



## Miguel E. Rodriguez Cardenas

September 26, 1959 - May 29, 2025

Miguel Efraín Rodríguez Cárdenas, amado esposo, hijo y hermano, falleció en paz el jueves 29 de mayo a las 4:17 p.m., a la edad de 65 años. Todos los que conocieron a Miguel recordarán a un hombre educado, inteligente, divertido y cariñoso. El dedicó su vida a su trabajo y al amor de su vida, su esposa Maria Cecilia Rivera Rodriguez, con quien compartió 42 años de matrimonio. Muchos que lo conocieron lo llamaban Nene con mucho cariño.

Nacido en Cali, Colombia en 1959, Miguel tenía una gran pasión por la educación y por entender cómo funcionaban las cosas. Estudió ingeniería mecánica y se graduó de la Universidad del Valle en Cali en 1981. Se casó con Maria Cecilia Rivera en 1982 y, en 1983, tomaron la decisión de emigrar a los Estados Unidos, donde continuó enfocado en sus estudios. Primero en Brookdale Community College, donde estudió inglés y ciencias de la computación, y luego en Monmouth University, donde obtuvo su maestría en Ingeniería de Software.

Miguel aprovechó al máximo su educación trabajando en Telcordia Technologies (AT&T) en Piscataway, NJ como ingeniero de software durante 20 años. Queriendo compartir su pasión por la educación, Miguel decidió obtener su certificación como maestro y se convirtió en profesor de matemáticas en Brookdale Community College, Union College, Kean University, Lakewood High School y, finalmente, en Plainfield High School,

donde concluyó su carrera.

Además de su amor por la educación, Miguel tenía una gran pasión de por el fútbol. Era un fanático del equipo Colombiano, Deportivo Cali. También amaba la música. En las fiestas familiares siempre se le podía escuchar su voz profunda y fuerte cantando boleros, cumbias y clásicos de salsa de Celia Cruz y El Grupo Niche. Le encantaba contar chistes y ser chistoso, especialmente con su cuñado Jairo Garcia. Siempre se podía contar con ellos para hacer reír a todos.

Miguel amaba las reuniones familiares y las fiestas. Era muy unido a la familia de Cecilia y la consideraba como propia. Siempre estuvo presente para su suegra Sofía, sus cuñadas, cuñados, sobrinos y sobrinas. Le gustaba caminar en el parque con Cecilia y sus “bebés” de cuatro patas, sus Bichon Frisé: Mechas, Lino y, más recientemente, Toby.

La vida de Miguel fue un testimonio de amor, educación y dedicación. Será profundamente extrañado pero recordado por su familia y por todos que tuvieron el privilegio de conocerlo.

Le precedieron en la muerte su padre Miguel Rodríguez Sr., su madre Marina Rodríguez y sus hermanos Jairo y Daniel Rodríguez. Le sobrevive su esposa por 42 años, Maria Cecilia Rodríguez.

Una misa de celebración de la vida de Miguel sera el viernes 6 de junio a las 11 a.m. en la Iglesia de San Antonio de Padua ubicada en 124 Chestnut St, Red Bank, Nueva Jersey.

## English

Miguel Efrain Rodriguez Cardenas, beloved husband, son, and brother, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 29th at 4:17pm, at the age of 65. All who knew Miguel will remember an educated, intelligent, funny and loving man who dedicated his life to his work and to the love of his life, his wife Cecilia Rodriguez who he shared 42 years of marriage. Many of the people who knew him would call him lovingly by his nickname Nene.

Born in Cali, Colombia in 1959 Miguel had a passion for education and learning how things worked. He studied mechanical engineering and graduated from the Universidad del Valle in Cali in 1981. He married his wife Cecilia in 1982 and in 1983 they made the decision to immigrate to the United States where he continued to focus on his studies. First at Brookdale University where he studied English and Computer Science and then finally at Monmouth University where he earned his master's degree in software engineering.

Miguel used his education to the fullest at Telcordia Technologies (AT&T) in Piscataway where he worked as a software engineer for 20yrs. Looking to share his passion for education Miguel decided to obtain his teacher certification and became a professor of mathematics at Brookdale Community College, Union College, Kean University, Lakewood high school, and finally Plainfield high school where he ended his career.

In addition to education Miguel had a lifelong passion for soccer. He was a supporter of the Colombian team, Deportivo Cali. Miguel also loved music. At family parties you could always hear him with his deep loud voice singing boleros, cumbias, and salsa classics from Celia Cruz and El Grupo Niche.

He also loved to tell jokes and be silly (chistoso) especially with brother-in-law Jairo. You could always count on them to make you laugh.

Miguel loved family gatherings and parties. He became very close to Cecilia's family and considered it his own. He was always there for his mother-in-law Sofia, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nephews and nieces. He liked long walks with Cecilia and his four-legged Bichon Frise "babies" Mechas, Lino, and most recently Toby.

Miguel's life was a testament to love, education, and dedication. He will be deeply missed but forever remembered by his family and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is predeceased by his father Miguel Rodriguez Sr., mother Marina Rodriguez, and his brothers Jairo and Daniel Rodriguez. He is survived by his wife of 42 years Cecilia Rodriguez.

A church mass in celebration of Miguel's life will be held on Friday, June 6th at 11am at The Church of St. Anthony of Padua located at 124 Chestnut St, Red Bank, NJ.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

JUN 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Anthony of Padua-Red Bank  
121 Bridge Avenue  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

# Tribute Wall

JU

“ *Julietica purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Miguel E. Rodriguez Cardenas.* ”



---

**Julietica** - June 04, 2025 at 03:11 PM

CG

“ *Que Dios te abra las puertas del cielo, excelente ser humano, maravillosa personas, que tus recuerdos vivan en nuestros corazones, deseo mucha paz para MACECI.* ”



---

**Cindy Gomez** - June 02, 2025 at 06:44 PM

BJ

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Miguel E. Rodriguez Cardenas* ”



---

**Bongarzone Funeral Home** - May 31, 2025 at 05:39 AM