



Jose M Alvarez

MAR 19, 1935 - FEB 17, 2023



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Jose Manuel Alvarez, 87, husband, father, son, brother, uncle, grandfather, bodeguero, contador, owner of the most mischievous smile, chismoso, all-around well-respected West Tampa legend, passed away on Friday, February 17th after a long-term illness. Jose, the oldest son of Jose Lauda Alvarez and Ramona Torres, was born on March 19, 1935 in Ciudad Camaguey, Cuba. He grew up on his parents' farm working with his 2 younger brothers Jorge (Pepe) and Julio (Neno). Although Jose also had a nickname, it shall not be mentioned in his obituary per his request. Every morning, Ramona cooked 3 dozen eggs for the boys, which most likely led to one of Jose's favorite sayings, "el que mas coma mas vive." Jose was a voracious eater, especially when it came to pork and flan.

As his schooling progressed, the local bus company operator, Pablo Vina, befriended the boys and aided Jose in getting access to a bus pass so he could attend accounting school in the city. Through Pablo's assistance, Jose graduated university with an accounting degree and worked as an accountant for several years. It was also through his relationship with Pablo that he found his lifelong friends, David Gonzalez and Alfredo Alfredo Ramentol and their spouses, sisters, Nilda and Nelva.

At the age of 24, Jose met Hortensia at the bus stop in front of Hortensia's parent's hotel in Camagüey and the three couples were complete. They wed on January 6, 1962. Their eldest child José Agustín was born in 1967.

Jose and his small family landed in the United States to begin a new life on April 24, 1970. He went to work the same day to learn how to be a butcher. In 1975, he and Hortensia welcomed a baby girl, Carmen (she was NOT found in a garbage can as is incorrectly claimed). On June 1, 1977, he and Hortensia purchased a grocery store called La Loma Market from its original proprietors who were retiring. In 1980, Jose, Hortensia and Jose finally achieved their goal of becoming US citizens.



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La Loma Market was open 7 days a week except for Christmas, New Year's and 4th of July and occupied much of Jose's time and energy. He's missing from many family photos, but the store was the center of his universe. He and Hortensia provided for their family through the store. He created a neighborhood bodega that was like home for so many and made so many others feel like extended family. His generosity created a sense of community and a safety net of support for so many regulars and neighborhood friends.

Jose worked hard, but also enjoyed time off with family and friends. He travelled to many dream destinations—Spain (especially Órense, Galicia to find the place his father was born), Paris, New York City, London and, of course, Las Vegas. In the early 2000s, he even travelled to Argentina to make the acquaintance of cousins he'd never met in person. Shockingly, even though he had an aversion to the water, he regularly took gambling cruises in the Atlantic.

Lest we not forget, he was a loyal Rays fan from the start.

In 1999 and 2001, Jose was blessed with his grandchildren, Jose David and Veronica Nicole. He was a proud grandfather who spoiled his grandchildren every chance he got. They were the apple of his eye.

At the age of 81, Jose FINALLY retired. Later that year, he was diagnosed with multiple medical conditions. Despite this, his zest for life never diminished. Hortensia lovingly dedicated her early retirement years to nursing Jose and beautifully cared for him as his condition deteriorated. Jose proudly remained at home in her care until his final days.

The family would like to express gratitude for the care he received from his core team of physicians: Dr. Jorge Gadea, his primary care physician he referred to as "El Rubio"; Dr. Efrain Albakri, his neurologist, who Jose loved to talk on FaceTime with; and finally, his nephrologist, Dr. Venkata Reddivari, who despite Jose constantly reminding the doctor that he had more hair than him during his visits, still made it a point to personally visit Jose in the ICU even when Dr. Reddivari wasn't his assigned nephrologist. The family also wanted to acknowledge the staff at Fresenius Kidney Care Town and Country that Jose visited for 3 hours 3 times a week. It was through their combined loving care that Jose was able to extend his life for several more quality years after his diagnosis.



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Jose leaves behind his wife, Hortensia, son and daughter, Jose and Carmen, her husband Darrell who didn't speak the language but always had an understanding with Jose), grandchildren, Jose and Veronica, step-grandchild, Dianna, as well as cabezón y cabezona, who will all miss him an immeasurable amount. They loved him fiercely and were blessed to have so many years and memories with him. He leaves a giant vacant hole in their hearts and will be so very missed. Jose was both a man and a myth. There is no equivalent. We will miss him dearly.

SPANISH TRANSLATION

José Manuel Álvarez, 87, esposo, padre, hijo, hermano, tío, abuelo, bodeguero, contador, dueño de la sonrisa más pícara, chismoso, respetada leyenda de West Tampa, falleció el viernes 17 de febrero luego de un enfermedad a largo plazo. José, el hijo mayor de José Lauda Álvarez y Ramona Torres, nació el 19 de marzo de 1935 en Ciudad Camagüey, Cuba. Creció en la finca de sus padres trabajando con sus 2 hermanos menores Jorge (Pepe) y Julio (Neno). Aunque José también tenía un apodo, no se mencionará en su obituario por su solicitud. Todas las mañanas, Ramona cocinaba 3 docenas de huevos para los niños, lo que probablemente llevó a uno de los dichos favoritos de José, "el que mas coma mas vive". José era un comilón voraz, especialmente cuando se trataba de carne de cerdo y flan.

A medida que avanzaba en sus estudios, el operador de la empresa de autobuses local, Pablo Vina, se hizo amigo de los niños y ayudó a José a obtener un pase de autobús para que pudiera asistir a la escuela de contabilidad en la ciudad. Con la ayuda de Pablo, José se graduó de la universidad con un título en contabilidad y trabajó como contador durante varios años. También fue a través de su relación con Pablo que encontró a sus amigos de toda la vida, David González y Alfredo Alfredo Ramentol y sus esposas, hermanas, Nilda y Nelva.

A la edad de 24 años, José conoció a Hortensia en la parada de autobús frente al hotel de los padres de Hortensia en Camagüey y las tres parejas estaban completas. Se casaron el 6 de enero de 1962. Su hijo mayor, José Agustín, nació en 1967.

José y su pequeña familia aterrizaron en Estados Unidos para comenzar una nueva vida el 24 de abril de 1970. Ese mismo día se fue a trabajar para aprender a ser carnicero. En 1975, él y Hortensia dieron la bienvenida a una niña, Carmen (NO fue encontrada en un bote de basura como se afirma incorrectamente). El 1 de junio de 1977, él y Hortensia compraron una tienda de comestibles llamada La Loma Market de sus propietarios originales que se jubilaban. En 1980,



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José, Hortensia y José finalmente lograron su objetivo de convertirse en ciudadanos estadounidenses.

El mercado de La Loma estaba abierto los 7 días de la semana, excepto en Navidad, Año Nuevo y el 4 de julio, y ocupaba gran parte del tiempo y la energía de José. Falta en muchas fotos familiares, pero la tienda era el centro de su universo. Él y Hortensia mantuvieron a su familia a través de la tienda. Creó una bodega en el vecindario que era como el hogar para muchos e hizo que muchos otros se sintieran como una familia extendida. Su generosidad creó un sentido de comunidad y una red de seguridad de apoyo para tantos clientes habituales y amigos del vecindario.

José trabajó duro, pero también disfrutó del tiempo libre con su familia y amigos. Viajó a muchos destinos de ensueño: España (especialmente Órense, Galicia para encontrar el lugar donde nació su padre), París, Nueva York, Londres y, por supuesto, Las Vegas. A principios de la década de 2000, incluso viajó a Argentina para conocer a primos que nunca había conocido en persona. Sorprendentemente, a pesar de que tenía aversión al agua, regularmente tomaba cruceros de juego en el Atlántico.

Para que no lo olvidemos, fue un fanático leal de los Rays desde el principio.

En 1999 y 2001, José fue bendecido con sus nietos, José David y Verónica Nicole. Era un abuelo orgulloso que mimaba a sus nietos cada vez que podía. Eran la niña de sus ojos.

A la edad de 81 años, José FINALMENTE se retiró. Más tarde ese año, le diagnosticaron múltiples afecciones médicas. A pesar de esto, su entusiasmo por la vida nunca disminuyó. Hortensia dedicó amorosamente sus años de jubilación anticipada a cuidar a José y lo cuidó maravillosamente mientras su condición se deterioraba. José orgullosamente permaneció en casa bajo su cuidado hasta sus últimos días.

La familia quisiera expresar su gratitud por la atención que recibió de su equipo principal de médicos: el Dr. Jorge Gadea, su médico de atención primaria al que se refirió como “El Rubio”; el Dr. Efraín Albakri, su neurólogo, con quien a José le encantaba hablar por FaceTime; y, finalmente, su nefrólogo, el Dr. Venkata Reddivari, quien a pesar de que José le recordaba constantemente al médico que tenía más cabello que él durante sus visitas, se aseguró de visitar personalmente a José en la UCI incluso cuando el Dr. Reddivari no era su nefrólogo asignado. La



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familia también quería agradecer al personal de Fresenius Kidney Care Town and Country que José visitó durante 3 horas 3 veces a la semana. Fue a través de su amoroso cuidado combinado que José pudo extender su vida por varios años más de calidad después de su diagnóstico.

