

Jose Rosario Rodriguez

October 2, 1929 - May 7, 2026

José Rosario Rodríguez, age 96, resident of Hobart, IN and formerly of Gary, IN.

José transitioned into eternal life on Thursday May 7, 2026.

He was born on October 2, 1929, in an idyllic countryside farm in Caguas, Puerto Rico where he was raised by his parents, Alberto and Tomasa and his 15 siblings.

He was a devout Christian and a former member of St. Luke Catholic Church and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. He was also a retired US Steel worker. His work ethic was second to none.

José especially enjoyed gatherings with family and friends and was a friend to the young and old. He also had a passion for collecting vintage automobiles, his backyard and bountiful garden, feeding the birds, home-cooked meals and drinking Coors Lite and Burgundy wine.

He excitedly watched boxing matches at the edge of his seat, while throwing “air punches” with his fists. José was an active listener to country and blues music, and Puerto Rican música jíbara.

He would happily whistle a melodic tune while just tinkering around the house.

Jose is survived by his devoted wife, Edith (Honi) Rodríguez; loving daughters, Marjorie Rodríguez, Yolanda Smith, Sandra (Chris) Mixis, Marisol

Carmona; grandchildren, Joseph (Rhapsody) Smith, Elijah, Gabrielle Mixis, Eric Rivera, Fernando Zambrana, Ydialis Carmona; great grandchildren, Hunter and Griffin Smith; Fernando, Jr., Jose Zambrana; sisters, María Rosario, Carmen Rosario, numerous loving nieces and nephews; many devoted friends, among them, Monin Román, Mickie Salazar; Freddy Salazar, Henry Flores, “Fernandito” Román - whom he loved as sons; “Canito” Fontanez, “Jimmy” Daily, among so many others to list but you know who you are.

Funeral services provided by Burns Funeral Home & Crematory.
Viewing and funeral Mass of Christian Burial officiated by Rev. Kevin McCarthy on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at Nativity of Our Savior Catholic Church, 2949 Willowcreek Rd., Portage, IN 46368.

Viewing time will be one hour from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Mass at 11:00 am.
Burial immediately after Mass at Calvary Cemetery, 2701 Willowdale Rd., Portage, IN 46368.

NOTE:

There will be no viewing at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, your donation to the Nativity of Our Savior Church Food Pantry would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2701 Willowdale Road
Portage, IN 46368

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Nativity of Our Savior Church
2949 Willowcreek Road
Portage, IN 46368
<http://2949>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

Nativity of Our Savior Church
2949 Willowcreek Road
Portage, IN 46368
<http://2949>

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Rest in Heaven Uncle Joe, heaven gained a beautiful angel. Give my mom Carolina a hug from me.



Carmen (Flores) Myers - May 13 at 06:37 PM

JV

“ Thank you Papa Joe for caring for me when I was young -- Your kindness and love are treasured by me and my family. You took care of all of us as your own and we loved you very much. Heaven gained a beautiful angel. Rest in peace.

Jaime Vega - May 13 at 05:34 PM

JS

“ Papa Joe meant so very much to all of us, and he will be deeply missed. I cherish the memories I was blessed to make with him throughout my life. It meant the world to me that he was able to be there for my wedding. That is a memory I will always hold close to my heart.

While our hearts are hurting, we find peace in knowing that this is not goodbye forever. We look forward to the day we will see him again when Christ returns for His bride and we gather together at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.” —
Revelation 19:7

We love you and miss you so much, Papa Joe.

Love,

Joey, Rhapsody, Griffin, and Hunter



Joseph Smith - May 13 at 10:04 AM

GM

“ We will always cherish the memories we have of Mr. Rodriguez. Some moments will always live on in our minds and hearts.... his smile, his words of encouragement and kindness, and how his heart went out for those suffering or in pain. A wonderful soul, with a big heart. Our hearts go out to Mrs. Rodriguez and all the family. May the good Lord grant him eternal rest; and grant you all and us (in whose lives he made a difference) hope and consolation. With much love, George & Joanna Mixis, Yiayia, and the whole family.

George & Joann Mixis - May 12 at 11:46 PM

MV

“ My sympathy to Honi and the family. May you find peace and comfort in all the beautiful memories of Joe. He was a wonderful person to all who met him. Prayers for the repose of his soul. May he Rest In Peace  

Maria Valtierra - May 12 at 09:20 PM

CM

“ Carmen M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jose Rosario Rodriguez.

Carmen M. - May 12 at 06:08 PM

CL

“ With our sincere condolences we send strong hugs and our love to Honi, Margie, Yolanda, Sandy, Marisol and family during this difficult time. We are deeply sorry for your loss. Mami will forever treasure her weekly phone chats and visits with her beloved brother. And we will always remember our Tio with love and fondness. May you find strength, comfort and peace in the arms of Jesus. GOD Bless you and protect you, we love you: Carmela Reyes, Tommy Reyes, Efrain Reyes, Hector(Hito) Reyes, Norma Bradshaw, Evie Lemus, Roger Reyes and Brenda Reyes-Mezza

Carmen M Lemus - May 12 at 05:58 PM

AK

“ Alberto y Josefina Ojeda and kids purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Jose Rosario Rodriguez.



