

Carlos Michael Diaz, Jr.



Carlos Diaz, of Star, Idaho passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 14th 2014, in his home surrounded by family after an 8-year fight with brain cancer.

Carlos was born in the Southern California beach town of Ventura, CA and spent his childhood in the neighboring town of Oxnard, CA with his parents Carlos and Christine and four siblings, Joseph, Armando, Elena, and Mario. Carlos was a true Southern California beach “bum” who had a passion for books, movies, music, sports and the USC Trojans. A couple years after graduating from Oxnard High School in 1965 he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he earned the rank of sergeant and completed two tours in Vietnam.

After completing his four years of service in the Air Force he moved to Santa Barbara, CA where he graduated from UC Santa Barbara with an undergraduate degree in Law and Society. Shortly after graduating he landed a job with Delco Electronics, which later became General Dynamics, where he ended his 30 year career as a configuration manager. For many years prior to his illness Carlos was a very active individual who took health and fitness very seriously. He was an avid golfer, softball player, and body surfer. During his long tenure of living in Santa Barbara he was well known in youth sports circles where he coached and refereed/umpired football and baseball for more than 20 years. He had a profound impact on the youth in Santa Barbara; and it always amazed his family and friends that wherever he went in town he knew somebody or was approached by some parent of a former player or a former player themselves who always thanked him for everything he had done during his time as their coach.

After living in Santa Barbara for more than 30 years, he retired to Star, ID with his wife Vicki in 2005. Carlos spent most of his years living in Idaho battling the terrible disease that took him from his friends and family before his time should have ended. Carlos will be remembered for the impact and impression he made on others. His sense of humor was always present and he loved to joke around no matter what the situation. A consummate mentor, his number one priority was to help people realize their potential and make the most of their talent. Carlos was a loving husband, a doting father, an Idaho foster parent, a wonderful friend, and an honest and fair man. His spirit will live on and he will be missed immensely by all those that knew him.

Carlos is survived by his loving wife, Victoria Ruggiero-Diaz of Star, ID; son, Matthew Michael Diaz, his wife, Kara, and two grandsons, Lucas and Caleb of Rocklin, CA; his mother, Christine Diaz of Oxnard, CA; siblings Joseph Trinidad Diaz and Armando Robert Diaz of Oxnard, CA; Elena Marie Hilmo of Burbank, CA; Mario Peter Diaz of Oakland, CA; nieces, nephews, in-laws and other family members. Carlos was preceded in death by step-son, Robert Daniel Heeley, of Santa Barbara, CA; as well as his father, Carlos Miguel Diaz, Sr. of Oxnard, CA.

A memorial service will be held at Summers Funeral Home on Saturday, November 1st, 2014 at 3:00pm, located at 3629 E. Ustick Road, Meridian, Idaho where family and friends will share memories and celebrate his life. In lieu of flowers, because of Carlos' passion for youth sports, the family requests that contributions be made on behalf of Carlos to the following organization: Star Parks and Recreation, Attn: Kim Ingraham, P.O. Box 130, Star, ID 83669. All contributions made are tax deductible. If flowers are sent, please have them delivered to Summers Funeral Home on Friday, October 31st.