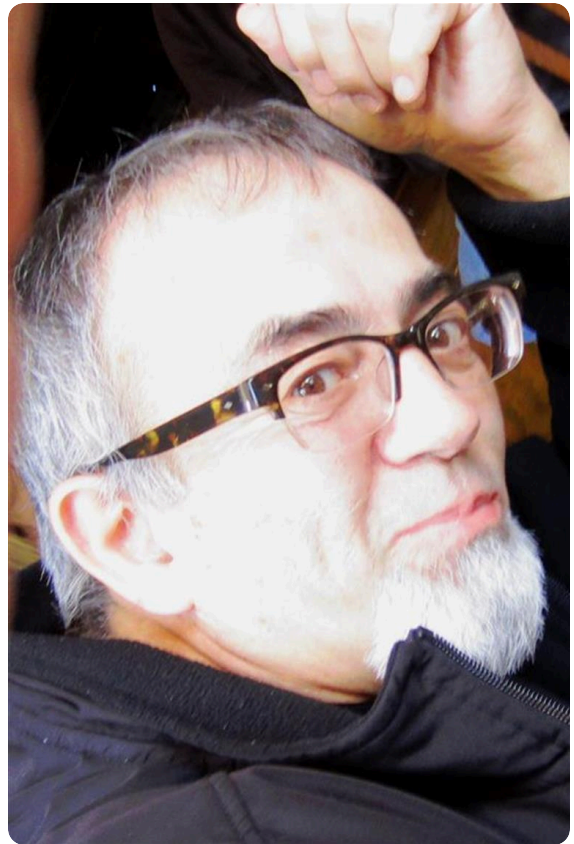
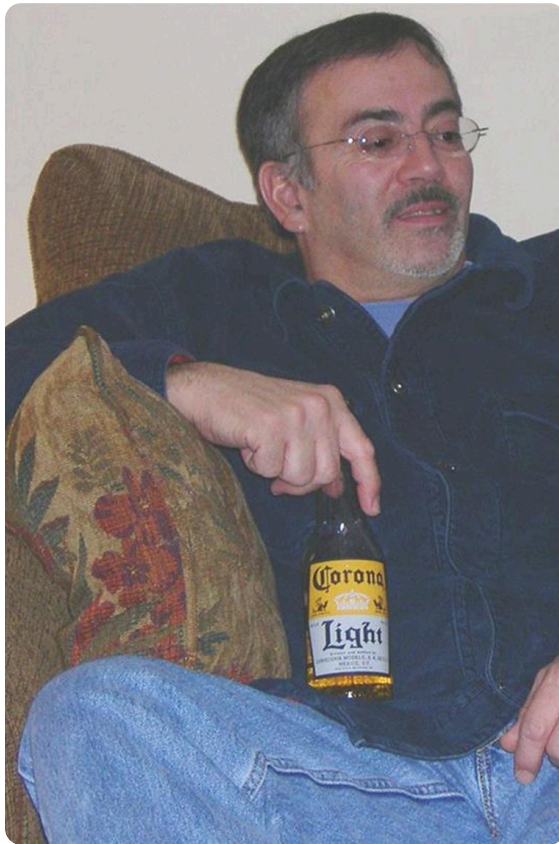




Media

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Rafael by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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