



Jose "Joe" Contreras, II

December 13, 1976 - January 28, 2021

Jose "Joe" Contreras, II age 44, beloved husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend, was called home by the Lord on Thursday, January 28, 2021. Joe was born on December 13, 1976 in San Antonio, Texas to Jose and Elvira Contreras. Joe graduated from Robert E Lee High School in San Antonio, TX in 1995. He completed first an Associate's (SAC) and then a Bachelor's degrees (Texas Tech University) in Nursing and worked as a nurse for 15 years working at the Methodist, Texsan, and Foundation Surgical Hospitals in San Antonio, TX.

Although Joe continued to work intermittently as a nurse, in 2015 he made the decision to pursue his passion for history and public education full time. He began working as a museum educator with UTSA's Institute for Texan Culture in San Antonio TX. He completed a Masters of Arts in History (SNHU) in 2018 and worked as a Museum Educator with the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic CT, a Park Ranger with the National Parks Service in Woodstock VT, and most recently as a Museum Site Educator/Interpreter with the Texas Historical Commission at the Starr Family Home Historic site in Marshall TX. Joe had a particular gift for, and received much joy, interacting with and educating children.

Joe is preceded in death by his maternal grand parents, Jesus and Elvira Trevino, and his paternal grand parents, Tomas and Florentina Contreras. He

is survived by his wife Nicola Contreras, his parents Joe and Elvira Contreras, his siblings MaryAnn Contreras, Lisa (Jeff) Eigel, Angelique Contreras, Christopher (Rachel) Contreras and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and devoted friends.

Joe will always be remembered for his big smile, his kindness, and his sense of humor. He could light up a room and to meet Joe was to love Joe. He traveled extensively and enjoyed the company of family and friends. He was a loyal and loving husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend.

In lieu of flowers, Joe's family has requested that contributions in his memory be made to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission for the Preservation Scholarship Program for an internship position in Joe's honor. Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 13497, Austin, TX 78711 or online at www.THCFriends.org/donate/. Please notate Jose "Joe" Contreras II as the Tribute Name with your donation.

The recitation of the Rosary will be at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, San Antonio, Texas on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Visitation will begin at 6:00 P.M.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery in San Antonio, TX.

UPDATED SERVICE INFORMATION DUE TO WEATHER IN SAN ANTONIO:

The Visitation and Rosary originally planned for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 are cancelled.

The Services have been revised:

Visitation will begin at 6:00 P.M. followed by the Rosary at 7:00 P.M on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, 700 Dewhurst. The Funeral Mass will begin at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at the Church. The Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery.

In accordance with CDC safety precautions, we require everyone to wear a mask upon entering the Church and cemetery, and practice social distancing while inside. There will be limited seating for 100 individuals for the Rosary and Mass. For everyone's safety please honor the family from a distance. On behalf of the family, we thank you kindly in advance.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection at Cordi - Marian Cemetery

11624 Culebra Road
San Antonio, TX 78253

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
700 Dewhurst
San Antonio, TX 78213
(210) 342-0281

Rosary

MAR 2. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
700 Dewhurst
San Antonio, TX 78213
(210) 342-0281

Funeral Mass

MAR 3. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
700 Dewhurst
San Antonio, TX 78213
(210) 342-0281

Tribute Wall

CG

“ *Dear Nicola and Family,
We are so very sorry for the loss of your Dear Joe. Our prayers are with you.*

Carol and Denis Gardiner - March 03, 2021 at 04:50 PM

EJ

“ *Joe was the kindest, sincere, sensitive and truly a friend. He would give you the shirt off his back to help anyone. I considered Joe one of my best friends and had the pleasure to cross paths in this life. He was very inspirational and motivator of goals in life.*

I worked with him many years over 3 differed jobs.

My deepest condolences to Nicola , Chris, and Mary and the entire Contreras family.

RIP my friend.

I apologize for such a late entry. I only found out today. I do not have social media. So again I apologize

Ernesto M Rivera, Jr.

Ernesto M. Rivera Jr - March 02, 2021 at 10:00 PM

SH

“ *Nicola-I am keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers in the loss of your beloved Joe. I am truly sorry and extend my deepest sympathies.*
Sincerely~Sheila Herzog



Sheila Herzog - March 01, 2021 at 07:06 PM

EK

“But he lived on the other side of Vance Jackson.” My mother always was a worry wort and for a 3rd grader to cross the 4 lanes of Vance Jackson to hang with his only classmate who lived on the same street was an issue. It didn’t keep us apart for long. As Joe Sr. and Elvira can attest if they weren’t taking us to school, my mom was or we were hoofing it. Together. We were pretty much inseparable, from Dellview through Jackson and even though we drifted apart after I quit football at Lee when we did reunite it was as if no time had passed at all. That was Joe. Always a smile, always welcoming, always there if you needed anything. I forget exactly when “Norm” came about but it was absolutely perfect for Joe. It stuck for a reason. Big, lovable, passionate, big hearted and beloved by all who knew him.

We went decades without seeing each other but when I ran into him in 2015 in of all places the bowels of the ITC offices it was like we hadn’t skipped a beat. When he learned what I was doing in the ITC and that we both shared a passion for history I was happy to comp him and Nicola a tour. We had a great night catching up and reminiscing over drinks and talking history and I’m so grateful we did. Of all my many memories with Joe it will always be special, I was thrilled to have found that our lives converged again around our shared passion for Texas history. It was so good to catch up after all the years and to see him thriving in his chosen second career.

Joe was a special man. Generous, kind, passionate but most of all genuine. His character is a direct reflection of his upbringing and I am lucky and blessed to have known and had so many great times with him over the years.

Emzy King - February 24, 2021 at 02:25 PM

MC

“ Although I didn't know Joe well, the time I had the privilege of meeting him with his wife in New Hampshire, it was so evident that he had a incredibly kind heart. My thoughts and prayers to Nicola and to all of Joe's family. May God hold you close and give you comfort during this difficult time.

Mark Cookson - February 19, 2021 at 12:09 PM

MY

“ Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May he rest in peace.
Joe was a kind person I had the pleasure of working with. Kind, compassionate and a happy person. God has an angel to watch over us.

Maria M Ybanez - February 14, 2021 at 09:17 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jennifer Swett - February 13, 2021 at 09:18 AM

SR

“ I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Joe at Saint Gaudens (SAGA) National Historical Park in Cornish, NH in the fall of 2018. Joe was one of the first people that welcomed me when I arrived at the Park. During our conversation, I remember being amazed at how passionate and knowledgeable he was on a variety of historical subjects. His grasp of military history would rival any discussion at a local VFW. His ability to seamlessly weave topics together without an obvious connector was a gift and made any conversation a joy to listen to. His positivity was infectious.

What makes this difficult to grasp, is that some of us are hardened by life experiences... Joe was the exact opposite. An eternal optimist that viewed an empty glass as an opportunity for a refill. Thank you, Joe, for reminding all of us what is still possible.

It is said that “character is what you are in the dark.” To those above us, you’ll need to make room for at the round table for your newest Knight. Fair winds and following seas, Joe...



Scott Rinaldi - February 12, 2021 at 04:19 PM

GB

“ Joe was a beautiful soul. He was special because he always greeted you with a genuine million dollar smile, followed by a contagious enthusiasm for taking on new adventures. He embraced and overcame challenges. He was witty, smart, warm, honest, kind and compassionate. He was everything that is good.

Joe came into my life when I directed the Education Department at the Institute of Texan Cultures. Joe applied for a job as an educational specialist and though his experience as an educator was limited, we knew he was ideal for the job. He was a terrific educator who understood that learning happened when lessons were presented in fun and exciting ways. He saw 100s of visitors, yet he made every single person feel special. Joe cared.

I had just gotten back in touch with Joe after several years of losing track. We had promised to visit again as soon as the pandemic was behind us. I was so looking forward to that day! He filled me in on all his adventures and closed with this: "I could not have done it without the support of my beautiful wife! She is the best gift God could have blessed me with!"

God blessed us with Joe. I miss you, Joe, but your sweet soul will always be with me.

lupita barrera

Guadalupe N Barrera - February 11, 2021 at 06:52 PM

CA

“ Our hearts broke when we learned of Joe's passing. My husband Carlos and I had the great fortune to have met sweet Joe as kids, and we can truly say his heart and his kindness never changed in all the years we knew him. Our sincerest and most profound condolences to his Nicola, and his entire family. One of the last memories I have of running into Joe and Nicola is hearing them talk about pursuing their life's passion. At this time, I can imagine a measure of comfort can be felt knowing he lived life seeking happiness for himself and his loving and devoted wife. Blessings to you all during this incredibly tough time. RIP, dear Joe.

Claudia Alvarez.

Claudia Alvarez - February 11, 2021 at 11:01 AM

JP

“ We all loved working with Joe. He was a great nurse and enjoyed life. At Texsan, we worked together many times and always had fun. Joe will certainly be missed. My deepest condolences to Nicola and all of Joe's family. We are so sorry for your loss. Many of us were devastated to hear of the loss of Joe.

Jeff Pittman - February 11, 2021 at 08:35 AM

JF

“ I was deeply saddened when I heard the news about Joe. My sincerest condolences to Nicola and his family. It was always a great pleasure to work with him either at Texsan or Foundations. RIP Joe 🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏



Joelda Flores - February 10, 2021 at 11:09 PM

DS

“ *Debbie R Salas lit a candle in memory of Jose "Joe" Contreras, II*



Debbie R Salas - February 10, 2021 at 10:50 PM

DS

Thank you for your friendship. It was such a pleasure working with you at ITC.

Debbie R Salas - February 10, 2021 at 10:52 PM

TC

“ *Joe was the kind of friend that took the time to listen and always gave such good advice. He always wanted to see you succeed and pushed you to do your best. Joe was such a kind and compassionate nurse and always made his patients feel at ease. He was a GOD fearing man and was never afraid to show it. I am truly honored to have been able to call Joe my friend. Throughout the years I have gained so many wonderful memories! One thing I will never forget about Joe is his smile and that little giggle of his! Joe was a kind hearted soul! My deepest condolences to his wife Nicola and his family during this dark time. Please know that our family is keeping you and yours in our thoughts and prayers.*



Tanya Carrillo - February 10, 2021 at 10:33 PM

GD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gina M Duron - February 10, 2021 at 09:59 PM

GD

“ Joe was the most kind hearted person I have ever known. He was a wonderful, caring nurse who truly cared and had compassion for his patients and his colleagues. He was an inspiration to me and a reminder that there are truly good people in the world. God Bless you Nicola and family and may God ease your hearts after this loss.



Gina M Duron - February 10, 2021 at 09:56 PM

WJ

“ Wallie Jaso lit a candle in memory of Jose "Joe" Contreras, II



Wallie Jaso - February 10, 2021 at 09:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - February 09, 2021 at 02:21 PM