



Rafael Hernandez

January 7, 2024

Rafael Hernández, de 65 años, residente en Milwaukee, Wisconsin, falleció el 7 de enero de 2024 después de luchar contra cáncer terminal durante casi un año.

Rafael nació en Palos Altos, Jalisco, México, el 28 de Febrero de 1958, sin embargo, fue registrado legalmente en Ixtlahuacan del Río con una fecha de nacimiento del 3 de Marzo de 1958. Era una broma interna que teníamos que celebrar su cumpleaños los dos días. Era el hijo de Ma. Trinidad Morales Sánchez y Pedro Hernández Pérez.

En 2008, Rafael se casó con su esposa María Guadalupe Tejeda Barcenas en Guadalajara, Jalisco, México, y permaneció felizmente casado hasta la fecha de su muerte.

A Rafael le sobreviven sus tres hijos con su primera esposa Guadalupe Heredia: Cecilia Espitia (esposo Oscar Espitia), Cristina Castillo (esposo Jesús Castillo), y Rafael Hernández, Jr. (esposa Rockel Hernández), y sus tres hijos con su segunda esposa Cristina González: Job David Hernández (esposa Jaqueline Pinto), Marlene Hernández y Christian Hernández (esposa Miriam Hernández). Rafael amaba mucho a sus 6 hijos.

Rafael tenía 12 nietos que lo amaban profundamente, Itzel, Alejandra, Ishmael, Sahid, Aliha, Jade, Izack, Daniel, Allison, Jared, Leo y Jillian. Además de 4 bisnietos, Elías, Adelina, René y Gael. Su mayor alegría era jugar con los niños y hacer reír a todos.

El nivel más alto de educación de Rafael fue la escuela secundaria debido a las luchas económicas de su infancia, sin embargo, era conocido por ser siempre el hombre más trabajador. Era un hombre de muchas habilidades, pero tomó un curso de soldadura en su adolescencia que finalmente lo llevó a conseguir un trabajo en Argo Industries, donde trabajó como soldador durante más de 20 años.

En 2020, Rafael se retiró y se mudó de nuevo a su ciudad natal en Palos Altos, Jalisco, México, donde disfrutaba ir a la playa, ir a nadar, cuidar de su cosecha, plantar árboles

frutales en su patio trasero, hacerle arreglos a su casa y pasar tiempo con su esposa y su familia.

A principios del 2023, regresó a Milwaukee, Wisconsin, solo para descubrir que tenía cáncer de pulmón y huesos en etapa 4. Durante ese año, se sometió a cuatro cirugías, numerosos tratamientos de radiación y varios tratamientos de quimioterapia, inmunoterapia y ensayos clínicos para combatir el cáncer que consumía su cuerpo. Rafael era un luchador, siempre tenía la esperanza de que mejoraría y esa esperanza lo mantuvo fuerte independientemente del dolor y el sufrimiento que soportó durante el proceso. Su familia y sus ganas de vivir fueron sus mayores motivadores para seguir luchando. Desafortunadamente, su pelea terminó cuando tomó su último aliento el 7 de Enero del 2024.

Incluso durante los tiempos más difíciles de su enfermedad, Rafael era un bromista. Siempre tenía algo divertido que hacer o decir. Rafael tocó la vida de muchos; era una persona que realmente disfrutaba ayudar a los demás en circunstancias difíciles porque él mismo entendía las luchas. Rafael fue un verdadero apoyo para muchos, un ser humano sin interés propio, un padre amoroso, un marido, un abuelo, un bisabuelo, un hermano, un tío, un primo y un amigo que extrañaremos y recordaremos siempre.

Rafael Hernandez, 65, residing in Milwaukee, WI, passed away on January 7th, 2024 after battling terminal cancer for almost one year.

Rafael was born in Palos Altos, Jalisco, Mexico on February 28th, 1958, however, he was legally registered in Ixtlahuacan del Rio with a birth date of March 3rd, 1958. It was be an inside joke that we had to celebrate his birthday on both days. He was son to Ma. Trinidad Morales Sanchez and Pedro Hernandez Perez.

In 2008, Rafael married his wife Maria Guadalupe Tejeda Barcenas in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico and remained happily married until the date of his death.

Rafael is survived by his three children with first wife Guadalupe Heredia: Cecilia Espitia (husband Oscar Espitia), Cristina Castillo (husband Jesus Castillo), and Rafael Hernandez, Jr. (wife Rockel Hernandez), and his three children with second wife Cristina Gonzalez: Job David Hernandez (wife Jaqueline Pinto), Marlene Hernandez, and Christian Hernandez (wife Miriam Hernandez). Rafael loved all 6 of his children dearly.

Rafael had 12 grandchildren who loved him deeply, Itzel, Alejandra, Ishmael, Sahid, Aliha, Jade, Izack, Daniel, Allison, Jared, Leo, and Jillian. In addition to 4 great-grandchildren, Elias, Adelina, Rene, and Gael. His biggest joy was playing with the kids and making everyone laugh.

Rafael's highest level of education was middle school due to the economic struggles in his childhood, however, he was known for always being the hardest working man in the room. He was a man of many skills but took a welding course in his teen years that eventually landed him on a job at Argo Industries where he worked as a welder for over 20 years.

In 2020, Rafael retired and moved back to his home town in Palos Altos, Jalisco, Mexico where he enjoyed going to the beach, going swimming, taking care of his harvest, planting fruit trees in his back yard, fixing up his home, and spending time with his wife and family.

In early 2023, he returned to Milwaukee, Wisconsin only to find out he had stage 4 lung and bone cancer. Within that year, he underwent four surgeries, numerous radiation treatments, and several chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and clinical trial treatments to fight the cancer consuming his body. Rafael was a fighter; he was always hopeful that he would get better and that hope kept him going regardless of the pain and suffering he endured in the process. His family and eagerness to live were his biggest motivators to continue fighting. Unfortunately, his fight was over when he took his last breath on January 7th, 2024.

Even during the difficult times of sickness, Rafael was a jokester. He always had something funny to do or say. Rafael touched the lives of many; he was the person who enjoyed helping others under struggling circumstances because he understood the struggles himself. Rafael was a true giver, a selfless human being, a loving father, husband, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend who will be deeply missed and always remembered.

Visitation Monday, January 15 at the Rozga-Walloch Funeral Home from 12:00 - 3:00 PM followed by Funeral Service at 3:00 PM.

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services

Rozga- Walloch Chapel

4309 S. 20th St. Milwaukee, WI 53221

(414) 281-7145

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 15. 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Rozga-Walloch Chapel
4309 South 20th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221
(414) 281-7145
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 15. 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM (CT)

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services - Rozga-Walloch Chapel
4309 South 20th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221
(414) 281-7145
<https://www.rozgafuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

AM

“ *He was my favorite uncle and godfather. He made my brother and feel included and part of the family. He will be greatly missed. Love you always Uncle Rafael.* ”

Amanda - January 14, 2024 at 08:21 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Rafael Hernandez.* ”



January 11, 2024 at 05:50 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rafael Hernandez.* ”



January 11, 2024 at 05:39 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Rafael Hernandez.* ”



January 11, 2024 at 04:38 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rafael Hernandez.* ”



January 10, 2024 at 09:48 AM

MA

“ *Midwest Nephrology Associates planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rafael Hernandez.*

Midwest Nephrology Associates - January 10, 2024 at 09:48 AM