



Roger A. Dabalsa

NOV 21, 1954 - NOV 30, 2020



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Roger A. Dabalsa

NOV 21, 1954 - NOV 30, 2020

Roger Alberto Dabalsa passed away November 30th, 2020 at the age of 66, after a long battle with illnesses associated with quadriplegia resulting from a negligent surgery in 1983. He was surrounded by his surviving family and group of caretakers.

Roger was born on November 21st, 1954 in Havana, Cuba. He came to the United States with his mother Martha and brother Richard in October of 1960. His father Diego and Uncle Raul arrived prior to arrange living arrangements before the two family's arrived to the USA. He became a naturalized citizen in 1977. Roger accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior in 1972, while attending the youth ministry "Rancho Latino", headed by his Pastor and soon to be longtime friend, Freddy Perez. His faith remained strong throughout his life and was his driving force. He graduated from Miami Senior High and Georgia Tech, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering with a Minor in History. He was able to fulfill his childhood dream of working at NASA and was a member of the team that launched the first 4 missions of the Space Shuttle program, including Columbia and Challenger.

Roger will be most remembered by his limitless Love for his Lord Jesus Christ, who was always with him. He shared this Love with his family. Roger maintained a love for Science, Science Fiction, Space Exploration, History, Religion and Music. He had a great contagious sense of humor and was very learned in all subjects. He could carry on a conversation on any topic. Roger was confined to a wheelchair without the capability of movement or speech for over 37 years. In lieu of his condition, you would always see a smile on his face as he had the Lord inside him. He was able to visit Europe with his parents and private-duty nurse and emersed himself in the history he was witnessing. He appreciated all the Good he found around him and never pitied himself. His family and best friends were always by his side.

Roger is survived by his Mother Martha, Brother Richard, Sister-in-Law Dulce, Niece Jennifer and Nephew Ricky.



Obituary

Roger A. Dabalsa

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REST IN PEACE, MY DEAR BROTHER AND BEST FRIEND

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the following:

The Rock Miami: <https://www.therockmiami.com/giving>

Our Pride Academy: <https://www.ourprideacademy.org>



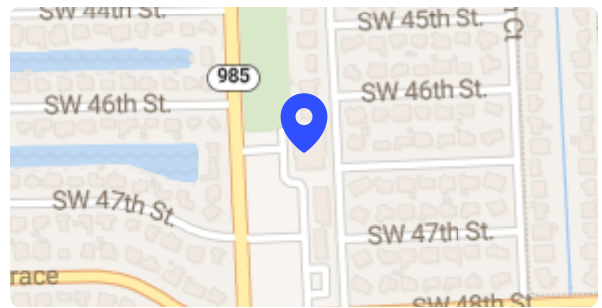
Events

Roger A. Dabalsa

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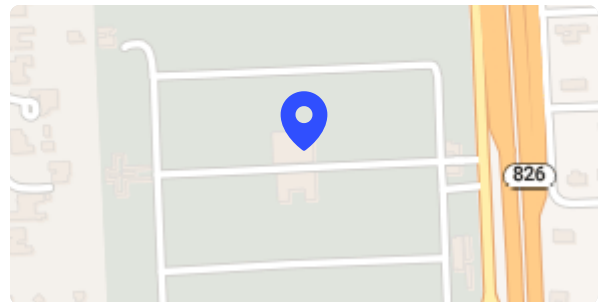
Service

- Monday**, December 7, 2020
- 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM ET
- The Rock Miami**
10601 SW 48th Street, Miami FL 33165



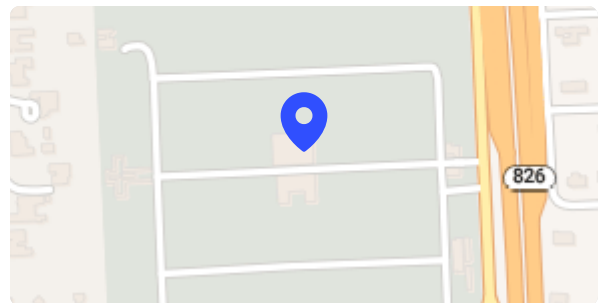
Burial

- Monday**, December 7, 2020
- 2:00 PM ET
- Miami Memorial Park**
6200 SW 77 Avenue, Miami FL



Cemetery Details

- Miami Memorial Park**
6200 SW 77 Avenue, Miami FL





Tribute Wall

Roger A. Dabalsa

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Laura Soza lit a candle in honor of Roger.



