



Raul M Melgar

January 5, 1937 - May 6, 2015

Raul M. Melgar (78) of Salt Lake City, Utah passed away peacefully on Wednesday May 6, 2015 surrounded by his family and grandchildren.

Raul was born in Montevideo, Uruguay to Lila Otermin and Andres Melgar on January 5, 1937. He was the oldest of three children. His brother, Douglas Melgar preceded him in death and his surviving sister, Serrana Melgar Yaques still resides in Uruguay.

Raul had a lifelong interest in photography and worked as a police photographer in his native country of Uruguay. He was also very passionate about running. One of his biggest accomplishments was as a member of the select Uruguayan track and field team. He shined as a long distance runner, representing his country and competing all throughout South America in 5,000 and 10,000 meter races winning many medals and trophies. Raul was also musically inclined, often spending hours listening to his record collection and playing the piano, guitar, and percussion instruments with friends at his home on the weekends.

Tragically in 1972, Raul suffered a devastating injury while working as a volunteer for the LDS church during the construction of a new chapel in Canelones, Uruguay. The accident resulted in a spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair at the age of 35. Through the coordination efforts of the LDS church, he came to the United States for medical treatment, bringing along his former wife, Cristina Campelo, and their 2 young children Serrana and Steven. Without the support of his extended family and friends, or having a firm grasp of the language and customs, Raul's never ending faith carried him through this very difficult time. Despite this tragedy, his spirit and strong will persevered and his resilience in the face of adversity is something to be admired.

Raul devoted 26 years of his life working for the LDS church as a microfilm technician at the Granite Mountain Records Vault. He lived passionately, worked hard to provide for his family, and always kept his affinity for running and athletics in his heart. It gave him great pleasure to share his profound knowledge of sports and fitness with others. He participated in coaching several youth soccer teams as well as track and field. On sunny days, he could be found riding his handcycle around the neighborhood or watching soccer matches at the local Riverside and Rosewood parks. He also loved spending time with his grandchildren; Andre, Clara, and Sofia. He would spend hours while they played at the

school playground and also took the time to teach them how to plant tomatoes in the garden.

Raul is survived by his sister Serrana Melgar Yaques; his daughter, Serrana Melgar of Seattle, WA, his son Steven (Paula) Melgar; his grandchildren, Zeca Turner, Andre Melgar, Clara Melgar-Zacher, and Sofia Melgar.

Raul will be remembered by many for his charismatic nature, infectious smile, great sense of humor, and humility. May his life serve as an example and inspiration to all that no matter the challenges we face in life, we can count on the Lord to help guide us and give us strength to overcome them.

~ Dad: You ran the greatest race of your life and we couldn't be more proud of what you have accomplished. May you continue running in the presence of our dear Heavenly Father. We love you.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the caring and attentive staff at the Healthcare facilities and hospitals that cared for him over the years. Thank you to the many physicians, nurses and social workers throughout his life who ensured dad received the best care possible. We would like to especially acknowledge dad's case manager Lydia Jorn, whose continued support for our father as his advocate and beloved friend was truly remarkable.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday May 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Rose Park 4th Ward chapel located at 760 N 1200 W Salt Lake City, UT 84116.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Raul thank you for being my first mentor in the priesthood. I learned much from you, and your adversities. Julio

Julio C. Lachaga - May 19, 2015 at 12:53 AM

MK

“ I had the luck of meeting and caring for Raul at LDS Hospital. He was a great faithful man who loved his family and life. Always uplifting he gave graciously to all he met. His love for his family is eternal.

Martha Kaiser - May 17, 2015 at 08:45 PM

SY

“ Querido hermano, fuiste un ejemplo para nosotros, como hijo, padre y hermano. Que descanses en paz.

Serrana Melgar de Yaques - May 17, 2015 at 07:17 PM

RD

“ I was sad to read about the passing of Raul, who was a good friend mine. I first met Raul when I started working at the Granite Records Vault in 1989. He trained me in all facets of microfilm inspection and duplication. He was also an example to me of someone who had suffered a great tragedy but still lived his life to the fullest even when he had bad days, you would still see him smiling and doing his job. I am a better person for knowing Raul. I am happy he is now free of his wheelchair and running in that great marathon in the sky. Raul's family was very lucky to have him.

Robert Dalley - May 17, 2015 at 05:51 PM

ST

“ Raul was a great role model to me. He taught me my first words of Portuguese. He was always interested in the things I was interested in doing, such as music sports, and languages. We've lost a one of a kind man. I will always keep you in my heart and mind and will miss you very much.

steve taufer - May 16, 2015 at 05:35 PM

EY

“ *Primos, lamento mucho la partida del tío Rulo. En el poco tiempo que pase con el me di cuenta que fue y es un ser maravilloso, con un sentido del humor inigualable. Siempre lo recordaremos con alegría. Que descanse en paz. Les mando un abrazo grande.*

Eugenia Astol Yaques - May 14, 2015 at 11:21 PM

CD

“ *Tio Rulo, we all admire your accomplishments in life despite of your condition, you lived your life a full and never gave up. Now, you are in a better place, and with great company. I hope you are reunited with my dad. R.I.P*

Cynthia Diaz - May 14, 2015 at 10:44 PM