José deja atrás a su esposa, Hortensia, hijo e hija, José y Carmen, su esposo Darrell, que no hablaba el idioma pero siempre se entendió con José), nietos, José y Verónica, nietastra, Dianna, así como cabezón y cabezona, quienes lo extrañarán muchísimo. Lo amaban ferozmente y fueron bendecidos por tener tantos años y recuerdos con él. Él deja un enorme vacío en sus corazones y será muy extrañado. José era a la vez un hombre y un mito. No hay equivalente. Lo vamos a extrañar mucho.



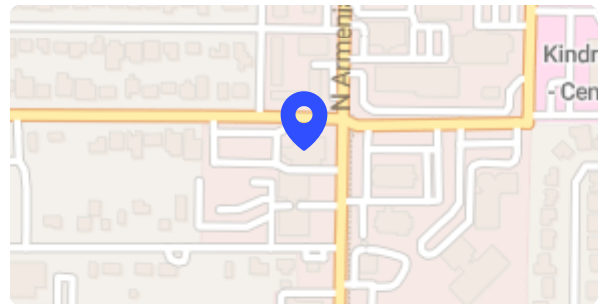
Events

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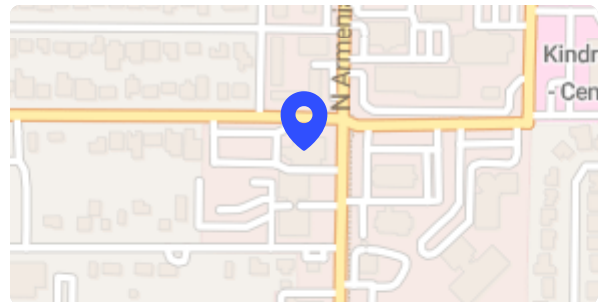
Visitation

- Thursday**, February 23, 2023
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM ET
- Boza and Roel Funeral Home**
4730 North Armenia Avenue, Tampa FL 33603



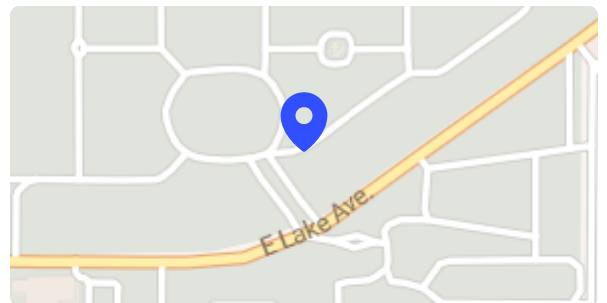
Funeral Service

- Thursday**, February 23, 2023
- 11:30 AM ET
- Boza & Roel Funeral Home**
4730 North Armenia Avenue, Tampa FL 33603



Cemetery Details

- Garden of Memories Cemetery**
4207 E. Lake Ave, Tampa FL





Tribute Wall

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Boza & Roel Funeral Home shared a **Video**.



February 22 at 12:54 PM



Ida Pagan lit a candle in honor of Jose.

My deepest condolences to the family. Jose was such a loving and caring person. Knowing him my entire life, visiting La Loma with my dad Agustin. Hearing them talk baseball and boxing as he prepped our palomilla steaks (as he would say, "los primeros bistec de palomilla que comio esta niña, se los despache yo"). Doing the same for my own daughter. Myself and my family were blessed to have known him and will forever keep him in our hearts. Prayers and love to all of you. -Ida Corrales Pagan



February 28 at 7:15 AM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Alvarez family.



February 22 at 9:05 AM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Alvarez family.



February 22 at 7:09 AM



Martha G. lit a candle in honor of Jose.

Martha G. lit a candle in memory of Jose Alvarez



February 22 at 5:46 AM



Tribute Wall

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Martha G. posted:

Jose will forever be remember for the grand heart he had. He was ALWAYS willing to help someone. May you rest in peace.

February 22 at 5:39 AM



Carmen Alvarez February 25 at 12:48 PM

Martha, thank you so much for everything you did for him over the years. He appreciated your kindness and friendship.



Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Alvarez family.

February 21 at 8:24 PM



Adys Fernandez lit a candle in honor of Jose.

Adys Fernandez lit a candle in memory of Jose Alvarez

February 21 at 7:19 PM



Adys Fernandez lit a candle in honor of Jose.

Adys Fernandez lit a candle in memory of Jose Alvarez

February 21 at 7:09 PM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Alvarez family.

February 21 at 11:13 AM





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Anonymous sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Alvarez family.



February 21 at 5:26 AM



Anonymous sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Alvarez family.



February 21 at 4:44 AM



Lopez Rivero Family sent a Divine Light to the Alvarez family.



February 20 at 6:38 PM



Media

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Boza & Roel Funeral Home shared a **Video**.

February 22 at 12:54 PM



In Loving Memory
Jose M Alvarez
1935 - 2023



Memories only last if you share them

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



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