



Raul Torres

February 23, 1941 - December 19, 2020

Stoic, pristinely dressed, and generous are all ways we would describe our husband, father, grandfather, brother and loved one- Raul "Ralph" Torres. Ralph passed somewhat suddenly on December 19th, 2020 at Virtua Hospital in Marlton, New Jersey. He will be lovingly missed and remembered by his wife, Arlene, sisters Margie and Nereida, sons Vince, Richie, Pete, daughters Margie and Sandy, grandsons Silas, Jacob, Michael, Christopher, Caleb, Angelo, Jonathan, and Joshua, granddaughters Samantha and Felicia, Ashley, Jasmine, great-granddaughter Sailor and his daughters-in-law and son in law, countless cousins, nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Ralph was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico and spent most of his childhood living in the flower district in Chelsea, New York. Even as a young child, Ralph was an entrepreneur and spent his days finding ways to buy and sell goods to make money for his family. Living in the flower district, he would often sell carnations for holidays like Mother's Day and bring joy to his community while also providing for his family. He was always a gentleman and would bring home bouquets of flowers for his mother and sisters. Ralph sold milk and newspapers, shined shoes... there was nothing he wouldn't do for his family. He was a true family man from day one. Although Ralph didn't have an easy childhood, some of the best memories of him include bringing in every stray dog in the neighborhood (despite his mother and sister's dismay), singing baritone and harmonizing with all of the neighborhood kids on his stoop, trips to Katz Deli and running around Coney Island all summer long playing all of the games and riding the amusements.

Ralph went on to graduate high school as a tradesman with a specialty in cabinetry. He was a hard worker, a skilled entrepreneur and he always had his hands in something new. Outside of his work, Ralph was first and foremost a family man. He loved spending time with his oldest children Sandy, Pete, Richie and Margie. The kids would always cling to his

legs when he got home from work. He will be remembered as a father who always taught them that giving is better than receiving. One Easter, Ralph was found making Easter baskets for the neighbor's children to teach them how to live with a generous heart. Ralph always loved to dance and enjoyed sharing that with his kids along with teaching them how to fish and ride a bike.

On November 7th, 1986, Ralph married the love of his life, Arlene Mertz. They always loved going dancing, the casinos and yard-saling together. Shortly after they welcomed Ralph's youngest son, Vincent. As a family, they always enjoyed vacationing together to places like Texas, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Florida, Chicago- Ralph loved warm weather so anywhere tropical was always his favorite destination. Riding bikes in Virginia Beach is a memory that his family will always hold onto. Ralph was a jack of all trades and spent a lot of Vince's childhood teaching him how to do woodworking, use tools, repair things and how to run a business. Ralph loved to build things and he and Vince would build and fly model rockets together at the high school- they lost many rockets on the roof and had a lot of laughs together. Ralph was a dedicated father who loved his children very much and would do anything for them.

The Ralph we know now was a simple man. A good pastrami and rye from Kibitz, Sunday's newspaper with all of the yard sale listings and an action packed TV show on Showtime and a pay for view boxing match is all he needed to be happy. Ralph was always pristinely dressed (he even ironed his jeans) no matter what, he loved jewelry and watches and his favorite thing was going out to dinner. The most important thing to remember about Ralph is how generous of a man he was. If you met Ralph, he likely offered you the shirt off of his back. If you said no, he would offer again and give it to you anyway. He loved doing for others and always put himself last and his family, friends and even strangers first. We lost our patriarch, our husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, friend and he will be missed by many. We will never be whole again nor would we want to be.

Funeral arrangements are private due to COVID-19. We hope to celebrate Ralph's life with friends and family when it is safe to do so in the future.

Comments



“ Ralph will be surely missed he was always there if you needed him for anything loved him very much Until we meet again love Gloria and Bob

Gloria Sciarillo - December 23, 2020 at 10:44 AM



“ Ralph was a generous and wonderful man. He will be greatly missed.

Regina Filippone Wilson - December 23, 2020 at 06:08 AM



“ Michelle Sanfilippo lit a candle in memory of Raul Torres



Michelle Sanfilippo - December 22, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ Uncle Ralph was the most sweetest genuine caring loving never judged just loved very quiet but always showing love and support if you ever needed anything my memories are so many but at any family event me and uncle Ralph be out front or hiding somewhere smoking our cigarettes yeah we knew it's not good but we did it just laughing and joking about anything in the mean time we ALL will miss you dearly we LOVE you your with God now and all our other loved ones watch over us as we watch over your family Rest In Peace till we meet again Luv u

Michelle Sanfilippo - December 22, 2020 at 09:56 PM



“ Uncle Ralph was a generous, kind, loving and all around great person. On Christmas Eve uncle Ralph would give out scratch offs, I never won but it was always fun. Just a small memory that will last a lifetime. We will miss him greatly. I know he will be watching over the family as our new guardian angel.

Nicole Webb - December 22, 2020 at 08:29 PM