



## Ricardo Graciano

April 11, 1948 - July 25, 2008

Ricardo L. Graciano, Vietnam veteran and school teacher of San Antonio, Texas was born April 11, 1948 and tragically struck by a vehicle while riding his bicycle on Roosevelt and Lorita on the southside of San Antonio the morning of July 19, 2008. Witnesses noted a Silver Chevy S10 as the vehicle that hit him then dragged him inhumanly for a block, then cowardly backed up and fled the scene. Ricardo, our beloved father, grandfather, and friend passed away at 10:51 a.m. on July 25, 2008, after bravely struggling in intensive care at Willford Hall Medical Center. Dad was a wonderful friend to many people. He possessed an inviting personality, a quality that comforted so many lives. He worked with the disabled, the homeless, and had a habit of making every person he touched feel as though they were the most important person in the world. His uncanny sense of humor and giving will be missed. He is survived by two sons, Russ Balcuns and Francisco Graciano, two daughters, Cora Furr and Maricela Ramos, as well as eight grandchildren. In addition he was the brother to four brothers and one sister.

### Services

Visitation will be held on Monday, July 28, 2008 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South from 4:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. with a rosary to be recited at 7:00 P.M. A funeral procession will depart the funeral home at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 for a 12:30 P.M. Mass at San Jose Mission Church

with interment to follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests the public to visit a local Bike World Store to sign a petition for the city to create safer bike trails and raise bike and traffic safety awareness, which could save more lives in the future.

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ I met Ricardo at San Antonio College in 1970. We became very good friends for many years. Last I saw and heard from him was in the early 90's. I regret losing contact with him.

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**Mark Luna** - October 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ Maricela and family, my prayers and thoughts go to all of you. I am very saddened to hear, only this evening of your loss. Ricardo always was so positive and upbeat, a spark of life and hope to those that had the fortune to know him. Talking to him

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**Thomas Pope** - September 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Dear Ricardo: It has been several days since you left, It has been very difficult to accept it, so unexpected, you full of life, and energy, so proud of your children, with plenty of love for everybody, Dear Ricardo I deeply miss you.  
My condolences to m

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**Alma L Aguado, MD** - September 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KZ

“ Maricela and Family,  
  
Your loss is tragic and my heart goes out to you.  
  
You are in my thoughts,  
Kendra Ziegler, RN Main Methodist MICU

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**Kendra Ziegler** - August 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Maricela and Family,  
I was deeply saddened to hear of your tragic loss. My deepest and most heartfelt sympathies go out to all of you. I hope you are able to find some comfort in all the love and support being sent your way. I will keep you in my prayers*

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**Crissy Saldivar** - August 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ *My dearest children,  
I don't know how to express my sadness for all of you, except to be there for you, and tell you how much I love you, and how proud I am of you.  
Please know I believe he knows all that you have done for him as he enters into peace wi*

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**Sandy Graciano** - July 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *My deepest regrets at the loss of such a great man such as was Ricardo, He was my blood brother. His loss to me is the greatest heartbreak. Please call me. I need forgiveness for my absence at such a time. I miss him, and hope that our Creator has him in*

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**jaime browneagle garcia** - July 31, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ *Dear Russ and family,  
  
My heartfelt condolences to you and your family during this very difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with your entire family and friends. If there is anything I can do to help you at this time, please do not hesitate to*

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**Deepa Padia** - July 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ We are both very sorry for your loss, Maricela and family. You all will be in our thoughts and prayers. May God send his angels to watch over you during this difficult time.

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**Kara & Scott Christensen** - July 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Dear Maricella and Family,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this tragic time. I am so sorry for the loss of your loved one, Maricella, your father. If he was anything like you, I know he was an amazing man, who could always bring a smile

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**Lara Griffy** - July 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Maricela and Family,  
I am so very sorry for your loss. May your family and friends be a comfort to you in this time of great sorrow. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Kelly Powers** - July 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Maricela,  
I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.....God Bless

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**BELINDA GARCIA** - July 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Dear Graciano Family,

*With all the lives that Ricardo Graciano touched, motivated, helped and allowed into his life and heart... HE WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED. His name and spirit will forever be celebrated. He, in life, was just 1 man. Now he is a par*

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**Javier R Ramon** - July 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ DEAR MARICELA AND FAMILY  
I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S DEATH. HIS DEATH IS SUCH A TRAGEDY AND GRIEVES MY HEART SO-I HOPE YOU WILL HAVE SOME CLOSURE SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WILL BE IN MY PRAYERS AND IF YOU NEED ANYTHI

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**CATHY CARROLL** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ Maricela,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of sorrow. I can't even begin to imagine life without my father...how terrible it is that yours was taken away from you so suddenly. May God hold you closer than ever in this h

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**Erin Dufour** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

HG

“ MY DEEPEST SYMPATHIES.

