



Noel Fernando Laurel

November 1, 1943 - December 9, 2022

It's fitting that a man named after Christmas closed the book of his life during the Christmas season. Noel F. Laurel, a man of quiet fortitude, corny humor and perpetual steadiness, died Dec. 9, 2022.

He was never in a hurry for anything, instead approaching life with thought and deliberation. Nothing was decided quickly. Everything was approached with intention and seriousness.

As a clinical social worker and therapist, he tried to help each patient as much as he could. He retired briefly but then returned to work just weeks before his death. He wasn't done helping the world.

He was a perpetual learner, always seeking greater knowledge. He had an itch to grow intellectually and was just about to start learning a new language—just because. His brain was his superpower.

And he was firm: You give your very best for your family. Love without bounds or conditions. Live to the very fullest. Believe in miracles. Have faith.

He had a firm grasp of reality and was infinitely patient, putting up with four girls in his immediate family circle with grace and the best quality ever: silence. He knew when to say absolutely nothing.

So often he was quiet in person but his head was loud with his thoughts—sometimes so loud that he didn't realize that he hadn't said a word in hours. Music was always playing in his ears, and he strummed the guitar in times of joy and times of sorrow. He sang a little off-key, but with passion. And he passed on his love of music to his children and grandchildren who have vowed to continue pursuing music in honor of their Pop.

Every tooth in his mouth was a sweet one. He could make the sweetest dessert even sweeter, adding a little chocolate here, an extra sprinkle of sugar there. Even breakfast deserved dessert.

He made life sweeter too.

His smile was quick. His hugs strong. His advice was sound. His love was unending.

He leaves behind a family who loves him very much.

Noel F. Laurel is survived by his wife of 54 years, Dora Ramirez Laurel, his alma Latina. He has three girls: Becky Mulac, his sunshine. Erika Laurel Seller, his morning sunflower. And Lety Laurel Matos, his bougainvillea—beautiful “but will hurt you if she feels manipulated.”

He also is survived by his sister, Edna Vasquez, and has three sons-in-law, Rick Mulac, Todd Seller and Orlando Matos. He has four grandchildren, Jacob Seller, Laurel Seller, Gabriel Matos and Michael Matos, whom he loved very much. He was giving life lessons to them until the last week of his life. Family adviser is a role he took seriously.

A memorial service will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16 at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 10703 Wurzbach Rd, San Antonio, TX 78230.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

DEC 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church
10703 Wurzbach Rd
San Antonio, TX 78230

Tribute Wall

GG

“ *Dr Laurel was one of my colleagues at the Atascosa Health Center in Pleasanton, Texas. His daughter so lovingly captures the essence of her father and how I remembered him. He did show up a couple of times to work in his cute Volkswagon Bug which he was so proud of. It was funny seeing this tall, lanky guy come out of this little car! To this day, patients of his remember his kindness, his humor and his desire to help with mental health issues that, to them seemed insurmountable but he was able to insert his kind perspective on how to continue forward as we all faced our daily challenges. Que dios lo tenga en paz! gloria gallegos*

gloria gallegos - January 03, 2023 at 12:00 PM

CG

“ Dear Dora & Family,
We are saddened to have lost a dear friend.
Noel was a classmate since our days at
Immaculate Conception School (aka - The
Convent) & then RGC High School. Your
daughter describes him beautifully.



My most fun memory of Noel is of when he would share his scooter
with us riding down Main Street, Rio Grande City - no traffic - late
evening. The scooter would give out after 5 minutes or so & there
was Noel chasing us to make sure it would start again. He was so
kind & generous to allow us to do that despite the sacrifice he had
to make.

He will be missed but we will hold his memory deep in our hearts.

May he be in God's loving embrace.

With much love,
Cynthia G. Guerra

Cynthia G. Guerra - December 13, 2022 at 09:49 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the
family of Noel Fernando Laurel.



December 12, 2022 at 04:41 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Noel Fernando Laurel.*



December 12, 2022 at 02:20 PM



“ *Please do not send flowers to the funeral home. Flowers can instead be sent directly to St. Matthew Church on Friday morning, 10703 Wurzbach Rd, San Antonio, TX 78230. Even better, in lieu of flowers, send support to his favorite causes: mental health services, Alzheimer's research and care, the American Heart Association, or cancer research. Our love and thanks to you all. Lety*

lety laurel matos - December 12, 2022 at 01:25 PM



our most sincere condolences to the Laurel and Ramirez family in this most difficult times. May the Lord give you comfort and peace in your time of bereavement . Alonzo and Judi Rodriguez

Alonzo Rodriguez - December 12, 2022 at 09:13 PM



“ *Mission Park North lit a candle in memory of Noel Fernando Laurel*



Mission Park North - December 12, 2022 at 11:28 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - December 12, 2022 at 11:27 AM

NS

What a handsome, giving, charming man. I have the privilege of knowing his daughter, Lety -- and, through her, I feel that I've met Noel. My prayers remain with Lety, her Mom and her sisters. May they and Noel find the peace that awaits them as they walk this difficult journey. May the memories of their life together -- so reflected in the beautifully written tribute -- be a source of comfort to them throughout these days, throughout the coming years, throughout their lives.

With affection and prayers,
Nancy Arispe Shaw

Nancy Arispe Shaw - December 12, 2022 at 10:26 PM