



## Ismael Martinez

September 9, 1924 - November 21, 2020

Martinez, Ismael "Ish"

Was peacefully called home November 21, 2020, at age 96, surrounded by his family and in the loving care of Lifepath hospice. Ish was born on September 9, 1924 in Camuy, Puerto Rico. He honorably served his country in the Army during WWII. He then attended Washington University in St. Louis and there is where he met the "love of his life." They were wed in 1951 in Tampa, Florida where he then made his home. Ish continued his education in Tampa and received his Biology degree from the University of Tampa in 1961. He then began his career as an educator At H. B. Plant High school. He was department head of Science and taught Human Anatomy and Physiology. He was well known by his students and faculty for his incredible passion and sense of humor. While teaching at Plant High he furthered his education by earning his Masters Degree in Education from USF. After a long, prestigious career in education he finally retired. He then began his new job as "Abuelo." Giving, caring and compassionate he found the most joy in his faith and family. His legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone he touched. He is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Onelia "Nellie" ;son Kenneth (Dawn); daughter Yvette (Morris); and grandchildren Jessika and Alexis Martinez and Nicolas, Danielle and Courtney Lopez . A Celebration of Life will be held in his honor and take place at Boza & Roel Funeral Home, 4730 North Armenia Ave. November 28, 2020 from 12-2pm. Interment to follow at Centro Asturiano cemetery.

# Cemetery

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## Centro Asturiano Memorial Park

5400 E. Martin Luther King Blvd  
Tampa, FL, 33610

# Events

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**NOV 28** **Visitation** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

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Boza & Roel Funeral Home  
4730 North Armenia Avenue, Tampa, FL, US,  
33603

**NOV 28** **Funeral Service** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

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Boza & Roel Funeral Home  
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**NOV 28** **Burial** 03:00PM

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Centro Asturiano Memorial Park  
5400 E. Martin Luther King Blvd, Tampa, FL, US,  
33610

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Boza & Roel Funeral Home** - November 25, 2020 at 01:35 PM

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“ You will be missed . Sending love from the Martinez family in Sweden. I Love you much Unc! Sending all my love to the famz. wish I could be there..



**Richard Martinez** - November 26, 2020 at 04:53 PM

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“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



**Dawn Martinez** - November 25, 2020 at 05:28 PM

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“ 17 files added to the album Memories Album



**Dawn Martinez** - November 25, 2020 at 04:55 PM

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“ Ish was my favorite teacher at PHS! I later was so delighted to intern with him while receiving my Masters in Counseling degree. I loved the gentle way he dealt with students and made them all feel so cared for. I was a Counselor in Hillsborough Co. for 23 years because of his great example. Rest In Peace Ish. Prayers for his family. He was loved by many.

**Jackie Gardner** - November 25, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ Mr. Martinez was not only my favorite teacher, he was the best teacher I ever had. His love for students and also his subject matter made him such an appealing and effective teacher. I went on to become a teacher and principal, and so many times in those roles, I thought back on the example he set for everyone lucky enough to know him. Rest in peace, Mr. Martinez.

Sylvia Greco Hastings

**Sylvia Hastings** - December 08, 2020 at 03:07 PM

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“ I am very sorry to hear that Mr. Martinez has passed away. I was one of his students at Plant High School. I loved his class. Mr. Martinez was a terrific teacher. I often tell my grandchildren about his class in dissection, they get a laugh about it. It is often said that if we are lucky we have a teacher in our lifetime that makes an impression on us. Mr. Martinez was that teacher for me. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

**Jan Bradley** - November 25, 2020 at 09:06 AM

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“ As a young teacher beginning my career at HB Plant in 1977, Ish became a mentor and a friend. He was unsurpassed in his ability to reach teenagers, and his warmth and kindness were legendary. He will be missed. Ann M. Sumner

**Ann Sumner** - November 25, 2020 at 06:37 AM



“ I was his student assistant for all my years at Plant. 1962-65. He was an inspiration to me and I became a teacher I taught his daughter Yvette at HHS. That was a surprise. He was a wonderful man and i will never forget him. R I P.

**Amelia Lubrano** - November 24, 2020 at 07:48 PM

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“ Mr. Martinez touched the lives of so many students at Plant High School. We have many happy memories of him even after all these years. Condolences and thanks to his family for sharing him with all of us.  
Debba Dulin Ely, PHS Class of 67

**Debba Ely** - November 24, 2020 at 05:02 PM

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“ Me. Martinez was a favorite teacher to all. Reading the memories, it looks like he not only taught Physiology, he was then a guidance counselor and an assistant principal. He live a long and fulfilling life!

**Marcie Freed-Williams** - November 24, 2020 at 02:21 PM

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“ You were definetly one of my favorite teachers.i affectionetly refered to you as uncle Ish.RIP

**Sandy Fazio** - November 24, 2020 at 01:57 PM

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“ You are one of my favorite teachers at Plant High School.  
I'm Class of 1971.

**Paul D. Harvill** - November 24, 2020 at 02:03 AM

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“ I remember Mr. Martinez very well when I worked at Plant High School 1982-1988 as an assistant principal. Mr. Martinez was the guidance counselor and he was so kind, helpful and totally patient-centered. I knew that if a student needed assistance, he was always ready to help, and I greatly appreciated him for this and so much more. Mr. Martinez was the ultimate gentleman! No doubt he will be missed by his family and friends, and for all those students he helped in his career, they know what a difference he made in their lives. May he rest in peace!

**Dr. Sylvia C. Albritton** - November 23, 2020 at 09:02 PM

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“ Mr. Martinez was my wonderful biology teacher at Plant HS in 1963. His class motivated me to study biology in college. As a result, I also became a teacher, teaching biology for 43 years. His spirit lives on in all the students like me who were inspired by his teaching.

**Carmen Spoto Austin** - November 23, 2020 at 08:50 PM

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“ Greatest teacher I ever had.

Fernando

**Fernando Posada** - November 23, 2020 at 08:47 PM

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“ There are only a handful of teachers that I vividly remember over all the years I went through school and graduate school and law school. Lots and lots of teachers over those years!! I do not remember any class that I loved more than the time I spent in Mr. Martinez's classes. Amazing how an educator can stick with you throughout your life if they love what they are doing and they love seeing kids learn. He was an amazing guy. RIP

**steve wertz** - November 23, 2020 at 08:33 PM

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“ I'm so sad to hear of Ish's passing. He was the coolest physiology teacher ever! I had a blast being his assistant at Plant. He was truly loved by all his students. My sincere condolences to his family, esp. to my sons "set" mom, Yvette. May he rest in eternal peace.

**C.C. Caro Ruth** - November 23, 2020 at 08:15 PM

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“ Mr. Martinez was by far one of the best teachers I had at Plant High School. I had him for Biology in 64/65. His Biology class was never boring. He had a knack for always making the class interesting and never boring. Everyone loved him and he was respected by all.  
My heartfelt condolences and prayers extended to his family and friends.

**George Haslam** - November 23, 2020 at 07:31 PM



“ I'll be looking for the little old man at the corner of Vasquez and Dale Mabry  
Rip good man  
Bob Duffy1969

**Bob Duffy** - November 24, 2020 at 08:59 AM

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“ The best teacher ever! He taught us about life in general. Blessings to his family!  
Janet Morgan Mistretta PHS Class 1967!

**Janet Morgan Mistretta** - November 23, 2020 at 07:12 PM