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**HUGO DE LA GARZA** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Ricardo touch us in the most extraordinary way the few times we were blessed to be with him. He had a way of connecting with everyone he met that was truly God's Grace and love shining through the spirit of this extraordinary man. He made me feel like

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**KD and Robin** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Dear Francisco, Maricela, Cora, & Russ,  
I am so sorry about the tragic & sudden death of your Dad. Too soon. I myself, just lost my Dad this past April, but he lived a long life and it was his time to go. Your father still had a lot of years ahead to enjo

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**Pauline Howard** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ I am so very sorry to hear that Ricardo lost this battle. Words fail us at a time of great loss, like this. We all share in your loss.

*L.B. Hunt*

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**L.B. Hunt III** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ I am so very sorry for your families loss.

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**Felita Fontenot** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ I am truly sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your family at this very sorrowful time in your life. I hope that all of San Antonio can learn from this shocking experience. I hope it will help to force all drivers to think and become more awa

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**Andrew Bain** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ We are sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

-Linda Thornton & Family

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Linda Thornton - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ To Mari, Francisco, Russ, Cora and Family,

I know there are not enough words of comfort at this time, but, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to all of you, I will keep you all in my prayers.

God Bless you today and always.

Sincerely,

Lau

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Laura Buford - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Dear Graciano Family:

It is with great admiration and respect that I offer my condolences on the tragic death of Ricardo Graciano. I recently learned that he was a Vietnam Veteran. Please know that he is mourned even by those who weren't fortunate en

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Senator Leticia Van de Putte, R. Ph. - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ *Mr. Graciano was a coworker of mine at AT&T Wireless, he touched every single one of our hearts. He was a wonderful person, and shared his passion of bike riding with us. My condolences to the Graciano family, and the lord be with you.*

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**Melissa Villarreal** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ *Dear Francisco, Maricella, Cora, and Russ,*

*Our sadness over your father's passing is intensified as we learn of how tragically he died. We all are so very sorry that he departed this life so soon. Many years have passed since we had the opportunity to v*

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**Fred, Clarinda, Laura, and Michael Richards** - July 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Rus, Maricella, Coco and Cora,*  
*We are very sad to hear of Ricardo's death. We really cannot believe it. We always thought very highly of your Dad. His devotion to his kids and grandkids was obvious. Your Dad had a way of making us always feel welcome*

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**Sarah and Ricardo Castillo** - July 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Dear Graciano Family,*  
*God be with your family as you cherish the memories that Ricardo left with you. We've known Ricardo for over 35 years, as educators and friends. We know that he always loved his students and especially his family. Everytime we sa*

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**Joe Jesse & Minnie Sanchez** - July 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Graciano family,I graduated with Richard in 1966, and accidently ran into him in Chu lai in 1967, it was wonderful to see a schoolmate and friend in a place where we lost so many, he was a person with a good heart,again my cond*

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**Carlos Pacheco** - July 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *May God give you comfort during this time. Our thoughts are with each and everyone of you.*

*Sincerely,  
Larry Booth and Directors @ Mission Park Funeral Chapels South*

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**Larry Booth** - July 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *Maricela and Family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Your father was an inspiration to many and his memory will forever be in our hearts. I am thankful to have known such a wonderful man and will always remember how welcomed he made me feel as I joined yo*

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**Lacy D'Errico** - July 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *MARICELA, MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. HAVING JUST LOST MY MOTHER I KNOW SOMEWHAT HOW YOU ARE FEELING. MY GOD BE WITH YOU ALL DURING THIS TERRIBLE TIME.  
NANCE FITZHUGH FROM METHODIST CHILDREN'S ER*

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**NANCE FITZHUGH** - July 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM