



Edwin Antonio Diaz Rivera

April 7, 1947 - June 2, 2021

A loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Edwin Antonio Díaz Rivera, 74, a longtime resident of Portage, MI, passed away on June 2, 2021, in North Carolina, surrounded by his family.

Edwin was born in San Juan and raised in Naranjito, Puerto Rico, on April 7, 1947. After graduating from high school, Edwin obtained a bachelor's degree in science, from the Universidad de Puerto Rico. After the "UPI", Edwin returned to his beloved Naranjito, to teach at the Escuela Superior de Naranjito. While still in Puerto Rico, Edwin later began working for the Pharmaceutical Company, Upjohn, where he met his future wife, Tati. In 1972, Edwin and Tati got married, and together had 3 children, Mauricio, Karla, and Claudia. Edwin's professional career took him and his family on several journeys, where they lived in Ecuador, Mexico, and finally establishing roots in the Portage, MI, in 1986. The "jibarito from Naranjito" spent his 38-year career fostering lifelong friendships with people all over the world.

Edwin's professional accomplishments speak to his excellence as a salesman. He progressed through positions as Country manager in Puerto Rico, Ecuador, and Mexico; then as Director of Fine Chemical Sales for Latin America, Director of Contract Manufacturing, and retiring as Vice President of Fine Chemical Sales for North and South America. He was a recipient of the prestigious Upjohn Award and upon retirement, Pfizer CentreSource

established the “Edwin Diaz Customer Service Award” in his honor.

All who met Edwin instantaneously got to know him. His fast thinking and sharp sense of humor could not be matched. Edwin greatly respected and appreciated his friends, family, and colleagues. With Edwin, professional relationships very easily and naturally turned into friendships, because of his warm, open, and generous personality. He was loved and respected by all who met him, primarily because he took a sincere interest in knowing people personally, as unique and important individuals. This extended to everyone at every station in life, from the president of a company to the bellman or waiter at his favorite hotel or restaurant. He knew, remembered, and cared about the details of their lives. To know Edwin was to know a vivacious, charismatic, and loving man. With a funny story, unmatched passion, and unrestrained laughter, one would instantly feel welcomed and at home in his presence. Edwin’s friends would say he was one of those rare “brothers”, that life gifted them. All who knew Edwin would describe him as “being larger than life” and “living life with such joy”. Edwin’s values and priorities were always very clear: family and friends were at the top, with a passion for music, Formula 1, and his dear Puerto Rico. He was undoubtedly, one of the best ambassadors Puerto Rico could have asked for.

Edwin spent his life building relationships and always putting his family first. His family meant more to him than anything else in the world; something he was passionate about when speaking with others. Edwin was unendingly proud of his children and their accomplishments. He later took immense joy in watching his granddaughters grow and develop their personalities. Edwin’s siblings would describe him as their “rock” and as an exemplary leader. Edwin’s patience, knowledge, and guidance helped build the foundation of his family.

Edwin was predeceased by his mother, Livin Rivera Archilla; and younger

sister, Provita López Rivera. He will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by his wife of 48 years, Tati; 3 children, Mauricio Díaz (Renee), Karla Morelli (Andy), and Claudia Polhemus (Patrick); 2 granddaughters (Monica and Gabi); his 4 siblings Nilsa Ramos Rivera, Sandra López Rivera, Magda López Rivera (Israel), and Abigail López Rivera; and all of his dear friends around the world.

While there is comfort in recognizing his pain is eased, and he has joined those who passed before him, there is a gaping hole for so many who will miss his strong embraces, laughter, jokes, and stories. Edwin was a special man who touched many lives, and whose memory and legacy will live on for years to come in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

A celebration of Edwin's life will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 5:30pm, at Saint Ambrose Church (1628 East G. Avenue, Parchment, MI 49004), presided by Father Albert Kemboi and Monsignor Michael Hazard.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice, in Edwin's memory.

Tribute Wall



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Edwin Antonio Diaz Rivera.



July 25, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ It is difficult to express to you, the family of Edwin, what a shock and what a loss finding out of Edwin's passing. Whenever Edwin would call or stop in our store, whomever spoke to him on the phone or greeted him in our lobby, they immediately lit up because Edwin was in their presence. I know I have never met another man who used the phrase "My Friend" so sincerely.

Speaking for myself and all of the staff at Kazoo Audio, Edwin will be dearly missed.

*We are all blessed to have known Edwin. God Speed "Our Friend".
John Ferry, Hank Meier, Chris Zainea, Tico Taylor, Barret Eminhizer,
Tony Verhey, and Keegan Nordby of Kazoo Audio*

John M Ferry - June 23, 2021 at 05:25 PM

RN

“ Amigos y la Familia Negrón Gómez lamentamos el fallecimiento en North Carolina de Edwin (hijo de Livin de Naranjito): Amigo, asesor de la vida, maestro, Excelente profesional de la Industria Farmacéutica. Ciudadano ejemplo de dedicación, liderazgo y esfuerzo positivo. A su Esposa, nuestra hermana, Tati; a sus hijos Mauricio (Renee), Karla (Andy) y Claudia (Patrick); sus nietas Mónica y Gabi; y familia, les acompañamos en su sentimiento ante la partida de este gran ser humano. Te recordaremos eternamente. La misa de recordación se llevará a cabo en la Parroquia Saint Ambrose en 1628 East G. Avenue, Parchment, MI 49004 el jueves 24, 2021 a las 5:30 pm. Tus amigos Ramón A. (Chico) Negrón y Maritza Gómez; Marilynne, Chico

Ramon A. Negrón - June 22, 2021 at 12:03 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edwin Antonio Diaz Rivera.



June 21, 2021 at 08:24 PM

TF

“ *The Koenitz Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Edwin Antonio Diaz Rivera.*



The Koenitz Family - June 18, 2021 at 03:36 PM

PM

“ Our family were next door neighbors to Edwin and Tati and their three children for 34 years here on Chickadee Drive in Kalamazoo. The Diaz's were such pleasant neighbors. Edwin kept the exterior of his home impeccable, especially his beautiful green lawn. He was always out there cutting it several times a week on that John Deere riding mower and faithfully watering it to keep it nice and green. I was deeply saddened to learn last fall that they were moving to North Carolina to be near Claudia and be with their adorable granddaughters, but I totally understood why. So I was greatly stunned to learn of Edwin's recent passing. He and my husband both worked at the Upjohn Company/Pfizer, but in different areas of the pharmaceutical company. Maurico and our son, Mike, were good friends for many years.

Edwin was always friendly and gave a warm wave and smile whenever we were outside at the same time. When my husband, Walt, passed away a couple of years ago, both Edwin and Tati were there at the funeral to lend prayers and support, which our family appreciated.

Please accept my deepest sympathy, Tati, Maurico, Claudia and Karla on the passing of your beloved husband and father. This is a tremendous loss to all of Edwin's family and many friends. Knowing this, I am holding each of you in my prayers as you go through these most difficult days and in the years ahead.

Eternal rest grant unto to Edwin and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace!

May God be your comfort, support and peace, as only He can.

Sincerely,
Pam Morozowich

Pamela Morozowich - June 18, 2021 at 03:18 PM

TG

“ *Our truly good friend Edwin, we'll miss you immensely! Have been looking at old pictures celebrating many occasions in Kalamazoo, MI. I have smiled and have cried looking at them. You were one of a kind! Love you and miss you forever dear friend. Thinking so much about my sister-friend Tati. Hugs for Mauricio, Karla and Claudia. Love you all!!*

Toñita Gillespie - June 16, 2021 at 03:39 PM

RN

“ *In memoriam
Edwin A. Díaz Rivera
April 17, 1947 – June 2, 2021
Edwin; friend, brother and
wise lifelong advisor.
We cherish the times we
spent together and
celebrate the joy you
brought to our lives.
Forever Your Friends
Ramón A. (Chico) Negrón
and Maritza Gómez*

Ramon A. Negron - June 16, 2021 at 10:36 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Edwin Antonio Diaz Rivera.*



June 15, 2021 at 09:39 PM

JV

“ Edwin was my first mentor at a Pharmaceutical Representative job at Upjohn in Puerto Rico in 1971. That initial relationship lead to an extremely close and beautiful friendship filled with fun, camaraderie and mutual admiration for each other. We both grew professionally in the company as it was a major player on the business. But always shared the joy of each other’s success.

I was blessed to meet Tati and discover her personal values as a co worker and then Edwin’s wife and mother of their children. She was always too special and kind with him and his friends. A true Lady, and wonderful wife and mother!!!

Life and circumstances lead each of us in different paths. Although in recent years we sort of lost track of each other, his passing is just shocking and painful. All my memories with Edwin have come up to the surface again with joy and then sorrow for not having him here. I know he is watching and listening to all that is going on and he will watch over all his loved ones from God’s side.

My thanks to Him for giving me the opportunity of having him in my life. Tati, all my sympathies and love to you and the children!

Jose Carlos Villares - June 15, 2021 at 09:30 PM

FL

“ Happiness and friendship was a remarkable memory we all have from Edwin

*A tremendous loss for all his friends and family
Fernando and Mildred Leal*

fernando leal - June 15, 2021 at 01:09 PM

YF

“ *Your KidSpeak Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Edwin Antonio Diaz Rivera.*



Your KidSpeak Family - June 14, 2021 at 01:32 PM

TB

“ *I was fortunate enough to meet this wonderful man just once but for over two decades have heard what a beautiful human being he is. His love as a husband, father and friend was obvious. Sending love, peace, and strength to all his family and friends. Love from, Tambi .*

Tambi Braun - June 13, 2021 at 10:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edwin Antonio Diaz Rivera.*



June 11, 2021 at 08:57 AM

HF

“ *I did not know Edwin in life, but he sounds like a wonderful individual who will be missed by many. Rest in peace, it sounds like you had a life well lived!*
Heidrun Friedrich

Heidrun Friedrich - June 10, 2021 at 07:24 PM

GI

“ Sending you prayers on this day and always... I know your daughter and I love her dearly. I'm certain her strength smile and beautiful heart are a reflection of you. Your presence will be missed daily but your spirit and good work will filter through Claudia and her girls. Amen.



Ginny - June 10, 2021 at 10:40 AM

DD

“ Dear Edwin, my Big Bother figure when I was a child, cousins forever, I will miss you deeply. I know that your uncle and my Dad Lenin, and my sister Lyssette welcomed you in heaven. I, my sisters Amarilis and Llanet, and my Mom Antonia are praying for you. Rest in Peace.

Diana Diaz - June 10, 2021 at 07:35 AM

ML

“ Magda Lopez lit a candle in memory of Edwin Antonio Diaz Rivera



Magda Lopez - June 09, 2021 at 05:38 PM

ML

Edwin Antonio, mi hermano amado se mi corazón, te amaré siempre. Disfruta del regreso a tu hogar, tu propósito en este plano terrenal ya fue completado. Te amo

Magda Lopez - June 09, 2021 at 07:59 PM

ML

Cada historia la guardo en mi corazón

Magda Lopez - June 09, 2021 at 08:01 PM

AR

Edwin A. Díaz Rivera, te voy a extrañar. Pero siempre estarás en nuestro corazón. Hasta luego compadre.

Abigail López Rivera - June 09, 2021 at 10:38 PM

AI

Descansa en Paz querido primo!!! Siempre recuerdo lo mucho que me molestaba diciéndome que papi te quería más a ti que a mí. Juegos de juventud. Te quise mucho al igual que mis padres. Vuela alto!!!

Aixa Archilla Isern - June 10, 2021 at 10:36 AM

AI

Archilla no Isern

Aixa Archilla Isern - June 10, 2021 at 10:40 AM

JG

I met Edwin first time in Quito, Equator. We met again in Mexico in the early 80s where he was Marketing Director for Upjohn Pharmaceuticals. We were fortunate that Edwin joined our group in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1985.

Edwin was like a brother to me. He was intelligent, sweet, charming, caring and family oriented. We travelled together a lot and became very close friends before and after our retirements. I am like many others are blessed to have a friend and colleague like Edwin.

Over the years, our phone conversations and get togethers were full of happiness, joy and love. I will miss Edwin for the rest of my life.

My wife GiGi and I extend our condolences to Tati, Mauricio, Karla and Claudia, Grand Children and the Diaz family.

Rest in Peace My Brother. John Paul Guneyli

John Guneyli - June 23, 2021 at 02:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edwin Antonio Diaz Rivera.*



June 09, 2021 at 05:27 PM



“ *Our family and Edwin & Tati have been friends since I was a little kid. I remember the Puerto Rican parties fondly, where Edwin would always sport his sombrero panamá, and on special occasions, the pava. Our family's would sing and play their instruments loudly. Edwin's fun nature and outgoing personality were wonderful to be around. Being around him, no matter the physical place, felt like home & safety. As a child, I was always excited to see him at family functions, and I remember asking my mom if we she would take me to their house! Even as an adult, greeting him at Toñita & Bob's annual Christmas parties made me feel that same sense of comfort. He always smelled the like after shave, hugged you right/had a strong hand shake, and had a contagious laugh. Edwin will most definitely be missed. My prayers are with the entire Díaz family, especially Tati, during this difficult time. QDLB*

Marla Welch (Alvarez) - June 09, 2021 at 04:56 PM