



Rene Carrillo Fernandez

July 28, 1954, a ten-pound baby boy, Rene Carrillo Fernandez, son of Alvaro and Maria Carrillo Fernandez entered the world determined to do it his way. By age two, his parents sought medical treatment for Rene's eyes, at which time it was determined that he had a form of cancer called Retina Blastoma. He became totally blind after undergoing enucleation of both eyes. One would think this deterred Rene, but no it did not. This bright young man learned how to ride a bike, went to school, learned how to read and write Braille, use a mobility cane and play Scrabble. Rene enjoyed and was an active CB operator for many years. He graduated from Edison High School in possession of that prized Scrabble Game in braille that was given by his teacher for a graduation gift. A game which he played over and over with many family and friends. He went several times to obtain a guide dog through the Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey. His guide dog, Usher, is sorrowful at the loss of his beloved friend.

After leaving school, Rene worked at the Lighthouse in San Antonio and the vendor program in El Paso where he moved and lived alone. He went to San Antonio Junior College where he met the love of his life, Sharon Karleen Johnson. They married in 1980 in San Antonio, Texas. Rene worked for SAILS as a case manager and advocate for many years. He also, enjoyed working as a reservationist with VIA TRANS and a telephone company operator while attending University of Texas of San Antonio. Sharon and Rene pulled up roots and moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, living there for 20 years. During this time, he completed a dual degree at New Mexico State University in Psychology and Spanish. A self-employed business man, he retired from running a vending program when he became ill with cancer, undergoing treatment. Sharon and Rene moved back to San Antonio in November of 2019, so he could spend time with his sisters, nieces, nephews, godchildren who will all miss his presence here greatly.

Rene served many years advocating for the blind as a member in the American Council of the Blind at the local and state level serving in the capacity of an officer. He was very talented in technology and taught himself to rebuild computers. He would always give a helping hand to the blind and the sighted who sought him out for assistance. Rene was a great role model who taught us to never give up. Rene never gave up, even through the long fight with cancer. He went home to be with his Lord on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at the age of 66, still doing it his way in his gentle, private manner.

Rene was preceded in death by his father, Alvaro Fernandez; mother, Maria Carrillo Fernandez; brother, Reynaldo Fernandez; and nephew, Daniel Fernandez. He is survived by his loving spouse, Sharon Fernandez; brother, Alvaro Fernandez and wife, Sylvia; sister, Alma Garnica and spouse, Art; and sister, Roseanna Arredondo. Additionally, he is survived by his nieces and nephews: Alvaro Fernandez, Jr, Peter J. Fernandez, Erik Fernandez; niece, Marissa Oyervides and spouse Erasmo, Jr; Anthony Garnica and spouse, Jennifer; Rene Arredondo and spouse, Amanda. His godchildren and many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews who will greatly miss him. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Judy Link; Kay Johnson and spouse, James; and Karon Dial. He was a true brother to his in-laws and highly thought of and loved by each one.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Rene's name to VITAS, the VCC fund, to assist other hospice families in need, 8401 Datapoint Drive, Suite 300, San Antonio, Texas 78229; The Seeing Eye, online.seeingeye.org for their continued support in training guide dogs for the blind; or St. Vincent de Paul, svdpsa.org.

The family would like to thank all those who walked on this journey with their support and care of Rene-Father Duncan, Eucharistic Ministers, Vitas, UNM and Mays Cancer Center, Family Physicians, Oncologists, our many family and friends.

A mass will be held in Rene's honor on March 12, 2021 at St. Matthews Catholic Church, 10703 Wurzbach Road, SAT, 78230. Rosary at 9:30 AM and Mass at 10:00 AM. Internment of ashes to follow at San Fernando Cemetery #2, 746 Castroville Rd.

