



Sandy T. Lugo's Life

August 12, 1961 - August 31, 2020

Daughter, Teacher, Mom, Nana, and Friend

"My name is Sandy Torres Lugo.

I was born August 12, 1961 in San Antonio to Jim and Zoila Torres.

My childhood was filled with happiness and being an only child to older parents I was their pride and joy. My dad worked at Fort Sam Houston and my mother was a housewife so she focused all her attention on me. We would take a weekly trip to the public library and that fostered my love of reading. I lived on the West Side of San Antonio and I knew from an early age that I wanted to be a teacher and give back to my community. I attended Ira Ogden Elementary, Irving Middle School and L.W. Fox Tech High School. I graduated in 1979 at the age of 17 with honors and was blessed with several scholarships. My parents would not agree for me to leave San Antonio for college and I started attending UTSA. My bachelors in Education with a concentration in Early Childhood and Bilingual studies prepared me to be a teacher. I did substitute teaching for 2 years while finishing my degree and then taught for 33 years. I started teaching in 1983 at the age of 21 at Carvajal Elementary where I stayed all my years of teaching. I met my closest friends there that I have know for over 30 years now. I loved teaching and especially loved my students. I knew this was a community I could make a difference. I specialized in teaching bilingual education and also had some years of gifted and talented education. My concentration was kindergarten and eventually PreK but my true love was kindergarten. I made each student believe they could and would succeed. Parents were my biggest supporters. I am blessed that I still have contact with many of my past students. I'm honored by their love and appreciation because there are few teachers who can say that. I've attended birthdays, graduations, weddings and unfortunately some funerals also. Nothing makes me prouder than having been a teacher other than being a mom and Nana now.

My daughter Jennifer was born March 3, 1986 and I immediately knew I was meant to be a mom. She is and was extraordinary and followed my love of reading from an early age. I lived for the summers that I was able to completely dedicate to her. Even now we are extremely close and see each other daily. In

1992 my son Michael was born February 25 and I fell in love all over again. My daughter thought he was a gift for her and also immediately fell in love with her brother. They were extremely close growing up.

My marriage ended when Michael was 2 and it became just the 3 of us. I promised that I would do everything in my power to have Michael do things you would normally do with a father. I put him in soccer although I knew nothing about sports. Jennifer and I sent him running the wrong direction one game. Jennifer and I took karate with him and he quickly moved up levels while we stayed at the first one. He picked the loudest instrument you can pick- a drum. My life revolved around my 2 children and I knew I would do anything I could to make them happy. When my daughter was in high school she went on a school trip to Europe and came back saying she wanted to do study abroad there. I helped to make that dream come true when she was at St. Mary's university along with the financial help of the Hispanic

Heritage scholarship that is only given to 7 students in the nation each year. She was able to study in Spain and London. Both of my children make me so proud. My daughter followed in my footsteps and is an amazing teacher and my son is a dedicated firefighter.

Life as a single mom has not always been easy but it's been full of joy.

I love to travel and I wanted my kids to experience all they could. My first place to take them was Disney and we have been several times. Some of our other adventures have been cruises to the Caribbean, Alaska and even a 21 day cruise to Europe. We also did an amazing trip to Peru. We have also traveled throughout the United States and now my children love to travel. It was a dream of mine to live in New York for a few months but it wasn't meant to be. I've also hooked several of my friends into traveling and hopefully my friends and family can make it to the places I still wanted to travel to.

In 2016 my daughter was expecting a baby and I was thrilled. I retired from teaching that year to take care of my grandson Bobby. Nothing anyone tells you prepares you for the immense love you feel for a grandchild. It allows you to relive the memories of your own children's childhood and also lets you see your baby girl now with her baby. This child fills me with so much joy and I thank God daily for this gift.

He is my strength and the hardest person to leave.

God has given me a wonderful life and I'm eternally grateful. When I first got sick I was asked if I was angry and my response was how can I be angry when God has given me so much happiness. God has kept me alive these months and although I will soon go home I still feel blessed.

I grew up both Catholic and Baptist because my mom was Catholic and my dad Baptist. After my mom passed away I knew I belonged in a Baptist church and began going to Trinity Baptist. I love it both at Crossings and the Mulberry location.

When Bobby turned 2 he started at Parents Day Out and I immediately knew my passion for teaching could be used there. I started as a substitute teacher and eventually took a temporary full time position. I was teaching again and I was in love! I hoped to go back.

Life has been hard lately and I'm immensely appreciative of all the care my children and their partners have given me all this time. Emmanuel, Jennifer's husband gets my groceries weekly and cooks me anything I want. Angela, Michael's partner takes me to appointments and is constantly helping however she can. My children are blessed to have partners that love them and me so much. I'm also extremely grateful to all my friends for their love, support and above all prayers. The tears will flow and the pain of

grief will be difficult but always remember all the fun we had and all the happy memories. I love you all!"

Slideshow:

<https://youtu.be/wkCnPfUWo>



