



## Waldemar Martinez

December 18, 1933 - July 7, 2012

Waldemar Martinez, known by his loved ones as Walt, passed away after a brave four year battle with kidney failure.

Walt was born in El Paso, Texas to Enrique and Julieta Martinez. His sister, Abigail Parra, predeceased him in 2012.

He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Norma, and adored children Christine Ried (Jack), and Michael Martinez. He also leaves behind his only niece, Lisa McClamrock.

In 1956, Walt met Norma, the love of his life. They started their life together in San Francisco, spending 18 years there before moving to Union City where they have been for the past 35 years.

Walt proudly served in the US Navy as a Photographer's Mate at the end of the Korean conflict. He was a dedicated Teamster member of Local 70 and retired from Young's Market with 32 years of service. After retirement, he pursued his interest and extraordinary talent in gardening, tending to his treasured cacti.

Walt was a lover of music, especially 50's era jazz. He will fondly be remembered by his incredible interest and knowledge in world and U.S.

history. Walt was an avid 49er fan since 1957--no team could compare!

We would like to thank the wonderful staff at DaVita, Union City for their kindness, support and loving care of our dad and husband.

A memorial mass will be celebrated on Saturday, July 28, 12pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 703 C Street, Union City, CA 94587.

# Tribute Wall

AN

“ I have so much to share I don't know where to begin. Mr. Martinez was an amazing man, father, friend, husband and confidant. He was an honest hard working man who LOVED his family. If one was fortunate enough to be in his "circle" of friends you were loved.....and he showed you in his own way. The Walt way. I met Mr. Martinez the summer of 1981....I was 15 yrs old. I met him at band camp that summer as his son Michael was my tent-mate. Mike had asked to have me in his tent to help my transition into high school. A life-long friendship was formed. I was on a break at band camp and he approached me and introduced himself. Right off the bat you could tell he was a strong man in so many ways. I was fond of him from the moment I met him. He always asked me to play the song "Take Five" for him and I was always happy to do it. He became a regular person in my life as my relationship grew with the Martinez's. Talks with Mr. Martinez were always fun and full of facts, history, advice and most all passion! Walt was a passionate man in every sense of the word....and I loved him for that. He was like my late father in a ways because they were old school. Gentlemen. Dapper! Dressed well, handsome, loved music, took care of themselves, awesome cooks and enjoyed spirits as a celebration of life, family and friendship. He was a man of his word. That much you could bet on. A man you could count on. Always ther for advice and adventure. Many of us remeber him from the Logan Band years and his willingness, as Mike said, to drive broken down U-hauls with our equipment to the next field show. Never complained. Always smiled and had a story for you. It was his way of supporting his son, and all of us kids who were lucky enough to have had him touch our lives. My family, sibilings/spouses included, had the opportunity to "break bread" one last time with him this past February as we sat at a restraunt and "celebrated" my fathers passing. It was just like the old times back in the 80's...The Najera's and The Martinez's sitting down for a celebration of more than a friendship. To us there was nothing better than good food, good wine and good company...we had all of this and more with the Martinez's.

*Mr. Martinez, Walt, Thank you for having such an impact on my life at such a young age. What an amazing man. I will miss you. As in the words of my dad....Cheers!!! Anthony V. Najera*

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**Anthony V. Najera** - July 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *When I heard that Walt went to heaven on July 7th I could hardly believe it. I knew he was so ill and he was failing but what was so remarkable about this date was that he went to heaven 7 month to the date that my dad went to heaven. My dad left us on December 7th at 4:30 in the afternoon.(his compadre went to heaven) Nina, Michael, & Christina, my dad was there at the heavenly gates welcoming his compadre with open arms. I actually have had this exact dream. Michael & Christina, I know what you are feeling but everyday, I thank God for giving me 74 years with my dad, but it still hurts. There's not a week that goes by that I don't have have a complete break down.....when this happens, all I do is pray and ask that God take away the sadness that my heart endures. I have so many good memories with the Martinez Family. I will keep all of you in my daily prayers.*

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**Julie Torres(Najera)** - July 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Michael and is extended to the entire Martinez family. Losing a loved one is extremely hard. Losing a remarkable soul like Waldemar is even harder. I did not know Mr. Martinez but I know his son Michael. Michael is a remarkable, humble man and this is how I know his father was a great man. May God be with you all and may you find peace in your hearts knowing he is no longer suffering but with you looking over you.

L.O.V.E

Mone

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**Mone** - July 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Our deepest sympathy to hear of our dear friend Walt's passing. He is now held in the arms of our dear LORD.

Our love always, SYLVIA, CHUCK & FAMILY

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**Sylvia Jansen & Chuck DeLong & Family** - July 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ My condolences to Norma and family. Walt was such a delight to know. I am so sorry for your loss.

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**JESSI REYES MURRAY** - July 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ a beautiful man has left us...you truly will be missed Uncle Walt.

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**Tracey Trujillo** - July 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ *Even though I didn't meet him I felt like I knew him through Michael. My prayers are with you.*

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**Tainette** - July 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ *I'm so sorry your family's loss. No words are sufficient. Peace and Blessings to you and yours my friend.*

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**Chris aka Jkaine** - July 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *May you rest in peace Walt.*

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**Manuel & Grace Montijo** - July 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ *Uncle Walt was my father's cousin and dearest friend. My children, my wife and I will miss him. He was our Uncle, family historian, friend, and inspiration. Much love to Auntie Norma and our dear Martinez Family. - Ruben*

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**Ruben Estrada** - July 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PV

“ Dear Norma and Mike- When one mentions the James Logan Marching Band , one cannot think enough and thank you for all the love and support 'Mom and Dad' gave us during our high school years. Never forgotten, never will he be. You and the family have always been a high point in my life and think of you often and am happy to have had the time with 'Dad' growing up. May he rest in peace and keep on following the beat of the drum of every marching band-

*Big Hugs and positive thoughts during this time of sadness-*

*Perry de Vlugt / JLHS 1983*

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**Perry de Vlugt** - July 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ To All-so sorry for your loss. I only met Walt a few times. Him and Norma were always always warm and hospitable to me. I could easily see where the kids got their great personalities. (shoulda bugged him to show me how to Salsa dance!) Treasure every single wonderful memory of him. No one can take those from you.

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**Michael Hill** - July 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Norma and Mikie: During the few times that I was privileged to be with Walt and share a few laughs and drinks, I learned to love and respect him. His wonderful sense of humor and quick wit were among his many wonderful qualities. Please accept our condolences and know that he is in our prayers. Peace be with you.

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**Dan Salas** - July 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Norma,  
My sincere condolences on Walt's passing. What a great guy he  
was.  
Some of my best memories are the  
times with Walt and you when our kids were at Logan.

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**Don Lee** - July 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ I didn't know Walt, but my daughter Michele Reih's Faddis is a  
patient at Davita and her and her hubby Sam knew him and his  
wife. My thoughts and Prayers To his wife and all their Family and  
Friends.

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**Raette** - July 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS PRIMA AND IF YOU NEED ANYTHING  
WE ARE JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY.....

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**SAMUEL AND MICHELE FADDIS** - July 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our prayers  
and thoughts.

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**Diane & Michael French** - July 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MP

“yWalt & Norma were for many years our dear friends and neighbors, right next door. We got to love them as our brother and sister, and knew their children, and we spent very good moments together. We will miss Walt very much, but, we will never forget him as long as we live. GOD needed a very good gardener, and the heavens are richer with his knowledge and talent. Walter, you have gone ahead of us, but, we look forward to see you and be with you again. Our love always.

*Manuel & Connie Provedor*

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**Manuel Provedor** - July 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM