



Juan Pablo Cardenas

June 20, 1955 - June 2, 2024

Juan Pablo Cardenas, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend passed away on June 2, 2024 at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland after complications from throat cancer.

He was born in Colombia in 1955 to Juan Cardenas and Nora Ruiz. He is survived by his wife Claudia Munoz; son JP and his wife Casey; daughter Claudia, her husband Dillon, and her son Liam; stepchildren Valentina and Nicolas; Mother Nora; first wife Norma; sister Maria Eugenia; sister Catalina and her husband Federico; and a host of beloved aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends. In recent years he had reunited with half-sisters Natalia, Juliana, Adriana, and Carmen and their families, feeling an immediate connection of deep love that was reciprocated.

His life was a testament to his unwavering love and dedication to his family and friends, his country, and his passions. He carried a profound love for this country while also maintaining and cherishing his Colombian heritage, sentiments that shaped his character and actions.

A man of honor and courage, he served his nation with distinction, embodying the values of loyalty, duty, and integrity. He began his military career when he joined the U.S. Army at the age of 17 and would retire from military service as a LT Colonel in 2000 after a successful 23-year career as an Army Foreign Area Officer. He served as a White House Policy Analyst in the Office of National Drug Control Policy for Central America and Mexico, worked for the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy offices of Western Hemisphere Affairs,

Security Cooperation, and South and South East Asia, received his master's in National Security Strategy from the National War College in DC, and spent the final years of his career in the Policy Contracts & Finance Office.

Juan made it to retirement from federal service on May 31, just days before his passing after a remarkable 49-year career of combined military and civil service.

In his later years he became an avid cyclist, finding joy and freedom on the open road. His love for cycling was not just a hobby but a way of life that he shared with friends and family. A significant accomplishment included a trip from Buffalo, NY to Manhattan, totaling over 700 miles across 7 days. This was fueled by a related passion for travel which took him all over the world where he embraced new cultures, cuisines, and friendships. He was also a proud grandfather, and it brought him much joy watching his grandson Liam Rey Johnson grow and learn.

Blessed with a great sense of humor, he brought laughter and light into every room, even as he spent his final days in and out of hospitals.

He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and adventure. As we bid farewell to a life so beautifully lived, we take comfort in knowing that his spirit will continue to guide us on our own journeys.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 16. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Dr
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516
(703) 971-7400

Funeral Mass

JUN 17. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Queen of Apostles Catholic Church
4401 Sano Street
Alexandria, VA 22312

Graveside Service

OCT 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Tribute Wall



“ Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Juan Pablo Cardenas



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - June 10, 2024 at 03:38 PM

JG

Te llevaremos en nuestros corazon querido Juan Pablo ,y brindamos a la familia paz que sobrepase todo entendimiento,y hasta el cielo y no paramos !!!! Con Jesús y Maria!!! Amén!!!! De Joseph y Brenda

Joseph Gonzalez,y Brenda de Gonzalez - June 11, 2024 at 10:45 PM

PF

Querido Juan Pablo, siempre te recordaremos y te llevaremos en el corazón. Gracias por brindarnos alegría, por tus enseñanzas, sabiduría, ser un gran Padrino para Gabriel y una excelente persona. Que Dios te tenga en su santa Gloria 🙏

Peterson Family - June 16, 2024 at 01:19 PM



The photos were so good. So glad my niece Casey has married into such a warm and tight knit family. I had the pleasure of meeting Juan at Casey and JP's wedding. I'm sad over the grand loss for the family. Remember his wonderful smile and that enjoyed life.

Joan Lowder - June 16, 2024 at 09:48 PM

SJ

“ Susan And Page Johnson lit a candle in memory of Juan Pablo Cardenas



Susan and Page Johnson - June 17, 2024 at 05:18 PM

AP

“ Amanda P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Amanda P. - June 16, 2024 at 12:59 PM

AF

“ Adeleen Martinez & Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Adeleen Martinez & Family - June 15, 2024 at 08:00 AM

AF

“ Adeleen Martinez & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Adeleen Martinez & Family - June 15, 2024 at 08:00 AM

SH

“ Shucri & Marta Handal purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Shucri & Marta Handal - June 14, 2024 at 03:02 PM

SH

“ Shateesha H. purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Shateesha H. - June 14, 2024 at 10:06 AM

JC

“ Jason C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Jason C. - June 14, 2024 at 09:55 AM

FM

“ Frank, Yvette, Daniella and Frankie Mora purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Frank, Yvette, Daniella and Frankie Mora - June 14, 2024 at 05:46 AM

RK

“ Rob, Bobby, Dan, Chanthip, Nick and Katy purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Rob, Bobby, Dan, Chanthip, Nick and Katy - June 14, 2024 at 05:36 AM

RK

“ Rob, Bobby, Dan, Chanthip, Nick and Katy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Rob, Bobby, Dan, Chanthip, Nick and Katy - June 14, 2024 at 05:36 AM

PG

“ Proverbs Group! purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Proverbs Group! - June 14, 2024 at 12:21 AM

PG

“ Proverbs Group! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Proverbs Group! - June 14, 2024 at 12:21 AM

MF

“ Miess Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Miess Family - June 13, 2024 at 12:54 PM

MF

“ Miess Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Miess Family - June 13, 2024 at 12:54 PM

FJ

“ From PCFO Ian, John, Dave and Janilyn purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



From PCFO Ian, John, Dave and Janilyn - June 13, 2024 at 10:14 AM

JT

“ Juan's PMO/PCFO teammates purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Juan's PMO/PCFO teammates - June 12, 2024 at 03:44 PM

JT

“ Juan's PMO/PCFO teammates planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Juan's PMO/PCFO teammates - June 12, 2024 at 03:44 PM

LR

“ Leonardo R. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Leonardo R. - June 12, 2024 at 09:54 AM

LH

“ Linda Huntt purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Linda Huntt - June 12, 2024 at 07:37 AM

LH

“ Linda Huntt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Linda Huntt - June 12, 2024 at 07:37 AM

DB

“ David B. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



David B. - June 12, 2024 at 07:14 AM

DB

“ David B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

David B. - June 12, 2024 at 07:14 AM

JG

“ Joseph Gonzalez lit a candle in memory of Juan Pablo Cardenas



Joseph Gonzalez - June 11, 2024 at 10:48 PM

JS

“ Javier & Soramy purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Javier & Soramy - June 11, 2024 at 08:44 PM

LM

“ Love, the Moynihans purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



Love, the Moynihans - June 11, 2024 at 09:02 AM

LM

“ Love, the Moynihans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Love, the Moynihans - June 11, 2024 at 09:02 AM

MT

“ Mallory T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Juan Pablo Cardenas.

Mallory T. - June 11, 2024 at 08:48 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.



June 11, 2024 at 08:34 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.*



June 10, 2024 at 05:14 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Juan Pablo Cardenas.*



June 10, 2024 at 02:21 PM