



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

Upcoming 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

SR

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



Silvia, Henry, Albert, Miriam Rodriguez - 27 minutes ago

SS

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

Scott Sefton - 1 hour ago



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

Ana Miranda - 1 hour ago

OF

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



Orlando, Michelle and Family - 2 hours ago

OF

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

Orlando, Michelle and Family - 2 hours ago

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 - 2 hours ago

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 vives 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 - 3 hours ago