December 10 at 9:15 AM



Laura Soza December 10 at 9:25 AM

My condolences to the Dabalsa family. Shalom, my remembrance is of content to know Roger A. Dabalsa had so many people that loved him as much as all the closest of his family did, receive my warmth condolences. I know he is white in pure and resting in the hands of our God and Lord Jesus Christ. From Laura Soza and Ciro Calderin.



Theodore Covey posted:

Roger and I met at the college and career Sunday School class at the 1st Baptist Church of Merritt Island, Florida just after we both finished college in 1979. Roger was one of the most popular guys at our church; always smiling, pleasant, talkative, and always friendly especially with the young attractive single ladies. For the last 40 years Roger and I communicated by phone usually with Richard or a nurse communicating to me Roger's responses. My world will be less happy now that Roger has gone on to be with the Lord. God bless you Roger.

December 7 at 9:24 AM



Jose A Nochea posted:

To Richard and the rest of the Dabalsa family, please accept our heartfelt condolences on the passing of your dear brother Roger. We know how special he was for all of you and the extraordinary individual that he was. May he rest in peace. Jose A. Nochea

December 7 at 7:19 AM



Sonia Fernandez posted:

My deepest condolences and Prayers to the Dabalsa family during this difficult time. Roger always had a beautiful smile on his face. He will always be in your heart and in your memories. May he RIP. Love Sonia Fernandez and family

December 7 at 5:26 AM



Tribute Wall

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CH

Chachi sent a virtual gift in honor of Roger.

Roger was my big cousin and I so looked up to him as he was years ahead with his wisdom. It bothers me that the most beautiful mind was trapped because of medical negligence. Roger never wanted pity, on the contrary, he would comfort me when I felt bad about his situation. That smile was contagious. Those eyes were so expressive. Living in NJ and communicating via phone, I will most certainly miss hearing his rubber ducky 🙏❤️ RIP couz.



December 6 at 1:10 PM

GR

Gloria Velez-Wilmar Restrepo sent a virtual gift in honor of Roger.

December 5 at 7:18 PM



GR

Gloria Velez-Wilmar Restrepo December 5 at 7:19 PM

Volaste al encuentro de nuestro creador Roger, Descansa en paz. mi querido amigo!!

GR

Gloria Velez-Wilmar Restrepo lit a candle in honor of Roger.

December 5 at 7:06 PM



GR

Gloria Velez-Wilmar Restrepo December 5 at 7:16 PM

Descansa en paz mi querido y recordado amigo, estoy segura que el cielo está de fiesta ya estás en los brazos de nuestro padre celestial ya para ti se acabaron los días de dolor y ahora gozas de mucha paz en la casa de Dios siempre te llevaré en mi corazón descansa en paz Roger Davalsa



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KB

Keith Boulware posted:

I cherish my friendship of over 47 years. We met in college at Georgia Tech. We were both young believers in Jesus Christ. We have maintained our communication all these years and through many travels and family situations. Even though he couldn't speak verbally he still spoke volumes. He shared his faith on the computer and with his nurse. I never knew when he would call but I always looked forward to them. I will miss his "talks" but know I shall see him face to face in heaven and have a joyful conversation with and our Lord and Savior. See you then Roger!

December 5 at 4:18 PM

CA

Cecilia Ashworth posted:

Dear Roger, It's with a heavy 💜 that I write these words. I have lost a great friend, yes a friend. I was your nurse for years and gave you the best care that I could, but more than that I always consider you a friend, after all, we spend lots of nights together, no need to explain! 😊 Remember when I used to whisper to you trying to help you go back to sleep. Remember when you used to complain the nurses fell asleep and would not respond to your call, as always, I tried to make you laugh and told you to hook up an electrical wire and zap them! Of course, we both laughed it off!!!! Loving memories!!!! Enjoy Diego's company. I can see him welcoming you with his big smile and hugging you! Rest In Peace Roger ❤️ Cecilia Ashworth, RN.

December 5 at 11:46 AM



Tribute Wall

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MD

Mary Jo Van Dalen posted:

I am overcome with great sorrow as I pen these words... The world is a lot less brighter at Roger Dabalsa's passing. Heaven has gained a radiant star. I know I have lost a friend, not only to me, but also to my husband and children who know Roger's story well. I met Roger shortly after his tragedy at the hands of a negligent surgeon. We both attended the same fellowship of believers in Miami at the time. Through his mother, father, and nurse we held great conversations using the coding system he developed to communicate. I learned of his brilliant mind, his love for all things Georgia Tech, and his dedication to the NASA Space program, particularly the Shuttle. Most importantly, I learned of his great love for Jesus and Roger's gift of encouragement to all fellow souls. Besides our good conversations, I feel blessed that, during those early years, I got to see Roger's face front and center every time we met for singing and worship at our little church building. I was part of the worship team at the time, and Roger always sat in the front row, center aisle. If any member of the worship team felt a little downhearted or challenged to sing and lift the hearts of others on any particular day, they need only to look at Roger's smile for inspiration. His smile was singing out loud back to us. Such was his overwhelming influence over us, that I felt compelled to write his story and send it to Joni Eareckson Tada, a fellow quadriplegic, radio host, and founder of Joni and Friends, an organization "accelerating Christian ministry in the disability community." To all our surprise, Joni shared Roger's story on her radio show, and Roger was able to hear it. Even though our family moved away in 1998, Roger stayed in touch, sending Christmas Cards and emailing every holiday, especially Mother's Day and Father's Day. He was the most faithful friend we had left from all our years (14 years) at The Rock Christian Church of Miami. Roger and I corresponded often via email, as he found this the easiest way to communicate. He knew and inquired often about each one of my children. He knew their stories and their struggles, and he always promised to pray for them. He also felt safe to share his own story of joys, heartbreaks, and poems he had written. Did you know that Roger was a poet? One thing is certain, when you communicated with Roger, he was present. You had his whole attention, and he remembered everything. Roger, I really don't know how this works, if you can actually hear us as we remember you today, but I am certain of this: You have jumped out of that wheelchair that bound you for 37 years, and are running into the arms of our Lord Jesus, ready to dance and sing out loud with a clear voice. I look forward to the day we can continue our great conversations, put music to your poems, and sing them aloud together. With great love and gratitude, your friend in His Grip, Mary Jo van Dalen

December 4 at 6:39 AM

JR

Juan Ruiz posted:

We always admired Roger's courage, smile, and brilliance. Although he will be truly missed, we know he is happy in Heaven. At this moment he is talking, walking, and spending time with Diego. With our deep heart felt condolences and Love, Juan Antonio, Dania, Danita and Connor

December 5 at 6:51 AM



Tribute Wall

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MN

Marisol Nochea posted:

Our deepest condolences, may he Rest In Peace.Saludos, The Nochea Family

December 5 at 5:02 AM

EL

Ernesto J. De La Fe posted:

Roger was an inspiration to everyone whose life he touched. He was certainly one to me and all of my family.I first met him at my wife, Silvia's, Miami High 10-year reunion. He met Silvia there as a youngster, and as I understand it, had quite the crush on her - and just like you would expect from Roger, he never let me forget it, haha. Every time we spoke on the phone, his closing would somehow always involve a kiss for Silvia - that son of a gun! When I'd call him on it, he'd just squeeze his little squeaky, squeaky toy. HahaAlways a great guy, when he found out that I was a bit of a Space Nut, he invited us to go up to Cape Canaveral, where he treated us to my first live viewing of a Shuttle lift-off right from the Cape, a spectacle that I'll never forget. We became close friends for life after that.All of us know that Roger lived a difficult life, under the toughest circumstances imaginable and, despite all of the difficulties that he was dealt, he always lived life with tremendous grace and dignity - and he lived it to the fullest. He could never have asked for a better family to accompany him in that journey. Martha, Diego and Richard have been his heaven-sent un-tiring companions, troubleshooters, eyes & ears, researchers, sounding board, instructors, students, technology developers, facilitators, listeners and so on and so on. I loved Diego and have missed him since he passed away. No-one can ever imagine a smarter and more dedicated father than was Diego. Martha has continued to provide that loving care and concern since his passing - and without skipping a beat, Richard has been Roger's hero for years now. What a great brother he has been to Rodge.I am a better person for having had Roger as my friend. I will miss him terribly. And Richard, I'm sorry for my stunned silence when you called to give me the awful news. I just couldn't come up with any words that made any sense. Please know how much I loved Roger and admire the role that you have played in your dearly departed brother's life. Blessings on all of your family.Ernie (& Silvia) de la Fe

December 4 at 6:39 AM

ML

Martin Lopez posted:

Dear Friend and Brother, We look forward to hugging you again in Heaven. We miss you, Martin and Elsa

December 4 at 8:32 AM



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Dulce Baena posted:

Will never forget your smile and love not only to your brother but to my daughter Dulcita and their children's Jenny and Ricky. RIP Roger.

December 4 at 6:39 AM



Ophelia Barsanti December 4 at 9:43 AM

Dear Roger, will be missed by so many that loved you. Rest In Peace, will never be forgotten.
Cookie



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Roger by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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