



Ernesto Valenzuela Jr.

October 13, 1979 - December 25, 2022

Ernesto Valenzuela, Jr., better known as Ernie, Ern, and Big E, passed away on Christmas Day at the age of 43, after a hard fought battle with pancreatic cancer.

Ernie was born on October 13, 1979 to Ernesto and Benigna Rodriguez Valenzuela in Caldwell, Texas. Ernie graduated from Caldwell High School in 1998, with dreams of playing collegiate and professional baseball (he holds the CHS record for most home runs in a season), but instead chose to follow in his father's footsteps by beginning an apprenticeship to become an electrician.

He eventually relocated to Little Rock, Arkansas, where he pursued and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biology from The University of Arkansas-Little Rock. There he was a Ronald McNair scholar and on the Dean's List, annually. Ernie then relocated to Austin, Texas, where he completed his master of science degree in biology from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. While at Texas State, Ernie enjoyed his position as a teaching assistant, guiding undergraduate students in lab work, while also working on his thesis.

In 2018, Ernie relocated to Orlando, Florida to be with his partner and future husband, Richard (Rick) Miller, after 8 years of friendship. They married in

September 2021, with Ernie's brother-in-law, Kenneth Schermer, as witness.

During his life in Orlando, Ernie spent his days doing the things he loved most, playing softball on multiple teams, traveling the world with Rick, enhancing the plant life around their home, establishing lifelong friendships in and around Belle Isle, and spending quality play time with his dogs, Lola and Tucker.

Ernie was preceded in death by numerous extended family members, including his grandparents and several maternal uncles. Ernie is survived by his husband Rick Miller, their favorite Portuguese Water dog Tucker, his parents, Ernesto and Benigna Valenzuela, sister Belinda Valenzuela, sister Andrea Schermer, brother Kenny Schermer, and his nephews Braxton, Brody, and niece Belle.

Ernie was extraordinary, his smile lit up a room, he never met a stranger and was a friend to all. Here are some of his words we will always cherish: "Today was an emotional day....not emotional because something unexpected happened, just emotional because my mind felt like it needed to be weary. I write this to remind folks to never feel like you're just existing. Life's constant emotional play can easily displace our purpose, or our why. We all exist, but choose how you want to live your existence. There is always a purpose.....even if it's unrepresentable in that moment. Some events just take time in their manifestation. Life is both amazing and fickle....grandiose and unadorned, so be sure to live in life's moments, more so than the vision of some expected life.... Peace & Love, BE. Know that you are never alone!"

Services will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Caldwell, Texas on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 11:00 am. In addition, a Celebration of Life will be held in Orlando at Leu Garden's, Magnolia Room on Sunday February 12 from 2-4pm.

Express condolences at Phillipsandlucy.com.

Previous Events

Rosary

JAN 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
500 W Old San Antonio Rd
Caldwell, TX 77836-1162
(979) 567-3667

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 14. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
500 W. Osr
Caldwell, TX 77836

Inurnment of Cremated Remains

JAN 14. 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery
500 W. Osr
Caldwell, TX 77836

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



January 27, 2023 at 04:10 PM



“ *We loved Ernie the day we met him. Love to you all.*

Stephanie Smith and Shyam Jajodia - January 27, 2023 at 04:06 PM



“ *Love, Steve & Cheryl Smith purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



Love, Steve & Cheryl Smith - January 12, 2023 at 03:49 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Andrea Schermer - January 10, 2023 at 08:55 PM

AS

“ *World Series champions*



Andrea Schermer - January 10, 2023 at 08:55 PM

AS

“ *Masters - Texas State University*

A scientist and amazing professor.



Andrea Schermer - January 10, 2023 at 08:54 PM

AS

“ *Baseball was his favorite and now he's playing ball in heaven.*



Andrea Schermer - January 10, 2023 at 08:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



January 10, 2023 at 02:33 AM



“ *Stanley John & HI DOTH DEV TEAM purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



Stanley John & HI DOTH DEV TEAM - January 09, 2023 at 09:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



January 07, 2023 at 12:16 PM



“ *Our condolences and prayers to the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr.
Shane and Laura Morrison*



Shane & Laura Morrison - January 05, 2023 at 08:50 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



January 05, 2023 at 05:10 PM



“ *The State of Hawaii Project Teams purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



The State of Hawaii Project Teams - January 03, 2023 at 04:34 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



January 02, 2023 at 09:12 PM



“ *Charla Wiley & Reine Protacio purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



Charla Wiley & Reine Protacio - January 02, 2023 at 06:25 PM

CW

“ To the Valenzuela family, Ernie was a true friend and colleague. He always had a smile and made you laugh. He will be truly missed. May the love of God give you peace during this time.

Charla Wiley

Charla Wiley - January 02, 2023 at 06:12 PM

AS

Thank you for your kind words about my amazing brother. 💜

Andrea Schermer - January 10, 2023 at 09:40 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..



December 31, 2022 at 11:48 AM

JW

“ Ernie gave me courage and lifted my spirits when I needed it the most. He provided hope when I could not turn to anyone else. I wish he could have shined his light longer, here on Earth. Our loss is heaven's gain. May he always rest in peace.

James Willis - December 31, 2022 at 01:42 AM

AS

💜 Thank you for the kind words James, I know he cared so much for you and your family.

Andrea Schermer - January 10, 2023 at 09:43 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



December 31, 2022 at 01:33 AM



“ *Marcella Gary Franzetti lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Valenzuela*



Marcella and Gary Franzetti - December 30, 2022 at 07:08 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Ernesto Valenzuela Jr..*



December 30, 2022 at 05:19 PM



“ *Marci Ramirez lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Valenzuela*



Marci Ramirez - December 30, 2022 at 01:58 PM