



Abel Martinez

May 27, 2021

Abel Martinez, husband, father of four, grandfather to five, and a retired Public Health Educator for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, passed away in Cambria, California on May 27, 2021 at the age of 77 years after a long battle with liposarcoma cancer. He was originally diagnosed with this cancer in 1998.

Abel is survived by his wife of 52 years, Antoinette “Toni” Martinez; his three sons, David, Victor and Vincent; and his two half-brothers, Rick Montes and Gilbert Montes. He is predeceased by his third oldest son, Alex; his mother, Mercedes Montes; and his half-brother, Louie Montes. Abel was born in San Antonio, Texas on June 17, 1943. He moved to Los Angeles, California at the age of 7 and graduated from Belmont High School. He was drafted by the U.S. Army and served in Germany from 1965-1967. He married Toni on December 28, 1968 having met at the Optimist Home for Boys in Los Angeles. They originally resided in Eagle Rock, California and then settled to South Pasadena, California for over 30 years. He graduated from Cal State Los Angeles with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology/Social

Work; he then earned a Master's Degree in Public Health from UCLA. He was a 27-year public health educator until he and Toni retired in 2001. They both then moved to Cambria to make it their permanent residence the last 20 years.

Abel was an avid runner and volunteer. He took part in 18 marathons held at various venues in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, New York, Scotland and Ireland. He used running as a platform to raise funds for several causes such as the American Cancer Society, the Jimmy Fund and for local community members who also were battling cancer. He was also very involved in volunteer service these past 20 years such as serving as a docent at the Piedras Blancas Light Station in San Simeon and member of the Santa Rosa Church Men's Club. He will be missed deeply by his family, friends, and all who knew him, but has moved on to be in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and reconnect with family and friends who passed away before him.

A Celebration of Life service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on June 26, 2021 at Santa Rosa Catholic Church in Cambria, California. Father Mark Stetz will officiate.

Tribute Wall

CD

“ One day a few years ago I needed help returning a recliner to COSTCO and didn't know how I was going to get it back to SLO, but then I remembered that Abel had a pickup, so I called him and asked if he could help me bring it back to the store. "I'll be there in fifteen minutes," Abel said, and I was totally relieved. We loaded that baby in his pickup, and on our way home we talked about philosophy, religion, politics, our tours in the service, and our childhood backgrounds. It was refreshing to be with a guy who was so bright and knowledgeable and was willing to talk about more than just the current athletic scene. I was impressed with Abel's willingness to help me and vowed that I was going to be there whenever he needed help from me. I loved that guy!

Chuck Dowdle

Chuck Dowdle - June 26, 2021 at 11:04 AM

BC

“ Sorry to hear about the passing of Abel.
Glenn & I still talk about meeting him & Toni at Wicklow Head Lighthouse in South Ireland.
Deepest sympathy to Toni & family.
Glenn & Barbara Cobain
N.Ireland

Barbara Cobain - June 19, 2021 at 06:56 AM