Alberto y Josefina Ojeda and kids - May 12 at 01:04 PM

NR

“ Our favorite memories of Tio Jose was when we would go visit him and Honey from Chicago, they would have a buffet waiting for us. We definitely didn't leave hungry. They always received us with so much love and hospitality. We loved you so much Tio! We will miss all our good times together, but look forward to seeing you up in Heaven someday! From: Antonia Reyes, Nilda, Carmen, Elisa, David, and our families.

Nilda L Reyes - May 12 at 09:48 AM

VM

“ Veronica (Vero) Martinez purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jose Rosario Rodriguez.



Veronica (Vero) Martinez - May 11 at 10:46 PM

GF

“ Garcia Rodriguez Family purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Jose Rosario Rodriguez.



Garcia Rodriguez Family - May 11 at 06:57 PM

JC

“ Jean Clay lit a candle in memory of Jose Rosario Rodriguez



Jean Clay - May 11 at 03:28 PM

JC

Love you uncle Joe RIP KING

Jean Clay - May 11 at 03:29 PM

E(

“ De la familia de Juana y Santos Reyes 'Eva, Papo, Masin, Jerry, Kito' Celebrating the life of a good man and mourning his passing with you. Remembering his wonderful and gentle soul will forever remain in our hearts. Our deepest condolences Honi and the Rodriguez Family

Edwin Reyes (Papo) - May 11 at 02:23 PM

CA

“ Carmela lit a candle in memory of Jose Rosario Rodriguez



carmela - May 11 at 02:17 PM

CR

RIP BROTHER, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY HEART

Carmen Reyes Rosario - May 11 at 02:34 PM

HC

“ † Descanse en paz, Jose. Preciosas memorias por siempre en nuestros corazones. ! Que Dios lo tenga en su santa gloria! †
♥ John 14:2 - Jesus dijo, "En la casa de mi Padre muchas moradas hay, si asi no fuera, yo os lo hubiera dicho; VOY PUES A PREPARAR LUGAR PARA VOSOTROS." "Amen!" ♥



Hno. Nestle y Alex Campos - May 11 at 01:44 PM

HC

✝️ Hno. Nestle y Alex Campos ✝️

Hno. Nestle y Alex Campos - May 11 at 01:45 PM

PR

“✝️ Mi mas sentido pesame hacia la familia Jose Rodriguez. Oro de todo corazon que nuestro amante DIOS les de toda la FORTALEZA y la PAZ a ustedes y a toda la familia en estos momentos. Mantengan preciosas memorias de sus tiempos juntos para siempre en sus corazones. Oro que nuestro amante DIOS le de su Linda Alma paz eterna! !Que Dios lo tenga en su santa gloria! ✝️
♥️ Matthew 5:4, Psalms 147:3, 2Corinthians 5:8, John 14:2 ♥️



Paquin Rodriguez - May 11 at 01:26 PM

YR

“ Your niece Antonia and Nilda Reyes purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jose Rosario Rodriguez.



Your niece Antonia and Nilda Reyes - May 11 at 01:25 PM

SR

“ Silvia, Henry, Albert, Miriam Rodriguez purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jose Rosario Rodriguez.



Silvia, Henry, Albert, Miriam Rodriguez - May 11 at 12:32 PM

SS

“ Marisol and family, I am sorry for your loss. May he rest in peace.

Scott Sefton - May 11 at 11:19 AM



“ Will miss his calls n sharing Birthday s 🌸🎵🌸

Ana Miranda - May 11 at 11:02 AM

OF

“ Orlando, Michelle and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jose Rosario Rodriguez.

Orlando, Michelle and Family - May 11 at 10:49 AM

OF

“ Orlando, Michelle and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jose Rosario Rodriguez.



Orlando, Michelle and Family - May 11 at 10:49 AM

LR

“ Some of my favorite memories as a kid were when “Tio Joe and Titi Honi” would come visit. Tio Joe was definitely a favorite uncle of mine. I remember he always gave me his full attention and never dismissed me just bc I was a kid. I specifically remember his smile and how much fun it was just to be in his presence. There was always a peaceful feeling about him.

Luis Ruiz - May 11 at 10:29 AM

MS

“ Joe was a wonderful man with a wonderful laugh and smile! Always positive and loving and real in his heart. Thank you Papa Joe for being a treasure words could never finish describing in my heart. Give a hug to Mami n Papo for me! Te quiero mucho siempre y siempre lives en nuestros corazones.
My deepest condolences to Honi and the family. We love you all very much. God's grace be upon us all.

Maria Salazar - May 11 at 09:23 AM